

# CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS and ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

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*"A" Class Membership Application Form*

*"B" Class Membership Application Form*

*"C" Class Membership Application Form*

### ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I

### NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Texas State Soccer Association South, Incorporated. Henceforth referred to as T.S.S.A.S.

## ARTICLE II

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this association shall be to foster, promote, and advance the cause of soccer and sportsmanship. To develop and administer the game of soccer among players, men and women (regardless of race, color, creed, etc.) within the jurisdictional area. To accomplish all functions of the Senior State Association as provided by the By-Laws of the United States Soccer Federation's Amateur Division, henceforth referred to as the Amateur Division, for leagues or organizations within the jurisdictional area, and to affiliate as a member in good standing of the Amateur Division. To resolve questions and controversies not adjustable under the rules of the leagues or organizations concerned within the jurisdictional area, to manage annual South Texas Cup competition among the clubs of the member leagues or organizations; and to promote goodwill through physical fitness.

## ARTICLE III

### AFFILIATION

This association is affiliated with the U.S.A.S.A. and the United States Soccer Federation (U.S.S.F.) and consequently with the Federation International de Football Association (F.I.F.A.) and shall recognize the superseding authority of the U.S.A.S.A. and the U.S.S.F. for those matters which are covered by the U.S.S.F. rules.

## ARTICLE IV

### TERRITORY

The territory governed by this association shall consist of the southern portion of the State of Texas as far north as, and including the counties of Loving, Ward, Crane, Upton, Reagan, Tom Green, Concho, McCulloch, Jasper, San Saba, Mills, Lampassas, Coryell, Bell, Falls, Robertson, Leon, Sabine, Houston, Angelina, and all other Texas counties south to the Gulf of Mexico and to the Mexican border.

## ARTICLE V

### HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of this association shall be within its territorial boundaries as defined in Article IV. The location of the headquarters shall be at a place decided by the voting members of this association. (Henceforth referred to as the Council).

## ARTICLE VI

### MEMBERSHIP

#### Section 1 (Members)

A This association shall consist of all players, coaches, referees, administrators, officials, clubs, leagues and associations in good standing with the Amateur Division, with headquarters in the State of Texas (according to Article V). Every player, club, league and association playing soccer in the State of Texas who is not a member of this association, U.S.S.F., or one of its affiliated organizations shall be deemed unaffiliated. Members of the T.S.S.A.S. shall not, without the written consent of the Board of Directors, have any relationship whatsoever with such unaffiliated organizations. Any officer of a league, team or player participating in an unaffiliated event without written consent may be suspended for six months from all organized soccer.

B The State Association will not join any organization that has requirements that conflict with the Federation's articles, bylaws, policies, and requirements on interplay.

C The State Association and its members will abide by the Federation's articles, bylaws, policies and requirements on interplay.

D The State Association shall provide to the Secretary General of the Federation an annual report on the activities of the Association and most current annual financial statements within 90 days after the start of the Federation's seasonal year.

E The State Association will (A) provide annually to the Federation copies of the State Association's constitution, bylaws, and other governing documents. (B) submit changes to those documents to the Federation for approval no later than 90 days after adoption, and (C) make copies of those documents available to its members.

F. The State Association shall maintain its tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code.

G. The State Association shall adopt policies prohibiting sexual and physical abuse that meet certain minimum criteria established by the Federation (subject to any contrary requirements contained in state or local law applicable to the State Association).

H. The State Association will allow the Federation to review the documents and procedures of the State Association, on request of the Federation not less than once every 4 years, to determine compliance with these bylaws.

#### Section 2 (Member Class)

Membership in this association shall consist of two (2) divisions, an outdoor division and an indoor division, with the following classifications:

1. CLASS "A" MEMBERS
2. CLASS "B" MEMBERS
3. CLASS "C" MEMBERS

#### Section 3 (Class "A" Members) Outdoor/Indoor

A Class "A" Member shall be one that is actively organizing competitions and promoting soccer by forming and organizing leagues or associations.

### **Section 3A (Class "A" Categories)**

A Class "A" Member may fall in the following categories: Provisional Members, Full Members, or Associate Members.

### **Section 3B (Provisional Member)**

A provisional member is one which has not been accepted into the council, but which has been accepted into membership by the Board of Directors. It enjoys all the rights and privileges and bears all of the obligations of full members except as herein prescribed. Provisional membership is terminated at Nov. 23, 00Nov. 23, 00

### **Section 3C (Full Member)**

A full member is one which has been accepted into this association by the council at the any General Meeting.

### **Section 3D (Associate Member)**

Any league or association meeting the affiliation requirements but having less than six (6) member teams may apply for associate membership. Associate members may participate in all activities of the association, but shall not have the right to vote.

### **Section 4 (Class "B" Members)**

A Class "B" Member shall be one that is promoting soccer (outdoor/indoor) through an Educational Institution, Church, Armed Forces, or Charitable Organization.

### **Section 4A (Class "B" Membership Benefits)**

Their benefits of affiliation are: Player Development, Coaching Development, Referee Development, Membership Insurance.

### **Section 4B (Active Participation)**

To actively participate in tournaments, select team programs, State Cups and National Cups, members must be registered as a Class "A" or "B" Member.

### **Section 4C (Membership Dues)**

Membership fees shall be set annually by the T.S.S.A.S. BOD, but must be approved by the Council.

### **Section 4D (Voting Rights)**

They shall have one (1) vote per organization.

### **Section 5 (Class "C" Members)**

A Class "C" Member is the one who is helping to promote soccer through their services or facilities, as follows: organizations/firms, promoting or conducting coaching or player clinics or camps, soccer stores, hotels, sponsor companies, or any other non-playing organization, helping in the promotion of the game.

### **Section 5A (Class "C" Member Benefits)**

They shall receive support and endorsement from the T.S.S.A.S. The membership will be encouraged to patronize their activities or establishments.

### **Section 5B (Annual Dues)**

Their annual dues for membership shall be set annually by the T.S.S.A.S. BOD.

### **Section 5C (Voting Rights)**

Class "C" Members shall not be eligible to vote but they may take part in all State Council Meetings and serve on T.S.S.A.S. Committees.

### **Section 6 (Application for Membership)**

Any properly constituted club, league or association playing soccer in the State of Texas, in accordance with the rules of the game as specified by the Amateur Division, may apply for membership in this association.

- a. Each club, league or organization desiring to become a member of T.S.S.A.S. must be approved by the Board of Directors. Such organizations must submit written application, together with three copies of the applicant's charter, bylaws, rules, regulations and constitution to the Board of Directors, which shall process the application.
- b. Each league must pay the affiliation fee as required by the Council.
- c. Each member league or association must register all its members and teams with the State Association and the U.S.S.F. Amateur Division.

### **Section 7 (Written Application)**

Application for membership must be in writing by the duly authorized agent of the applicant and must be directed to the association Secretary. The application must be accompanied by the payment of annual dues as herein provided which, if membership is refused, shall be refunded; three (3) correct and certified copies of the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules under which the applicant, if a league or association, has decided to operate; and a statement of such information which the association may require on a form or forms, which shall upon request, be supplied by the association Secretary.

### **Section 8 (Qualification and Acceptance)**

The Council shall have final authority to determine the qualifications of an applicant and accept or reject any application for full membership in this association.

### **Section 9 (Annual Dues)**

Annual dues for membership in this association shall be payable in advance at the time of application for membership. When a club, league or association is a member of this association, payment shall be made on or before September 30th and the team and player fees must be made on or before December 1st.

Every club, league or association, directly affiliated with this association shall pay annual dues as periodically determined by the Council.

### **Section 10 (Failure to Pay Dues)**

The failure of any member to pay annual dues as herein provided shall cause immediate forfeiture of membership without legislative formality. A fine will be assessed for late payments.

### **Section 11 (Extra Territorial Clubs)**

Any club domiciled outside the territorial area herein defined wishing to affiliate with this association shall be permitted to do so at the discretion of the Board of Directors, providing that they are in good standing with and have the consent of their own State Association. All players must be registered with the state in which they reside.

### **Section 12 (Extra Territorial Clubs and Leagues)**

Any league or association which is affiliated to or applies for affiliation to this association, who desires to include in its competition any club domiciled outside the territory of this association may do so providing that this is approved by this association and by the state association in which the club is domiciled. All players must be registered in the state in which they reside.

### **Section 13 (Acceptance of Membership)**

Every club, league and association which accepts membership in this association thereby agrees for itself, its subordinate and affiliated organizations and all persons who constitute it and such subordinate and affiliated organizations to recognize the administrative jurisdiction and to accept, support and adhere to the regulatory authority of this association as herein provided and as it may hereafter be formulated by such rules and regulations, alterations of and amendments to the constitution and bylaws which this association may from time to time enact.

### **Section 14 (Class "B" and "C" Members Application for Membership)**

Application for membership must be in writing and through a "Membership Application Form" supplied by T.S.S.A.S.

#### **Section 14A (Qualification and Acceptance)**

The Council shall have final authority to determine the qualifications of and accept or reject any application for full membership in this association.

#### **Section 14B (Annual Dues)**

Annual membership dues in this association shall be payable in advance at the time of application. After membership acceptance, annual dues shall be paid on or before September 30th.

#### **Section 14C (Endorsement of Camps and Clinics)**

Class "C" Members

T.S.S.A.S. will endorse and support such activities and issue permits to operation, provided such organizations agree to pay T.S.S.A.S. a fee per event. This fee shall be determined by the T.S.S.A.S. BOD.

#### **Section 14D (Payment of Dues)**

Every organization affiliated with this association shall pay annual dues as periodically determined by the State Council.

#### **Section 14E (Failure to Pay Dues)**

The failure of any member to pay annual dues as herein provided shall cause immediate forfeiture of membership without legislative formality. A fine will be assessed for late payment.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **GOVERNMENT**

This association shall be governed by its constitution and by-laws as presently constituted, or as these may from time to time be amended and/or altered, and by such rules and regulations which may from time to time be passed by the Council, except where these rules conflict with or are supplemented by the constitution, by-laws and rules and regulations of the Amateur Division and the U.S.S.F.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL POWERS**

#### **Section 1 (Council)**

The legislative and judicial powers of this association, except those which are herein otherwise delegated, shall be vested in a council consisting of the duly elected or appointed representatives from each Full Member league of the association consisting of six (6) or more teams in active scheduled competition. Voting strength is dependent on the number of registered players in each league.

80 to 250 players ... 1 voting delegate  
251 to 500 players ... 2 voting delegates  
501 to 750 players ... 3 voting delegates  
751 & up players ... 4 voting delegates

The State Director of Referee Development, the State Director of Instruction and the State Director of Referee Assessment, shall have a vote each. A DELEGATE is defined to mean a representative of the league with credentials (T.S.S.A.S. ID) furnished by the State Association.

#### **Section 2 (Right to Vote)**

In all matters which are properly presented to the Council, each representative shall have the right to cast one vote, and in the absence of any representative or during his incapacity, that right shall be vested immediately in his/hers alternate representative. The President shall have no vote except in the case of a deadlock of any issue in the Council, in which case it shall be his duty, or in his absence or incapacity, the duty of the Vice President to cast a deciding vote. Outgoing officers may not vote in the election at the Annual General Meeting unless they are a bona fide representative of a league. With the exception of the President, all elected officials shall have one vote each. In the absence of the President and the Vice-President, the Treasurer and the Secretary shall, in that order, ascend to the chair. In either case, the voting limitations applicable to the office of President shall apply.

#### **Section 3 (Majority Vote)**

The majority of the voting power present shall be necessary to decide affirmatively any issue which is presented to the Council, except in the case of amendment to the constitution and by-laws as subsequently provided.

#### **Section 4 (Representatives and Alternates)**

Every league or association entitled thereto, shall present the credentials of its duly authorized representatives and alternate representatives at the annual meeting of this association. Changes in a given league or association's representation occurring after the annual meeting and during a current term shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors no later than the next regular meeting following the date of the change.

Every league and association which is organized and is accepted as a member of this association after an annual meeting and during a current term, entitled thereto, shall present the credentials of its duly

authorized representatives and alternate representatives at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors next following the date of membership grant. No person shall at any time represent more than one league or association or part thereof. An alternate representative shall have rights equal to those of his/her respective representative, except the right to vote which shall be vested in him/her only in the absence of or during the incapacity of his/her respective representative. When a representative is elected to the office of President, thereby relinquishing his/her original status, the organization which he/she represented shall in the regular manner name his/her successor.

### **Section 5 (Jurisdiction)**

This association shall have jurisdiction over all leagues, associations, clubs, teams, officials, referees, and players affiliated herewith and over all matters connected with soccer, (indoor or outdoor), or any one of its subordinate and affiliated organizations.

### **Section 6 (Council Duties)**

The Council shall elect the officers of this association; make changes in the Constitution and By-Laws; approve the annual budget, vote in Full Membership applicants for membership who are Provisional Members, Associate Members or New Members; ratification and redistricting proposed by the Board of Directors; and conduct additional business at the Annual General Meeting.

### **Section 7 (Council Powers)**

The Council shall have the power to ratify, alter, or reject decisions and policies of the Board of Directors or any other committee or of any person, within the bounds of this document.

### **Section 8 (Districts)**

This association shall be divided into districts for the purpose of competition and development, consisting of member leagues or associations. League or association memberships shall be Provisional, Associate, or Full as assigned by the Board of Directors.

### **Section 9 (Board of Directors)**

The Board of Directors of this association shall consist of the elected officers, which include the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Men's Commissioner, Women's Commissioner, Co-Ed Commissioner and the Indoor Commissioner. The immediate Past President will serve as a member of the Board of Directors for a period of one year following the election of a new President

### **Section 10 (Board of Directors Duties)**

The Board of Directors shall, except in matters otherwise delegated or reserved, transact all the business of this association directly or by delegation of its authority to such person whom it may from time to time designate.

The Board of Directors shall enforce the laws of the game and the Constitution, By-Laws and other rules of this association and that of the Amateur Division and the U.S.S.F. The Board of Directors shall also approve or reject applicants for Provisional or Associate membership upon proper presentation and approve or reject applicants for Provisional or Associate membership upon proper presentation and recommendation of the League Commissioners; re-evaluate and re-define, if necessary, district boundaries and/or number of districts; determine in which district member organizations shall belong, all of these subject to final approval by the Council.

The President of this association shall automatically be the representative to the National Senior Council and except for any unforeseen circumstances shall be this association's delegate to the United States Soccer Federation Annual General Meeting and to the regional meetings.

If the Board of Directors desires, it may appoint added delegates to each of these meetings to the limit allowed by the Amateur Division and the United States Soccer Federation Rule Number 202. The Board of Directors shall sit as an appellate judicial body for the determination of all appeals from the

decisions of its subordinate and affiliate organizations and its decisions of the Amateur Division and the United States Soccer Federation.

### **Section 11 (Board of Directors Powers)**

The Board of Directors shall have the power to:

1. Ratify, alter, or reject decisions and policies of committees or persons, except in cases specified in this document or by action of the Council.
2. Institute and operate cup competitions and to arrange and stage soccer games in the association's name.
3. Marshal the support of the members of this association to further the goals of the state association.
4. Create, manage or direct an injured player's fund and/or any organization which it may deem expedient for the welfare of the game of soccer.
5. Investigate, correct or require to be corrected unfavorable conditions which may endanger members of this association and/or the welfare of the game of soccer.
6. Hear all cases of misconduct of players, officials and/or persons affiliated with the association when:
  - a. Two (2) or more of its organizations are concerned.
  - b. It has direct jurisdiction (such as state games).
  - c. The alleged offense is an assault upon an official.
7. To suspend, expel, and/or impose fines or penalties upon members of this association for breach of the Constitution and By-Laws of this association and/or case of misconduct per Item 6.
8. Settle disputes between two or more members of this association.
9. To enforce the purposes for which this association was organized.
10. Require the leagues to provide records of their accounting and paperwork integral to their procedures and operations.

Decisions of the Board of Directors shall be final, subject to the appeals and decisions of the USSF.

The Board of Directors will report to the Council the minutes of all Board of Director's meetings.

### **Section 12 (Board of Directors Right to Vote)**

In all matters which are properly presented to the Board of Directors, each officer shall have the right to cast one vote. Officers may not vote in elections at the Annual General Meeting.

### **Section 13 (Board of Directors Majority Vote)**

The majority of the voting power present shall be necessary to decide affirmatively any issue presented to the Board of Directors.

## **Section 14 (Items reserved for he Division)**

The Council shall consist of members representing the recognized Divisions i.e.,Men, Women, Co-Ed. Matters which do not universally apply to all of the Divisions shall be separately considered and voted upon by the members representatives of each Division. This shall include the separate election of State Commissioner by each Division. The State Commissioner for each Division shall act as chairman of all meetings of his or her division.

Matters which relate to each division separately, include, but are not limited to :

1. State Cup for the Division.
2. National Cup and national Programs for the Division.
3. Select Team Program.
4. Other Tournaments for the Division.
5. Discipline and Protest for the Division.
6. Awards and recognition for the Division.
7. Dispute between members of the Division.
8. Budget for the State Commissioner, including all State programs for the Division.  
(subject to ratification of aggregate budget by he Council as a whole)
9. League Development within the Division, including application for new members  
Within the Division.
10. Other matters designated and or delegated as specific to a Division by the Board of Directors even though they may have incidental affect on other Division.

A Recording Secretary should be appointed by each State Commissioner to take minutes of all Divisional Meetings. The minutes of the Division League commissioner's Meetings as well as Division State Meetings should bed incorporated with the General State Meeting minutes.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **OFFICERS**

#### **Section 1 (Officers-Elections Term)**

Members of the Council shall elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, State Men's Commissioner, State Women's Commissioner, State Co-Ed Commissioner.

State offices must be filled by different persons. No one shall be allowed to serve more than one elected position at the same time. Election of officers shall take place at the Annual General Meeting and the officers shall assume duties immediately after the election. The term of office shall be two years, and elections shall be on a staggered basis. The President and the Commissioners shall be elected one year (odd numbered years) and the Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer shall be elected the following year (even numbered years). All officers of this association shall be elected by majority vote of Full Member delegates who are present.

#### **Section 2 (President's Duties)**

The President shall preside at all meetings of this association; appoint all committees and commissioners, subject to approval by the Board of Directors; enforce the constitution, By-Laws and such rules and regulations which may be enacted by the Board of Directors; call such meetings as herein provided to be called; cast a deciding vote on all issues at any meeting of the Council; supervise the affairs of this association; sign all warrants for the payment of monies with the Treasurer when the same are duly authorized by the Board of Directors; sign all contracts and documents of this association with the Secretary when the same are duly authorized by the Board of Directors and Council; act as Chairman of the Executive Committee which may be created by the Board of Directors to perform such duties as the Board of Directors may determine, and which shall consist of the officers of this association; and perform such other duties as the Board of Directors may from time to time direct.

### **Section 3 (President's Power)**

The President shall have the power to call special meetings of this association by sending notification to all members at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting date; to act as an ex-officio member of all committees; and he shall have such other power which the Board of Directors and Council may vest in him.

### **Section 4 (Vice-President)**

The Vice-President shall perform all the duties and exercise all the powers of the President during his absence or incapacity; shall act as the parliamentarian during all state meetings.

### **Section 5 (Secretary)**

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all proceedings of this association and report those minutes to the Council within 60 days of such proceedings; sign with the President all contracts and other documents of this association which are authorized by the Council; and perform such other duties as the Council or Board of Directors may direct.

### **Section 6 (Treasurer)**

The Treasurer may be required to be bonded in the discretion of the Board of Directors, shall deposit all monies in the name of this association with the depository which shall be designated by the Board of Directors; execute receipts for such monies which are paid to him; keep the financial accounts; liquidate all bills against the association, after the same have been approved by the Board of Directors and after he has received properly executed for that purpose; report the State of the Finances of the association at the close of every meeting and whenever required to do so by the President or by the Board of Directors; to submit a complete statement of accounts in writing to the Council at the annual meeting; and perform such other duties as the Council may from time to time direct. The Treasurer shall be authorized to sign all state checks that amount to greater than \$500.00 with the President. The Treasurer shall be authorized to individually sign all state checks amounting to less than \$500.0.

### **Section 7 (State Senior Commissioners)**

The State Senior Commissioners (one representing the Men's division and one representing the Women's Division, and one representing the Co-Ed Division ) shall be elected by the division they represent and their term of office will be two years and elected during odd years. Their duties shall be ;

- A. Organize and administer the State Cup.
- B. Report to the President in all matters.
- C. Represent the State in Regional Meetings.
- D. Complete administration and organization of the National Cup and National Programs.
- E. Work with Regional Cup Commissioners.
- F. Supervise the organization and scheduling of all State Cup and Tournaments by working with league Commissioners.
- G. Serve as chairman of the State Appeals Committee with other League Commissioners.
- H. Responsible to report in writing to the President of all meetings attended representing the State.
- I. Furnish the State Association with a complete Cup Report after all State Competitions.
- J. Serve as chairman of the meeting of their respective division at the general and special meetings of the Council and of league Commissioners. During these divisions meetings, the State Commissioner shall not vote unless to break a tie.
- K. Appoint persons as tournament commissioners or to do certain tasks for the Division or serve on committees on matters delegated or reserved to the division.

### **Section 8 ( Immediate Past President )**

The Immediate Past President shall serve as an advisor to the Board of Directors to provide continuity within the organization, as well as to facilitate a smooth transition from one adm inistration to the next. The Immediate past president shall not have the voting rights at the Board of Directors Meetings.

### **Section 9 (Absence)**

Any officer who is absent without an excusable cause from one (1) meeting, or for any reason, a total of two (2) meetings of the Board of Directors may be placed on suspension, without additional formality, upon action taken by the Executive Board.

### **Section 10 (Removal from Office)**

An officer of this association shall be removed from office by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting power of the General Council, after due process at any special or General Meeting.

### **Section 11 (Vacancies)**

In the event that a vacancy occurs in any office, the Board of Directors shall fill the vacancy by appointing a substitute until the next State Meeting.

### **Section 12 (State Registrar an Appointed Position)**

Responsibilities of the State Registrar shall be: report to the President in all matters. Shall be responsible for the Registration of all leagues, organizations, associations, teams, and players within the jurisdictional area of the TSSAS. He/she shall be responsible for the collection of all affiliation fees and player registrations. Shall be responsible to develop a registration procedure brochure to be distributed to all league registrars. He/she shall produce a completed registration report at the annual meeting of TSSAS and for the President at his request. Responsible for verification of registration of players concerning the State Cups and the National Cups; serve as credentials officer at the State Meeting and shall report in advance those members not in good standing.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **MEETINGS**

#### **Section 1 (Council Meetings)**

There shall be two council meetings per season (September through August). The meetings shall be held during the months listed below and their agendas shall include, but not be limited to the business listed:

#### **August (Annual Meeting)**

- A. Acceptance of the rules for the South Texas Cup competitions.
- B. Distribution and discussion of the National Challenge Cup rules.
- C. Final reports of the soccer year by the officers to include:
  1. Report on the USSF Annual General Meeting
  2. Report on the year's competitions.
  3. Final Treasurer' report.
  4. Written recommendations for changes to the rules and/or procedures for future state competitions.
- D. Election of officers.
- E. Update and explanation of registration procedures and requirements for the upcoming year.

## **February or March**

- A. Acceptance of Budget.
- B. Registration of the South Texas Cups.
- C. Finalization of plans for the South Texas Cups and the National Challenge Cups competitions.
- D. Report on the State and National competitions.
- E. Update of any plans for National Challenge Cups and/or Tournament of Champions competitions.
- F. Decide upon any changes in the TSSAS Constitution or Bylaws.
- G. Discussion of business and positions to be taken at the USSF Annual General Meeting.

The exact date and place for the Council meeting shall be determined at the State Annual General Meeting, by a vote of the Council.

### **Section 1A (Senior Commissioner's Meeting)**

There shall be a minimum of one Senior Commissioner's meeting per seasonal year. This meeting shall be held during the month of August at a location and on a date approved by the State Board of Directors.

### **Section 2 (Board of Director's Meetings)**

There shall be four Board of Directors meetings in between Council Meetings, the dates to be determined by the Board of Directors and at a place determined by the President. These meetings may be telephone conference calls in nature. Board of Director's Meeting dates may be changed with the written request by 51% of the BOD members requesting such change a minimum of two weeks before the scheduled meeting date. Such request shall be sent to the President.

### **Section 3 (Special Meetings)**

Special meetings of this association may be called at any time by the President or upon written demand of six (6) or more representatives, not from the same league or association, upon the President in which case a meeting shall be called by him within one (1) week of such demand.

### **Section 4 (Written Notice)**

Council meeting notices shall be sent to all members at least one (1) month in advance of the meeting date. In the case of all special meetings, notices shall be sent to all members at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting date.

### **Section 5 (Fine and Absence)**

Any member association or league, having received proper notification, which fails to be represented by at least one (1) of its designated representatives or alternate representatives at any duly authorized meeting shall be fined an amount to be determined by the Council.

### **Section 6 (Robert's Rules of Order)**

All meetings of this association shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of the Robert's Rules of Order.

## ARTICLE XI

### QUORUM

The presence of a majority of voting power shall constitute a quorum to transact business at any meeting of this association.

## ARTICLE XII

### AMENDMENTS

#### Section 1 (Vote Required)

The Constitution of this Association may be amended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the entire voting power of Full Members present at any General Meetings.

#### Section 2 (Who Can Make Amendments)

Any proposals or motions to amend the Constitution of this Association must be made in writing motions shall be sent in writing to each Full Member and Provisional and Associate members thirty (30) days in advance at any General Meeting.

## ARTICLE XIII

### Section 1 (FISCAL YEAR BUDGET)

The fiscal year of this association shall be defined as running from September 1 through August 31. The Board of Directors shall present the budget to the Council at the Annual General Meeting. Copies of the proposed budget shall be sent to the membership thirty (30) days in advance of the Annual General Meeting. Budget approval must be carried by a majority affirmative vote of the voting delegates attending the Annual General Meeting. If a budget is not presented by the Board, the last year's budget shall be used for the new season.

#### Section 2 (Audit)

The President shall select, with the approval of the Board of Directors, an independent certified public accountant before the annual general meeting of the State Council to audit the State's books and accounts and to submit a report to the State Council.

# **BY-LAWS**

## **ARTICLE I**

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The order of business at all regular meetings is as follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Membership Committee Report
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting
4. Communications
5. Committee Reports
6. Financial Reports
7. Unfinished Business
8. New Business
9. Miscellaneous Items
10. Adjournment

## **ARTICLE II**

### **APPEALS**

#### **Section 1 (To This Association)**

An appeal of any decision of an affiliated subordinate organization shall be entertained and adjudicated by this association provided that the appellant has given ten (10) days written notice to the organization whose decision is challenged, within which time said organization may reconsider the question, and on failure to do so, or having done so it affirms its former decision, the appellant within three (3) days after the ten (10) day period in the first case or within three (3) days after the date of the affirmed decision in the second case, has lodged an appeal with this association. An appeal to this association shall be made in writing, copies of which shall be forwarded to all parties in interest by the appellant within the designated three (3) day period, shall state clearly all the facts, procedures, decisions, and shall be accompanied by the appeal fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00), which if the appeal is sustained shall be refunded to the appellant, or if the appeal is not sustained shall be retained by this association.

The operation of a decision of an affiliated subordinate organization from an appeal is taken shall not be suspended pending the hearing of this Association. (To agree with USSF Bylaws 705).

When it is necessary for this association to expend monies to entertain and adjudicate an appeal it may determine by whom such expense shall be paid, and when so determined the sum fixed upon notice shall be due and payable.

#### **Section 2 (Appeals to the United States Soccer Federation)**

Any Club, League or Association not wholly satisfied with any decision made by this association has the right of appeal to the U.S.S.F. by following the procedure laid down by U.S.S.F. Bylaws Rules 701 and 707.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **HEARINGS**

Every case which arises under the jurisdiction of this association and requires a hearing, shall be tried in the presence of all parties in interest who appear. The council or its authorized agent has the power to summon anyone under its jurisdiction to appear at any meeting relative to any matter which comes to this association for determination or investigation.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **RULES COMMITTEE**

The President shall appoint a rules committee of three (3) members whose duty is to examine all proposed rule changes and make recommendations to the council. They must determine if the proposals are in order and will not conflict with the rules of the U.S.S.F. The rules committee will also be responsible for examining the constitution and by-laws of any new league or club applying for membership.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **PENALTIES, DEBTS AND ASSESSMENTS**

#### **Section 1 (Assessments of Clubs)**

Any fine imposed upon or debt owed by any member league or association shall be binding on every member club thereof. If a member league or association under such circumstances disbands or ceases for any reason to operate under the jurisdiction of this association, this association shall have power to assess equally every member club thereof its prorate share, and every member club thereof shall stand suspended until its assessment is paid.

#### **Section 2 (Responsibility of Players and Officials)**

Every member and official of a club directly affiliated with this association is a member thereof, and is responsible for any breach of the rules of this association, committed by the club or the management thereof, for which he is associated, provided his connection with or his perpetration of the offense can be proven.

#### **Section 3 (Payment of Debts)**

A debt of any member league, association, club or person owed to this association shall be payable no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the date the sum is declared payable, and in default of payment, the debtor shall be suspended without further action. Fines must be paid even though they are appealed. If the appeal is sustained, the fine will be returned.

#### **Section 4 (Assessment of Members)**

In case, and only in case, this association becomes financially embarrassed and is unable to function properly and/or is unable to meet its financial obligations, the Council shall have the power to assess each member league and association equally a sum not to exceed fifty (\$50.00) dollars.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **BENEFIT GAMES**

This association may participate in games with teams from other state associations and with visiting foreign teams providing that the correct procedures are observed as laid down by the State. The Council shall have the power to set dates in every season to stage matches for the benefit of this association and/or some worthy cause. On such dates, all association leagues, club, and players under its jurisdiction shall be permitted to maintain their current schedule unless expressly prohibited by the Board of Directors at that time.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **TOURNAMENT (PROMOTED BY MEMBER LEAGUES)**

All affiliated leagues promoting or conducting invitational tournaments must request permission from TSSAS to hold such events. TSSAS will supply a Tournament Permission Form, to be completed by the applicant. For permission to be granted, all tournaments must observe State and National Rules and regulations, and this permission shall be granted annually.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

#### **Section 1 (Courtesy of Meetings)**

Visitors may be granted the privilege to attend and/or speak at meetings at the discretion of the President.

#### **Section 2 (Auditing Committee)**

The President shall appoint three (3) auditors at the close of each fiscal year to examine the accounts of this association and report their findings to the Council.

#### **Section 3 (Comity)**

This association shall recognize suspensions and rulings of all organizations under the jurisdiction of the United States Soccer Federation when notified thereof.

#### **Section 4 (Players, Officials, and Spectators)**

Players, officials and spectators are permitted to take part in or attend matches provided they observe the rules of the association, the United States Soccer Federation, and its subordinate and affiliated organizations. Every league, association, and club is responsible to this association for the conduct of its players, officials and spectators and must exercise every reasonable precaution against disturbance or disorderly conduct before, during and after every match.

#### **Section 5 (Jurisdiction of Members)**

Every member, league and club shall have jurisdiction over its internal affairs, except as herein provided otherwise. When any league or association suspends or lifts the suspension of any club, player or official affiliated with it, notice thereof shall be sent to the Secretary of this association no later than forty-eight (48) hours of the act.

#### **Section 6 (Presentment of Claim)**

No matter, in the nature of a dispute or claim, shall be presented to or defined in this association except by a bona fide member of the league, association or club which is concerned.

#### **Section 7 (Passes)**

At the discretion of the Council, each member thereof may be furnished by this association with a non-transferable pass which shall admit the bearer, without charge and upon presentation, to any game played under the jurisdiction of this association.

### **Section 8 (Extra-territorial Cup Competitions)**

No member league, association or clubs shall enter or take part in any cup competition outside the jurisdiction of this association, except those directly, affiliated with or operated by the United States Soccer Federation, without the approval of this association.

### **Section 9 (Gambling)**

Betting or gambling in any form on any game or part thereof, at any place, is forbidden. An official or player who violates this rule shall be suspended permanently. Any club which permits a violation of this rule on or near its grounds may have its grounds barred from use.

### **Section 10 (Referees)**

In all competitions under the jurisdiction of this association directly or indirectly, all referees used must be USSF Registered Referees and in good standing with the USSF.

### **Section 11 (Dissolution)**

IN the event of the dissolution of this association for whatever reason, all of its assets shall be turned over to the Amateur Division, in trust for submission to any state association which, properly organized and affiliated with the Amateur Division replaces this Association.

### **Section 12 (Cancellation of Soccer Activities)**

State soccer functions shall take precedence over all other local soccer functions. When State Cup Semi-Finals or Finals are staged in a particular city all other soccer activities by the hosting association in that city shall be canceled. Failure to observe the requirement shall result in a fine to be assessed to the local league or leagues by the State Board of Directors.

### **Section 13 (Foreign Games)**

Member Leagues may promote and organize games involving teams from foreign Countries, (Amateur or Professionals) in compliance with FIFA, USSF RULES Bylaws 512, Policies 521-523) and TSSAS regulations. Only fully affiliated leagues or clubs, in good standing, can be considered as sponsors of games involving foreign teams. The TSSAS Board of Directors shall set up certain requirements as well as permission fees for leagues or clubs to stage any foreign game. Permission fees will be charged only when gate admission fees will be used.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **REGISTRATION**

#### **Section 1 (Seasonal Year)**

The seasonal year shall be from September 1st to August 31st of the following year.

#### **Section 2 (Registration Closing Date)**

The Board of Directors may fix a date in each year when the Registration Committee shall cease to register players.

### **Section 3 (Registration Time Limit in Leagues)**

Every member league or association may fix a date in its competition prior to the date fixed by the Board of Directors when its member clubs shall cease to register additional players for competition. When such a date is determined, notice thereof shall be given to the Registrations Commissioner who shall be governed accordingly.

### **Section 4 (Disbanded Clubs)**

When a team disbands and that fact is officially recognized, acknowledged, accepted and noted by this association, any player thereof may at once register with the team of another club but shall be considered a transferred player.

### **Section 5 (Definition of a Team)**

A team is understood to be a group of players, registered to play under the same name and colors, represented at the league level by a manager or team representative. A "team" is liable for all responsibilities assumed by its manager or team representative in its name.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **PLAYERS**

#### **Section 1 (Player Status - Amateur or Professional)**

Under the rules of this association, players are either Amateur or professional as defined in this section. A professional player is a person who receives or has received payment for playing or who signs a professional form of this association. An amateur player is any person other than a professional player. An amateur player may not receive and retain any enumeration for playing except expenses directly related to a game or games which have actually been incurred by the player. This association recognizes the definition of an amateur player of the International Olympic Committee in regard to the selection of the United State Olympic Soccer Team.

#### **Section 2 (Number of Players on Team or Club Roster)**

##### **In Eleven-Aside Games**

No team shall be permitted to have more than eighteen (18) registered active playing members at any one time. A club shall be permitted to have at any one time no more than eighteen (18) registered active players if the club fields one team, and no more than thirty-six (36) registered active players if the club fields a team and a reserve team. The eligibility of those players to play for either team of that club shall be determined by the leagues and competitions in which the club competes. In figuring the maximum number of players, there shall not be included players under an indefinite suspension.

##### **In Small-Sided Games**

Except as otherwise noted FIFA Laws will govern play. No Team shall be allowed more than twelve (12) players. In match play no team will be allowed to start a game with fewer players than the competition calls for.

## ARTICLE XI

### AMATEUR PLAYERS

#### Section 1 (Jurisdiction over Registration and Release)

This association has and shall exercise full power in the registration, transfer and release of all amateur players under its jurisdiction. The records of the Registration Commissioner of this association in these matters shall be final and binding upon all members of this association subject nevertheless to the approval of the Council.

#### Section 2 (Registration Forms)

An amateur player who desires to play voluntarily for any club in any season may register on a form which shall upon request be supplied by the Registrar and which must be returned to him no later than five (5) days after the player has affixed his/her signature thereto. A player who desires to play with any team which is a member of an association or league engaged in scheduled competition, must register as herein provided. Registration forms shall be issued to any properly authorized person of any league. The payment of the registration forms shall be payable by the subordinate organization to this association upon request. The cost of forms for each division shall be the amount set from time to time by the Council of this Association. Registration forms shall be executed in a manner thereon specified, in ink, properly dated, and shall be signed by the player in the presence of a witness who shall also affix his signature thereto. It shall be an offense for any person except the player to sign his/her name to a form, and if such an offense is committed, it shall be punishable and the form shall be invalid.

#### Section 3 (Registration of Amateur Players)

- A. Restriction of Players - An amateur player is not restricted as to the team for which he/she may play provided he/she complies with the rules and regulations of any competition in which his/her team are engaged, and the rules of this association. An amateur player may register and play for two teams at the same time as per Amateur Division Registration rules, provided that the teams are not from the same competition league or division (example: Men's First Division - Men's Over Thirty or Co-Ed teams). The player shall designate in the registration form his/her primary team. Each time a player registers for another team he/she must sign a new amateur form. The primary team is the team the player will be allowed to play for State or National Competition.
- B. Senior Amateur Players - Every senior amateur player shall be registered on a USSF amateur player registration form. The fee for registration, release or transfer of a senior amateur player under any provision of this rule shall be determined by the Council. Three different kinds of senior amateur player registration are possible.
  1. Amateur Form: Any amateur player, whether senior or youth may be registered with a team on an amateur form (Form A).
    - A. A properly completed A Form together with the application fee shall be forwarded to the State Association five (5) days after being signed by the player.
    - B. The period of registration under an A Form shall be determined by the state association provided that the period of registration may not exceed one calendar year or extend beyond the end of the last competition in progress at the time of the annual general meeting of the Council.
    - C. A player registered on an (A) Form may be released at any time by the team for which he/she is registered using the (AR) Form and shall be released by such team upon request of the player if the player is in good

standing. A player not in good standing shall be ineligible to register with any affiliated team. This ineligibility shall be carried over from one season to the next.

- D. A completed AR form together with the applicable fee shall be forwarded to the state association within five (5) days after the player has been released by the team.
2. Amateur Division Form: An amateur player who voluntarily desires to play for one team in any entire registration period may be registered on an Amateur Detention Form (Form AD).
- A. A properly completed AD Form together with the applicable fee shall be forwarded to the state association within five (5) days after being signed by the player.
  - B. The period of registration under an AD Form shall be determined by the state association, provided that one period of registration may not exceed one year or extend beyond the end of the last competition in progress at the time of the annual general meeting of the Council.
  - C. A player registered on an AD Form may be released by the team for which he/she is registered (Form ADR) and if the player requests release, the player may be released only upon the consent of the team or under the authority of the state association.
  - D. A completed ADR Form together with the applicable fee shall be forwarded to the state association within five (5) days after the player has been released by the team.
  - E. No team shall receive any consideration for releasing a player under this rule. A team that does not observe this provision may be barred from further registering players on AD Forms.
  - F. An amateur player registered with a club on an AD Form may be loaned under specific terms of recall to play professional indoor soccer only with another club for a period of not less than one (1) month. During the period of loan the player may play only for the club to which he has to be loaned once during the season.
3. Olympic Eligibility Form: A player who is eligible under the rules of the International Olympic Committee to participate in competitions sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee may be registered on an Olympic eligibility registration form by a club which is a member of an organization affiliated with the U.S.S.F.
- A. A properly completed OE Form together with the applicable fee shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Federation within five (5) days after being signed by the player.
  - B. Registration under this form is not effective until it is approved by the Secretary of the Federation.
  - C. The period of registration under this form shall be the period of time from the effective date of the registrant until the end of the calendar year of the next Olympic Games following the effective date of the registration or the end of the calendar year of the next Olympic Games following the effective

date of the registration or the end of the calendar year of the elimination of the United States Olympic Games following the effective date of the registration, whichever comes first, provided that in no event shall the period of registration exceed four (4) years.

- D. A player registered on an OE Form may be transferred to another club eligible to register a player on an OE Form under this rule (Form OET).
  - E. A player registered on an OE Form may be released by his club (Form OER).
  - F. A properly completed transfer or release form under this rule together with the applicable fee shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Federation within five (5) days after being signed by the club.
  - G. A transfer or release under this rule is not effective until it is acknowledged by the Secretary of the Federation.
  - H. Release of a player by a club under this rule does not release the player's obligation to the U.S.S.F. under the Olympic Eligibility form unless the U.S.S.F. also releases the player. A player released by his club may register as an amateur with any club or team affiliated with a member of the U.S.S.F. A copy of the amateur registration form must be forwarded to the Secretary of this association within five (5) days after being signed by the player in addition to being submitted to any affiliate of the USSF as required elsewhere in these rules.
  - I. A player registered on an OE Form may be loaned to another club or team under the procedure described in Article XI Section 7.
  - J. The Secretary of the USSF shall notify the Secretary of the interested state association or professional league of any registration, transfer, release or notice of loan of a player under this rule within seven (7) days after filing of the properly completed form and applicable fee by forwarding a copy of such form to the Secretary.
4. Youth Amateur Players: A youth player is one who has not reached the age of nineteen (19) years prior to January 1st of the current seasonal year. A player who reached his/her nineteenth birthday on or after January 1st of the seasonal year shall compete as a youth player for that entire seasonal year. He/she shall pay the applicable registration fee.
5. Youth Participation in Adult Games: A youth player is allowed to register on an adult form (USYSA Rule 2104) provided that he/she registers on a youth form first. The State Association (TSSAS) will provide a special form in order to receive the appropriate parents or guardians permission for the youth player to play on an adult team.

OTE: The above rules apply to individual players and not to whole teams. Complete youth teams cannot play in senior leagues and then return to youth league competition. The basic reason for this rule is to provide youth players with more playing time or game exposure. It is not intended to build championship teams with senior playing experience at the expense of other youth teams. Such cases would create chaos, as many youth teams could enter senior leagues for the exposure and then drop out when the youth leagues have started their season. This could totally disrupt the senior league, as well as create bitter feelings in the youth leagues.

6. State Association Responsibilities: State Associations shall have full powers in the matter of registration or release of all amateur players under the conditions set forth in rules provided above, said State Associations to furnish the Secretary of the USSF, within thirty (30) days after making the registration, a list of such registrations, giving the names and addresses of players and the clubs for which they are registered. The affiliated bodies are to be paid into the treasury of the association on or before the annual general meeting or on request.

#### **Section 4 (Registration Period)**

Any player who is engaged in competition under the jurisdiction of this association, who is eligible to execute a form, and whose form properly executed is logged and is in the actual possession of the Registrar forty-eight (48) hours before game time is eligible to play.

#### **Section 5 (Release of Players)**

The registration of an amateur player with any club may be terminated only by mutual consent or by authority of this Association. The termination of all registrations during any playing season shall be by release, and necessary forms for this purpose shall be supplied on request by the Registrar. A player shall not sign a second registration form until eight (8) full days have elapsed from the date on which his/her release form, properly executed in ink, was placed in the actual possession of the Registrar. When any club executes a release form, it shall forward to the Registrar within two (2) days of its execution. A club shall not be entitled to receive any consideration for releasing a player who it has registered. A club which violates this regulation shall be barred from registering additional players without special permission from the United States Soccer Federation.

#### **Section 6 (Registrar Acknowledgement)**

The Registrar shall acknowledge the receipt and registration of all registration and release forms, and he shall send such notice to each player's respective club, league or association which such club is affiliated, and the United States Soccer Federation.

#### **Section 7 (Approaching Players)**

No club or person shall attempt to induce a registered player to leave his/her club during any current season without giving at least fourteen (14) days written notice to the club with which the player is registered. Negotiations with the player must cease at the expiration of seven (7) days after the expiration of the aforementioned fourteen (14) day period. The notice must be forwarded by registered post or a written acknowledgement must be otherwise obtained. The fourteen (14) days notice is likewise necessary if the first approach is made by the player. A second notice shall not be given by the same club for the same player during the same playing season. The approaching club shall not be given notice of its intention to approach another player of the same club within twenty-eight (28) days of prior notice.

#### **Section 8 (Amateur Restrictions)**

An amateur player shall neither sign nor play for any other club than the one with which he/she is registered without first obtaining the consent of his/her club and this association.

## **Section 9 (Multiple Registrations)**

A player may be registered for more than one (1) team at the same time as long as they are in different competitions. A separate USSF player registration form must be used for each team the player registers with. A team must be designated as the primary team on the player's registration form and the player's identification card. If this is not done, the State will recognize the earliest registration as the primary team.

## **Section 10 (Amateurs and Professionals)**

There shall be no objection to an amateur player competing or playing with or against a professional, and in so doing, there shall be no charge in his/her amateur status.

## **Section 11 (Payments to Amateurs)**

An amateur player shall not be compensated for his/her services as a player. Every player who receives money or who takes an advantage other than the reimbursement or payment for his/her account of expenses for dress, traveling, hotel charges, duly justified, shall be declared a professional. Traveling and hotel expenses which are permitted are those necessary for participation in training. Payment for broken time, that is for loss of wages by absence from employment, shall not be made. A player may receive the care of masseurs, physicians or specialists for his/her training or when he/she is injured. In the case of an accident, he/she may benefit by insurance, the premiums of which have been paid by his/her association or club. If injured, he/she may when he/she is not injured or when the insurance does not cover the expense, receive from his/her club or association a pecuniary assistance provided consent therefore has been obtained from this association. If an amateur player is a paid employee of any club or association, he/she must prove on every demand that the service he/she rendered as a player are of no influence upon the estimation of wages which are paid to him/her in the capacity of an employee. An amateur player may not receive and retain any remuneration for playing except expenses directly related to game or games which have actually been incurred by the player. An amateur player who receives any payment whosoever must deliver a receipt to his/her club's secretary setting forth specifically the items for which he/she has received remuneration or reimbursement, and all receipts shall always be at the disposal of this association on request. When an amateur player is injured while playing soccer he/she shall, with the consent of this association, be entitled to reimbursement for the payment of all medical bills without the loss of his/her amateur status. The fact that a player is a dealer in sporting goods does not make him/her a professional. An amateur is prohibited to advertise or to authorize advertisement by means of his/her name or by his/her qualities as a soccer player. An amateur is prohibited to authorize a commercial firm to advertise by means of his/her photograph. An amateur player loses his/her status as such when a decision of this association or of the United States Soccer Federation declares him/her a Professional.

## **Section 12 (Foreign and Out of State Players)**

All players coming from another state association or foreign country must have clearance papers or a release signed by the official registration chairman or association secretary before they are eligible to register for another team in this Federation, except as to players in the Armed Forces. However, temporary leave to register and play, pending proper release, may be granted by the secretary upon payment of the applicable fee. The Secretary will inform the state association of permission, and the state association will receive a copy of the request.

## ARTICLE XII

### PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS

#### Section 1 (Registration Required)

Every professional player shall be registered on a USSF professional player registration form (Form P). The fee for registration, release, transfer, or notice of loan of a professional player under this rule shall be determined by the Council. A professional player is not a member of a club and may not play for a club until he has been registered with the Secretary of the United States Soccer Federation under this rule, except as further provided in this rule.

#### Section 2 (Clubs Eligible to Register Professional Players)

Any club which is a member of the USSF or a member of an association or league affiliated with the USSF may register a professional player, except no professional player may be registered to compete on a team which is a member of an association affiliated with the United States Youth Soccer Association.

#### Section 3 (Registration Procedure)

- A. A properly completed professional form shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the United States Soccer Federation together with the applicable fee within five (5) days after being signed by the player.
- B. Registration under this rule is not effective until it is acknowledged by the Secretary of the United States Soccer Federation by the club's receiving the player's registration number and date of registration.
- C. Each professional player registered shall be given a registration number and date of registration.
- D. The date of registration shall be earlier of the date when the completed form and applicable fee are received by the Secretary of the United States Soccer Federation or postmarked if they are sent by United States mail (excluding metered mail).
- E. The Secretary of the United States Soccer Federation shall notify the Professional League of the registration of each professional player within seven (7) days after filing of the properly completed form and the applicable fee by forwarding a copy of the registration form to such secretary.

#### Section 4 (Period of Registration)

The period of registration shall be one calendar year from the date of registration.

#### Section 5 (Transfers and Releases)

- A. A player registered on a professional form may be transferred to another club (Form PT) or may be released by his club (Form PR).
- B. A properly completed transfer or release form under this rule together with the applicable fee shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the United States Soccer Federation within five (5) days after being signed by the club.
- C. A transfer or release under this rule is not effective until it is acknowledged by the Secretary of the United States Soccer Federation.

- D. The Secretary of the United States Soccer Federation shall notify the secretary of the interested state association or professional league of each transfer or release of a professional player within seven (7) days after filing of the properly completed form and applicable fee by forwarding a copy of the form to such secretary.

#### **Section 6 (Registration Exclusivity and Player Loans)**

A professional player may not play for any club other than the club for which he is registered unless the club has filed a completed notice of player loan to the other club together with the applicable fee with the Secretary of the United States Soccer Federation and this notice has been acknowledged by the Secretary, or the player will be playing for the other club or team in a non-competitive game such as an exhibition, all-star, or benefit game.

#### **Section 7 (Notice of Player Loan Procedure)**

- A. A properly completed notice of player loan form (Form NPL) shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the United States Soccer Federation together with the applicable fee within five (5) days after being signed by the club.
- B. A player loan may be cancelled at any time by the loaning club which shall forward a properly completed notice of loan cancellation form (Form NPLC) to the Secretary of the United States Soccer Federation together with the applicable fee.
- C. A player loan or loan cancellation is not effective under this rule until it is acknowledged by the Secretary of the United States Soccer Federation.
- D. The Secretary of the United States Soccer Federation shall notify the secretary of each interested state association or professional league of each player loan or loan cancellation within seven (7) days after filing of the properly completed form and applicable fee by forwarding a copy of the form to the Secretary.

### **ARTICLE XIII**

#### **AMENDMENTS**

##### **Section 1 (Vote Required)**

The By-Laws of this association may be amended by a vote of two thirds (2/3) of the entire voting power of full members present at any general meeting.

##### **Section 2 (Advance Notice)**

Any proposals or motions to amend the By-Laws of this association must be made in writing to the secretary sixty (60) days in advance of the annual general meeting and these proposals or motions shall be sent in writing to each Full and Provisional Member thirty (30) days in advance of any general meeting.

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##### **Section 3 (Who Can Make Amendments)**

Any proposals or motions to amend the By-Laws of this association may be made by Full members and the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE XIV

### COMPETITION SCHEDULE

The playing season for Senior Amateur Soccer shall be defined and designated for the purposes of this association as follows:

#### **September 1 through March 31**

Individual league competition. The representatives to the South Texas Cup Competition should be determined during some portion of this time period.

#### **April (Beginning the first weekend and continuing until completion)**

South Texas Cup and National Challenge Cup Competition. Individual league competition may continue during this period but all South Texas Cup and National Challenge Cup games will take precedence.

#### **July 1 through August 31**

Individual league play if desired.

## ARTICLE XV

### INTERIM COMMITTEES

The association shall recognize and include standing committees, whose membership shall be defined within these By-Laws, and interim committees which shall be appointed at the discretion of the President and with the approval of the governing board to fulfill temporary needs.

#### **Coaching Committee**

To administer the implementation of the State/USSF Coaching Program.

#### **Marketing Committee**

To seek sponsorship for the development of all State Programs.

#### **Auditing Committee**

To review the accounting and financial records of this association.

#### **Publicity Committee**

To handle all matters pertaining to publicity in newspapers, radio, television and any other media.

#### **Nomination Committee**

To present a slate of proposed officers to all member leagues in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the February meeting.

#### **Appeals Committee**

To handle all appeals filed with the Texas State Soccer Association, South, and it shall be made up of one representative from each member league.

#### **Standing Committees**

##### **Referee Committee**

The Referee Committee shall be responsible for the administration and organization of all matters relating to referee participation in all competitions and business of the Association.

It shall make recommendations to the Council for final approval or refusal. The referee committee shall consists of the following representatives:

The State Director of Referee Development, who shall act as chairman.  
The State Director of Referee Instruction  
The State Director of Referee Assessment

## ARTICLE XVI

### RATIFICATION

The Constitution and By-Laws or any subsequent amendments shall be ratified and in effect upon a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the desired amendments during the annual general meeting of the Council. The Secretary shall distribute to the officers and members of the association copies of the newly ratified Constitution and By-Laws within sixty (60) days following the meeting.

## ARTICLE XVII

### DISCIPLINE

The official report of each game shall be reviewed by the Rules Committee, with authority to discipline for official cautions and ejections under a disciplinary points system as follows, with points cumulative over a three (3) year period.

- 1 game suspension for any ejection.
- 1 game suspension for an accumulation of ten (10) points.
- 2 game suspension for an accumulation of twenty (20) points.
- 3 game suspension for an accumulation of thirty (30) points, and for each additional ten (10) points increment.

Points are determined according to this table:

- 6 points **EJECTION** for serious foul play or violent conduct.
- 6 points **EJECTION** for foul or abusive language.
- 5 points **EJECTION** for persistent misconduct with prior caution.
- 2 points **CAUTION** for ungentlemanly conduct issued in relation to a serious foul to a player.
- 2 points **CAUTION** for dissent with the referee.
- 1 point **CAUTION** for ungentlemanly conduct other than the above.
- 1 point **CAUTION** for persistent infringement of the laws of the game.
- 1 point **CAUTION** for entering or leaving the field of play without permission.

In addition, fines shall be imposed to the teams as follows:

- \$25 **EJECTION** for violent conduct (striking, fighting, etc.)
- \$20 **EJECTION** for serious foul play (violent tackles, etc.)
- \$15 **EJECTION** for foul or abusive language
- \$10 **EJECTION** for persistent misconduct with a prior caution
- \$10 **CAUTION** third in a single season, or each additional in a single season

A manager, coach or coaching assistant who is ordered from the area of the field by the referee shall be prohibited from attending the teams' next playable scheduled game. If ordered from the area of the field a second time during the same season, he will be prohibited from attending any of his team's games for the remainder of the official season. Any infringement of the prohibition from attendance may result in forfeiture of the game.

## ARTICLE XVIII

### STATE FINE SYSTEM

A state fine system shall be approved annually by the State Board of Directors and shall affect all games in the jurisdictional area of the state association. All assessed fines must be paid within thirty (30) days of their assessment or they will be automatically increased by 25%. If the fines are not paid within one month of their assessment the amount of the fine shall be deducted from the league bond. If the amount deducted from the bond is not replaced within a month the league or organization will be declared not in good standing.

### STATE FINE SCHEDULE (Revised State Meeting August 7, 1987)

#### FINES TO LEAGUES

1.	Missing State Council Meeting	\$300
2.	Missing Senior Commissioners Meeting	\$250
3.	Late League Registration (After September 30)	\$100
4.	Late State/USSF Team and Player Registration (December 1)	\$100
5.	Late Summer League Registration (May 1)	\$100
6.	Late Summer Team/Player Registration (June 1)	\$100
7.	Late Indoor Player Registrations	\$100

#### SOUTH TEXAS CUP DATES

1. Roster frozen January 31
2. No transfers after January 31
3. New players may be registered up to last day of February (not previously registered with TSSAS)
4. Team roster and registration fees due on last day of February

#### FINES TO TEAMS (Minimum Fines)

1.	Player hitting a referee (assault)	\$ 75
2.	Player insulting a referee	\$ 40
3.	Player guilty of fighting	\$ 35
4.	Player receiving red card	\$ 30
5.	Player receiving yellow card	\$ 10
6.	Teams playing an ineligible player	\$ 50
7.	Teams issuing false ID Card (each card)	\$100
8.	Forging registrars signature on ID	\$100
9.	Forging players signature	\$100
10.	Forging signatures on referee reports	\$100
11.	Playing a suspended player	\$100

#### PLAYER'S OR MANAGER'S SUSPENSIONS (Minimum)

1. Under 1 above: One Year
2. Under 2 above: Six Months
3. Under 3 above: Two Months
4. Under 4 above: One Game
5. Under 5 above: None
6. Under 6 above: Six Months (Manager/Coach)
7. Under 7 above: Six Months (Manager/Coach)
8. Under 8 above: Six Months (Manager/Coach)
9. Under 9 above: Six Months
10. Under 10 above: Six Months
11. Under 11 above: Six Months (Manager/Coach)

The leagues are responsible for the collection of all fines. Leagues must pay their fines within 30 days of their assessment or the fines will be increased 25%.

## **ARTICLE XIX**

### **DEFINITIONS**

<b><u>APPEALS</u></b>	Arise as a result of an unfavorable decision from a protest, hearing, administrative action or disciplinary action/hearing.
<b><u>ASSOCIATION</u></b>	Texas State Soccer Association - South, Inc. (TSSAS)
<b><u>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u></b>	Consists of elected officers (BOD)
<b><u>COUNCIL</u></b>	The duly elected or appointed representatives of each Class "A" or "B" member league of the association in active scheduled competition.
<b><u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</u></b>	Created by the Board of Directors and consists of elected officers.
<b><u>GRIEVANCE</u></b>	Any complaint which is not a protest or an appeal, but in the opinion of the complainant is a violation of the TSSAS or the USSF Constitution, By-Laws, Rules, Procedures, or involves two or more members of the Association.
<b><u>IN GOOD STANDING</u></b>	A properly registered player, team or league that is not under suspension, has paid all dues, fines and fees owed to a club, league, or association and complies with the authority and rules of TSSAS and USSF.
<b><u>LEAGUE</u></b>	An organization comprised of at least four (4) teams operating under a Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules.
<b><u>MEMBER</u></b>	Associations, Leagues, Clubs, Players, Coaches, Managers, Referees, Administrators and Officials who belong to the TSSAS and the USSF as defined by the United States Soccer Federation (USFF) Rules.
<b><u>PROTEST</u></b>	Related to a specific game and is filed by one of the involved team officials.
<b><u>QUORUM</u></b>	A majority of the voting power present.
<b><u>REFEREE ABUSE</u></b>	A verbal statement or physical act which implies or threatens physical harm to the referee or the referee's personal property and equipment, as defined in USSF Rules.
<b><u>REFEREE ASSAULT</u></b>	An intentional act directed at or upon a referee that is intended to or does inflict bodily injury, harm or damage to the referee, his/her uniform or other personal property or is intended to or does put the referee in fear of physical attack as defined by USSF Rules.
<b><u>RELEASE</u></b>	The withdrawal of a player from a team during the current seasonal year who is free from all obligations to that team.
<b><u>SMALL SIDED GAME</u></b>	Competition between two (2) teams with less than a maximum of eleven (11) players per team on the field at one time.

**TEAM**

A recognized entity organized for the purpose of playing soccer. A group of players, coaches and managers that have organized to play either indoor or outdoor soccer. The team size will be determined by its competition and playing rules (5v5, 6v6,....11v11).