

**SOUTHERN OHIO ADULT
SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

**CONSTITUTION
BYLAWS**

AUGUST 1999



Revised February 2003

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(revised 8/99)

SOUTHERN OHIO ADULT SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.

CONSTITUTION

Article I.

Name - Colors - Location of Offices.

A. The name of this Association shall be: Southern Ohio Adult Soccer Association, Inc. (Bylaw #1).

B. The official colors of this Association shall be: Red over Black. (BL #2).

C. The headquarters of this Association shall be located in Montgomery County, State of Ohio. (BL #3).

Article II.

Purpose.

The purpose of this Association shall be to foster national amateur soccer competition and to support and develop amateur athletes for national competition in soccer. (BL #4).

Article III.

Territory.

The territory shall be the southern half of the State of Ohio. (BL #5).

Article IV.

Affiliation.

This Association shall be affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation and shall make every effort to remain a member in good standing. (BL #6).

Article V.

Organization and Administration.

A. The authority of this Association shall be vested in the Council.

1. The Executive Board, selected through an open and democratic election process, which shall consist of: with the following officers: (1) President, (2) Three Vice Presidents, (3) Secretary, (4) Treasurer, (5) Registrar (BL #7).

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2. (1) One representative of each member league, (2) Immediate past president, (3) State Referee Administrator, (4) Chairman of Grievance Committee, (5) Life-time members, (6) Women's Representative, (7) Chairman of the Cup Committee, (8) State Coach(s) (BL #8)

- B. All council members shall have one (1) vote. (BL #9).
- C. The council members shall be the trustees of this Association.
- D. Any council member is subject to impeachment by a majority of the members present and voting at any duly constituted meeting of council, or in the absence of a meeting, by the written approval of a majority of the members of the council.
- E. The State Association shall maintain its tax exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code.

Article VI.

Membership.

- A. The membership of the State Association and the members of the State Association shall be open to any soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators and officials not subject to suspension under section 4 of Federation Bylaw 241, and to any amateur soccer organization in its territory.
- B. The State Association will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex or national origin.
- C. Any league, or in the absence of a league, a properly constituted club playing the game of soccer may apply for membership.
- D. The acceptance of membership application shall be by the vote of the majority of the members of the council present and voting at any duly constituted meeting of the council, or in the absence of a meeting, by the written approval of all of the members of the council. (BL #9-8).
- E. Any member may terminate its membership at any time. (BL #11-1).
- F. The State Association will provide equitable and prompt hearing and appeal procedures to guarantee the rights of individuals to participate and compete. Those procedures shall include that all grievances involving the right to participate and compete in activities sponsored by the Federation and the State Association and its members may be appealed to the Federation's Appeals Committee that shall have jurisdiction to approve, modify or reverse a decision. (BL#12)
- G. All members have the right to protest and appeal. (BL #12)

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- H. All properly registered USSF members have the right to appeal to the USSF. (BL #12.)

I. All members shall pay all imposed fees and other obligations in due time to remain a member in good standing. (BL #13).

Article VII.

Jurisdiction - Rights - Obligations.

A. The Members.

1. Each member shall have the right of representation on the council. (BL #14-1).
2. Each member shall have authority over its own internal affairs except if stated otherwise in this document or the current USSF rule book. (BL #14-2).
3. Each member shall submit a constitution (Rule book, Regulations, etc.) which shall not conflict with this document or the USSF rules, for approval by the Executive Board of this Association. (BL #14-2).
4. Each member shall obtain permission from this Association for games to be played by its member clubs against teams of other organizations or unaffiliated teams. (BL #14-3).
5. Each member shall report all expulsions of teams and/or players as well as all suspensions in excess of three weeks. (BL #14-4).
6. An individual who is a player, coach, referee, or administrator becomes a member of the State Association:
 - a. through the individuals' membership or association with an organization member
 - b. as an elected officer of the State Association
 - c. as a council member of the State Association

B. The Association.

1. The Association shall uphold, and make all decisions in compliance with, this document, the Bylaws, and the current official rule book of the USSF. (BL #15-1).
2. All of the members and affiliates shall operate within the framework of these rules; and the Association shall take immediate action if violations are detected. (BL #15-2).

3. The Association shall have the right to refuse permission for games against teams outside the Association. Any such denial shall be in writing and shall state the reason therefore. (BL #15-3).
4. The Association shall maintain harmonious relationships with other associations in the best interest of the game of soccer. (BL #15-5).
5. The Association shall maintain close contact with the USSF and shall send a delegate to the annual USSF meeting.
6. The Association shall defray the traveling expenditures of their Executive Board members and/or appointees when funding is included in the annual budget

Article VIII.

Meetings.

A. Meetings of the Executive Board.

1. A meeting of the Executive Board can be called by the President at anytime. (BL #16-1).
2. An Executive Board meeting can be called by the Secretary on request of the majority of the officers. (BL #16-2).
3. The Secretary shall prepare the agenda for the Executive Board meeting. (BL #16-3).

B. Meeting of the Council.

1. A general meeting of the council to be held annually in February of each year. (BL #17-1).
2. A special meeting of the council may be called by the President at any time. (BL #17-2).

C. Order of business (Standard Agenda for Council Meetings). (BL #18-1 thru 5).

1. Calling the meeting to order.
2. Roll call.
3. Proof of notification of meeting.
4. Reading of minutes of previous meeting.

5. Report of officers.
6. Report of Committees and Delegates.
7. Old Business.
8. Election of Officers (every other year).
9. New Business.
10. Miscellaneous in the Best Interest of the Game.
11. Closing of the meeting.

Article IX.

Elections.

- A. The election of officers shall be held at the general meeting of the council. (BL #19-1).
- B. The officers shall be elected for a two (2) year term and there shall be no restriction on the number of terms any officer can serve.
- C. Any person who actively played, refereed, managed or promoted amateur soccer shall be eligible to be nominated for office. (BL #19-2).
- D. Any person who has been expelled from soccer or is presently under suspension shall not be nominated.
- E. The council may at any time select to elect the officers alternately. (BL #19-2).
- F. The election procedure shall be provided in the By-Laws. (BL #19-4).

Article X.

The Officers.

- A. President. The President shall be the general manager of this Association and the Chairman of its council. He is ex-officio member of all committees and commissions and shall preside at all meetings except those of the committees. (BL #20-1).
- B. Vice Presidents. The vice presidents shall assist the president in performance of his duties. (BL #20-2 thru 4).

C. Secretary. The secretary shall keep a roll of all council members as well as of all officers of member leagues. He shall give notice of all meetings in due time and prepare an agenda of the business to be transacted. He shall keep the minutes, conduct correspondence and keep copies. He shall brief the president on all but routine business. (BL #20-5).

D. Treasurer. The treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds of this Association and shall be responsible for keeping a complete and accurate set of financial books and records.

E. Registrar. The registrar shall have the responsibility of assuring the proper registration of all of the leagues, teams and players on the teams affiliated with this Association.

Article XI.

Miscellaneous.

A. Any and all rules and regulations in this document shall be subject to temporary suspension by the unanimous vote of the council.

B. Any and all decisions made by the President in an emergency shall be subject to ratification by the council.

C. Any and all emergency decisions made by the Executive Board are subject to ratification by the council.

D. Changes and/or amendments of this document shall be made by 75% majority of the council present and voting at any time.

E. The Federation articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies and requirements take precedence over and supercede the governing documents and decisions of the State Association and its members to the extent applicable under state law, and the State Association and its members will abide by those articles, bylaws, policies and requirements.

F. 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.)

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

H. 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.

I. 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 four years, to determine compliance with these bylaws.

J. The State Association will:

1. provide annually to the Federation copies of the State Association's constitution, bylaws, and other governing documents.
2. submit changes to those documents to the Federation for approval not later than 90 days after adoption, and make copies of those documents available to its members.

THE SOUTHERN OHIO ADULT SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.

BYLAWS

- BL #1.1. The name "Ohio Soccer Association - South" was approved by the council of the USSF at the national convention in Valley Forge, Pa. in July 1976, but the name was changed to Southern Ohio Senior Soccer Association, Inc., at the time of incorporation on April 14, 1986. The name was changed to Southern Ohio Adult Soccer Association with the approval of the USSF National Council on August 13, 1995. The name was changed to the Southern Ohio Adult Soccer Association with the approval of the USSF National Council on August 15, 2003. (Revised 7/04)
- #1.2. "This Association" or "State Association" may be used in this document instead of the full name as above.
- BL #2. Red shirts and black shorts shall be provided for players selected for the Association's "All Star team"; they will remain the property of the Association. Neither club teams nor league all star teams shall use the same color combination unless the uniform is clearly different than this uniform.
- BL #3. All correspondence shall be mailed to the home of the secretary to expedite matters.
- BL #4. In addition to promotion and development of soccer the Association shall coordinate the affairs of clubs and leagues under its jurisdiction. It shall interpret the rules and regulations of the national organization in accordance with the current official rule book of the USSF.
- BL #5.1. The Association shall have jurisdiction of the Southern half of the state of Ohio. Its boundary shall be the State line in the south and east and west. In the north the boundary line shall be the southern boundary of the counties of Mercer, Auglaize, Hardin, the eastern boundary of Hardin, the southern boundary of Wyandot, Crawford, Richland, Ashland, Holmes, the western boundary of Tuscarawas, Guernsey and the southern boundary of Guernsey and Belmont.
- #5.2. The boundary lines are as suggested by the first Vice-President of the USSF, Mr. Werner Fricker, and approved by the delegates of the Ohio Soccer Association - North, the West Virginia Association and the OSA-South. Ratification by the Council of the USSF was obtained.
- BL #6.1. The State Association shall register all of its players, coaches, teams, and administrators with the Federation at least once a year and timely pay all dues and fees to the Federation. Individuals registered with the Federation through the provisions of this section of Bylaw 6 shall be members of the Federation with the rights accorded to them under these bylaws.
- #6.2. The State Association and its members will abide by the Federation's articles, bylaws, policies and requirements on interplay.

- BL #7. An Executive Board member may hold more than one office. (The secretary may also be the treasurer, etc.) A minimum slate of five officers is to be maintained at all times. The office of President and Treasurer shall not be held by the same person.
- BL #8.1. The League (Member) Representative shall be an officer of his organization. An alternate may be appointed.
- 8.2. The State Referee Administrator(SRA) shall be appointed jointly by the National Adult and Youth State Associations within the state. This Associations's nominee to be SRA is to be appointed by the President and ratified by a majority of the Executive Board.
- 8.3. The Women's Representative is to be appointed by the President and ratified by a majority of the Executive Board.
- 8.4. The Chairman of the Cup Committee is to be appointed by the President and ratified by a majority of the Executive Board.
- 8.5. The Chairman of the Grievance Committee shall be appointed by the President on suggestion and/or nomination by the Executive Board. He shall select the members of his committee.
- 8.6. The Men's State Coach is to be appointed by the President and ratified by the majority of the Executive Board.
- 8.7. The Women's State Coach is to be appointed by the President and ratified by the majority of the Executive Board.
- 8.8. The Executive Board shall have the right to select a person or persons having served this Association, the OISL, or the game of soccer in general for seven years or more as a Life-time member of council. Ratification of council shall be obtained.
- BL #9.1. The entire Council shall have the right to vote on all issues in any and all meetings. A person holding more than one position shall have only one vote.
- 9.2. The officers of the Executive Board who have not completed their term shall not vote in elections, but may speak for or against nominees.
- 9.3. Secret (written) ballot, show of hands, signification by saying "aye" or "nay" shall be the ways of casting a vote.
- 9.4. A mail, e-mail, or facsimile(fax) vote in an emergency shall be permitted.

- 9.5. Election of officers shall be by secret ballot except in case of single nominations which may be by acclamation signified by "aye" and/or show of hands.
- 9.6. If a "tie" vote occurs, the president may vote to break the tie
- 9.7. a. In Executive Board meetings, one half of all the current officers shall constitute a quorum.
- b. In Council meetings one half of all the current council members shall constitute a quorum.
- c. If the requirements for a quorum are not fulfilled, the President may appoint the members present to a committee to deal with the matter at hand.
- 9.8. Most decisions shall require a simple majority. Admission and expulsion of Leagues (members) and impeachment of officers shall be governed by the Constitution.
- BL #10.1. Clubs and teams will apply for membership in the League operating in their geographical area. Any league may request that the Association give permission to an applying or affiliated club or team to be a member of another League of the Association. The Association shall approve such an application if it is in the best interest of the game.
- 10.2. New (unaffiliated) leagues may be considered for membership in the Association. A division (conference or other part) of an affiliated league (member) which believes that soccer could be served more efficiently as a direct affiliated League (member) may apply for membership.
- 10.3. Application for membership of a League (member) that terminated membership in the past, but was in good standing, shall be considered without an imposed waiting period. Probation may be imposed.
- 10.4. A League (member) that was expelled shall make all necessary restitution before an application will be accepted. A probation and/or waiting period shall be imposed.
- BL #11.1. Voluntary termination of membership shall be applied for in writing. Any fees paid by such Leagues (members) are non-refundable. Any fees due the Association and/or USSF shall be paid before submitting the written application for termination of membership.
- 11.2. If fees are outstanding, or if a written application for termination of membership was not submitted, the removal of such League (members) shall be considered an expulsion. Any League (member) shall be expelled also if it or any of its clubs or teams violate the rules and regulations of the Association and/or the USSF and appropriate action is not taken immediately to remedy such violations.

BL #12.1. Teams or clubs affiliated with one of the member leagues shall address protests and appeals to the appropriate unit within their league in accordance with the league's rules and regulations. If, in the opinion of the Club, or team, a satisfactory action did not result from its protests or appeal, the Club or Team has the right to appeal to this Association. A copy of the protest or appeal shall be submitted by the team or Club to its League at the time the letter is mailed to this Association. The fee of not less than \$25 imposed for protests and/or appeal shall be forwarded with the protest or appeal. The fee shall be returned if a ruling is made in favor of the protesting and/or appealing team. Players, coaches and managers do not have a right of appeal, but may be permitted to appeal to the Association if the matter is of great general interest to the Association or there is evidence of a denial of due process or equal protection.

12.2. A member appealing or protesting a decision to this Association shall direct the same to the Executive Board of this Association accompanied by any and all imposed fees. The Executive Board shall have the right to either : (1) deal with the matter in an Executive Board meeting, (2) submit the matters to the Grievance Committee, (3) bring the matter before the council in an emergency or special meeting, (4) a properly registered USSF member may submit the matter to the national commission if provisions if the USSF rules permit such action. If in a member's opinion satisfactory results are not obtained it may appeal to the national body (USSF). A copy of the correspondence to the USSF shall be submitted to this Association on or before mailing date.

12.3. Neither a member league, a team, a club, nor anyone affiliated with any of them, shall pursue any legal action against anyone affiliated with the Association before exhausting the available avenues on the local, regional, and national level, and thereafter arbitrating the dispute in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association. Any litigation filed thereafter shall be limited by the restrictions thereon which have been provided in the Ohio Revised Code.

BL #13. Fees set by the USSF and/or this Association shall be paid by affiliated members on or before the due date. A penalty shall be imposed for tardiness. Failure to remit fees and any imposed penalties may result in expulsion. All expenses incurred to SOASA on behalf of a member (such as appearance bonds, etc.) shall be reimbursed to SOASA.

BL #14.1. The right of representation shall also be a duty. All member leagues shall send a representative to all duly called council meetings. An alternate may be appointed if necessary. A fee may be imposed if a member fails to be represented.

14.2. A member league's authority is based upon its own constitution (rules and regulations) if approved by the Executive Board of this Association. Any matter in question not covered therein shall be covered by the Association's Constitution, By-laws and Rule of Order, and/or the USSF rules, scaled down to local level.

14.3. Each member may request permission to arrange friendly games against any organized team. A written permission from the guest team's State or National Association shall be obtained. The permit or a copy thereof shall be forwarded with the written request. Permission for a game against an unaffiliated team shall be requested only if this game is in the best interest of the promotion of Soccer. A game against a team expelled or suspended from organized soccer anywhere shall never be requested.

14.4. Since all suspensions or expulsions are legal and binding only at the reported level it is mandatory that a report and justification is submitted to the Association to be acted upon and in case of approval shall be forwarded to the USSF. The members and this Association need the protection of the national body and this is the only way of obtaining same.

BL #15.1. It is the Association's duty to develop organized soccer. That can only be accomplished by establishment and subsequent enforcement of rules and regulations. The rules and regulations of the national body are established and our regional and local rules have to be tailored in accordance with them.

15.2. This Association shall have the power to enforce its Constitution, By-Laws, Rules of Order and administrative proceedings/matters. Enforcement may include but shall not be limited to requiring bonds, imposing sanctions, and/or levying of fines. The enforcement of rules at all levels shall be uniform, just and without prejudice. Any violation of any rule that comes to the attention of this Association shall be dealt with regardless of whether it was reported officially.

15.3. The Association shall approve all games between clubs affiliated with its members unless such a game is shown to be detrimental to the best interest of the game or one of its members.

15.4. The Association shall be in contact with the bordering state associations to maintain harmonious relationship in the best interest of Soccer. Any territorial question shall be decided upon with the best interest of the game, and the teams playing it, in mind.

15.5. The Association shall keep the USSF informed about the activities and progress in our area. A delegate from our Association shall attend the council meetings of the regional and national bodies.

15.6. Reimbursement of a delegate's travel expenditures shall be made in accordance with the annual budget upon submission of expense verification to the Treasurer. Request for reimbursement must be made within sixty days of the expense.

15.7. A player who is under 19 years of age and who is desirous of playing on team which is affiliated with the Association shall sign (or if the player is under 18 years of age, the notarized signature of a parent or guardian is required) and furnish the Association with a letter which reflects the fact that the player is aware of the fact that he/she will be competing with players who may be substantially older and more physically developed, that he/she understands and appreciates that such competition may increase the risk of injury, and that he/she assumes the risk which is inherent in such competition.

In addition, a player who is currently registered with a team which is affiliated with the Youth Division of the USSF shall obtain the necessary requests and permissions required by Rule 3016, Senior and 4035, Youth, as they may from time to time be amended.

BL #16.1. The President may call an Executive Board meeting if decisions have to be made and time does not allow for a special council meeting.

16.2. The Secretary, at the request of the majority of the officers, shall call an Executive Board meeting.

16.3 The Secretary shall prepare an agenda for the Executive Board meeting.

BL #17.1. Actions and policies adopted by the Executive Board or Officers of the State Association shall be reported to its membership, or their authorized representatives at least once each year at a meeting of the State Association's membership, with notice and agenda of the meeting at least 15 days in advance of the meeting.

17.2. The annual general meeting shall be held at a place, date and time set by the Executive Board. Notification shall be given in writing at least four weeks in advance. It shall be mandatory for all council members to attend. A fine and/or removal from the council may be imposed upon those members who do not have valid excuse for their absence.

17.3. A special council meeting shall have the same status as the annual general meeting regardless on whose authority it was called. The agenda shall be the same, except where any of the items are not applicable. The Secretary shall notify the council members of the items to be deleted.

BL #18.1. Since the distances to be traveled by council members are large, a grace period shall be allowed if a quorum is not present.

18.2. Since the roll has been called by the Secretary, it will be determined whether a quorum exists. If not, the council members shall be asked if they are willing to extend the grace period or the meeting shall be canceled.

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18.3. In all discussions during any official meeting all council members have the right to ask the chairman for the floor and speak. They shall be brief and limit their talk to the matter in question.

18.4. Anybody speaking out of turn or interrupting a speaker shall be called to order by the chairman.

18.5. Any council member has the right to call a point of order if overlooked by the chairman.

BL #19.1. If a vacancy occurs in the offices of the President, Secretary or Treasurer, the Executive Board shall have the right to call for an election in a special council meeting instead of moving the first Vice-President in to the office of the President or appointing a secretary or treasurer for the remainder of the term.

19.2. The qualifications for a person to be nominated for office shall be checked closely by the nominating committee. Eligibility plus availability is essential. Members may nominate a candidate by mail.

19.3. If the Executive Board and/or the Council determines that it might be advantageous to elect part of the officers in one year and the rest the following year it may be done this way. In this case it might be necessary to extend the term of the second part of the slate of officers for an additional year in the transition period.

19.4. a. The President shall appoint the chairman of the election committee.

b. The chairman shall preside over the election.

c. The chairman shall select his committee members.

d. He shall ask for nominations from the floor, to be added to the nominations by mail, which he will receive from the chairman of the nominating committee in the order of: (1) President, (2) 1st Vice President, (3) 2nd Vice President, (4) 3rd Vice President, (5) Secretary, (6) Treasurer, (7) Registrar.

e. Nominations and elections shall alternate to allow a candidate, who did not win the election for one office, to be nominated for another office.

f. At the closing of the election the chairman shall destroy the ballots upon request

from the floor.

g. An officer referred to in this bylaw shall commence a term of office after the adjournment of the meeting at which the officer was elected or appointed, or immediately after a vacancy has occurred.

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BL #20.1. The President shall on invitation of any member and/or their clubs or teams represent the Association on any special occasion.

20.2. There shall be three Vice-Presidents. It is the intent of this Bylaw that these Vice Presidents are to serve as liasons between the State Association and the three major areas of Cincinnati, Columbus and Dayton.

20.3. The first Vice-President shall be an aid and assistant to the President. He shall serve as President for remainder of the expired term if the office becomes vacant and the council chooses not to call a special election meeting.

20.4. The second and third Vice-President shall have no assigned duties but shall relieve the work load of any Executive Board members if it becomes necessary.

20.5. The Secretary shall perform his duty in close contact with the President. For all but routine correspondence (and other business) he shall request the President's counter signature.

20.6. The Treasurer shall periodically inform the President and the Secretary of the financial condition of this Association. His signature shall be sufficient on all checks covering routine business. He shall request the President's counter signature in all other transactions.

20.7. The Registrar shall keep a record of all players, teams and leagues that are affiliated with the Association.

SOUTHERN OHIO ADULT SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.

RULES GOVERNING COMPETITION

RULES OF ORDER

Rule 1 Registration and Fees for Players

- a. State associations shall have full powers in the matter of registration or release of all amateur players within their respective jurisdictions in the manner and under the conditions set forth in USSF rules.
- b. Players will be registered with their own affiliated association registrar or a form approved by the Association. This form is provided by the USSF.
- c. The postmark date will be accepted as the date of registration of the player or players (metered mail excluded).
- d. Players must be registered at least five (5) days prior to taking part in any competition sponsored by this association.
- e. Players registration fee shall be set by the Executive Board, and such accumulated fees must be paid to this association prior to October 15 and May 15.
- f. No team shall be allowed more than eighteen (18) active registered players on their official team roster at any given time. (see Rule 2c,d,e)
- g. No team shall be allowed to have less than seven (7) players registered with a State association.
- h. Players must have passes issued by their individual leagues bearing a current photograph and current certification by the secretary of the respective leagues prior to taking part in any competition sponsored by this association. These passes shall be certified by the players' state association affiliated to the USSF and shall be presented to the referee and the opposing team before a game.
- i. Multiple Registrations: (revised 2/03)

1). Amateur players may be registered with more than one team at the same time as long as the teams are in different leagues or in different age or gender based divisions within the same league. A separate USSF player registration form and player pass must be issued for each team. Player pass and registration fees apply for each separate registration. One (1) team must be designated as the primary team and league on the player registration form and on the appropriate player pass. If this procedure is not followed, the state registrar will recognize the player's earliest registration for determination of the player's primary team and division and/or league.

2). Any player who wishes to play with more than one team in a different age or gender based division or league simultaneously or otherwise, may do so under the multiple registration policy. However should a conflict arise, the player's primary team has first option for the player's participation.

3). When a player who is playing in more than one division or league under the multiple registration policy is suspended by a league, he/she may continue to play in other leagues. A player suspended by the state association is not permitted to play in any sanctioned matches during the period of suspension. 2/03

Rule 2 Players

a. Each player for a team competing in this association must be duly qualified according to the rules of the USSF and must be properly registered on a form to be supplied by the USSF to the State association.

b. No new players may be registered for any competing team after its last intra-league game.

c. Leagues may allow teams to register up to four (4) league guest players on League Guest Roster. These players may compete with that team in league play only. League Guest Players may only participate in games on a one for one basis when players on the official Team Roster do not show up for a game. USASA Registration forms and cards must be completed by all guest players.

d. Player on the League Guest Roster may be transferred to the official Team Roster. However, all transfers must follow the established procedures of both the league and USASA. Transfers from a Guest list to different Team's Guest List or Team Roster will count against the player's three (3) permitted transfers per season.

e. In the event that a player transfers from the League Guest List to the Official Team Roster, the procedures established by the League as required by these rules are to be followed. There will be no charge for the transfer to/from the Team's Guest Roster to the official Team Roster.

f. Only players on the team's official Roster may compete in other than league play unless the tournament competition rules permit guest players.

g. A club shall be permitted to have at any one time no more than eighteen (18) registered players if the club fields one team, and no more than thirty-six (36) registered team members 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.

h. In figuring the maximum number of players, there shall not be included players under an indefinite suspension or players on the retained list of the team or club who have not observed the rules of the USSF. Teams and clubs, however, shall still retain their claims on the services of such players unless released, and if any suspended player is reinstated and if any player observing the rules of the USSF is again signed for his team or club, he shall be considered an active player and included in the list of players which the team or club is entitled to carry.

i. Player status - An amateur player is any person other than a professional player. An amateur player may not receive and retain any remuneration for playing except expenses, directly related to a game or games, which have actually been incurred by the player.

j. A professional player is a person who receives or has received payment for playing or who signs a professional form of the USSF

k. Transfer and release - Players must register on teams within their own affiliated Association. Under no circumstances may a player play on team other than one registered with this Association.

l. Any player signing a player registration form is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless:

1). There is a case of extreme hardship. Extreme hardship can be defined as instances such as moving to another location.

2). All requests for transfers shall be submitted to the league secretary in writing on the form provided, stating the reason for transfer.

3). A player may not transfer from one team to another more than a total of three (3) times in a season.

Rule 3 Discipline of Players, Coaches, and Managers

a. Any player, coach or manager, who is ejected from a game during the game or after the game, as reflected in the referee's report, or otherwise, shall be automatically suspended for a minimum of one game. The league officials and/or Association president shall determine the proper action to be taken against a player, coach, or manager, subject to the following limitations:

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- 1). The minimum suspension shall be one (1) game.
- 2). In the event no action is taken by the league or Association president after the player has completed the one game suspension, the player may resume playing unless the team receives notification to the contrary.
- 3). A player shall be subject only to suspension for a stated period or number of games, he may not be fined.

b. The leagues may adopt or modify suspensions which do not conflict with the Rules of the USSF or the Southern Ohio Adult Soccer Association, Inc. The leagues must meet the minimum suspension, but may impose a suspension in excess of the minimum if the circumstances warrant. The minimums are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1). Ejection for any send off offense | 1 game suspension |
| 2). Fighting | 3 game suspension |

NOTE: Misconduct towards game officials shall be dealt with in accordance with the current USSF Official Policies.

c. A suspended player shall have the right to appeal within thirty (30) days of receipt of the decision.

Rule 4 Playing Rules

a. The Southern Ohio Adult Soccer Association, Inc., shall have jurisdiction over and regulate both indoor and outdoor games.

b. In all games played in this Association's jurisdiction, the playing rules shall be the FIFA Laws of the Game in effect at the time of the competition.

c. The season shall consist of two (2) halves, with the first half starting in late summer or early fall and ending prior to the last day of the year, there shall be a winter break with the second half starting in the spring and ending in the summer.

d. The duration of the game shall be ninety (90) minutes divided into two (2) equal halves of forty-five (45) minutes each. For tournaments or playoffs, if at the end of regular time the score is tied, extra time of two equal sudden death halves of fifteen (15) minutes each shall be played. (The first team to score a goal in a sudden death overtime period shall be declared the winner and the match is ended.) If the score is still tied at the end of the overtime period, the winner shall be determined according to the FIFA method of obtaining a result in knock-out competition in effect at the time of the entry deadline.

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e. On all games played within this Association, substitutes shall be allowed as follows:

1). Substitutions shall be unlimited.

2). Substitution can be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times:

- a) Prior to a throw-in in your favor.
- b) Prior to a goal kick by either team.
- c) After a goal, by either team.
- d) After an injury, by either team when the referee stops play.
- e) Half time.

f. No substitute is allowed for a player sent off the field of play by the referee. No player shall leave the field of play without the consent of the referee.

g. Thirty (30) minutes grace period will be allowed the visiting team only. Any visiting team not ready to play after the grace period has expired must be reported in the referee's report. The offending team shall be dealt with by the competition authority. Games of fewer than ninety (90) minutes shall be replayed if neither team is at fault. Should one of the teams be determined to be at fault, the league shall determine whether the game should be replayed or declared a forfeit.

h. For state competitions three points are awarded for a win, one point for a tie and no points for a loss

i. A player shall be required to leave the field of play because of a bleeding injury or an excessive amount of blood on the uniform. The player may be substituted for. The player shall not return without first reporting to the referee, who shall satisfy himself that the condition has been corrected. Blood on the uniform shall be treated the same as an injury for substitution purposes.

Rule 5 Referees

a. Referees shall be assigned to matches by a registered USSF Referee Assignor

- b. All referees shall be registered with the USSF.
- c. Before the game, both teams must give the referee a roster which shall include the name of each player in the starting line-up as well as the name of each eligible substitute.

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- d. The referee's authority begins when he arrives at the area of the field of play and continues until he has left the area of the field after the game has been completed.
- e. The referee can stop the game for infringement of the rules and can suspend and terminate a game whenever he deems such stoppage necessary: for example, severe weather, interference by spectators and/or coaches.
- f. If a team fails to put in an appearance within 30 minutes after the scheduled kickoff or fails to notify the other team of the delay, the game is forfeited. The score of the forfeited game is 1 - 0.
- g. The referee may send off any player guilty of offenses which warrant the action as called for in the current FIFA Laws of the Game.
- h. In the event a referee is not assigned by the USSF certified assignor or should for some reason fail to appear for the game, the coaches should mutually agree upon an official from available personnel. His decisions and call of the play will be binding upon both teams. Where neutral assistant referees have been appointed, that assistant referee designated to act as referee shall take charge. The same procedure will apply in the event of a referee becoming ill during the progress of the game.
- i. The scale of charge for duly appointed referees for league matches shall be determined by the league. For state competitions, fees will be determined by the State Cup Commissioner with agreement by the State Referee Administrator. Where a game is postponed, the referee upon appearance shall be allowed his full fee if he is not properly notified. In case of forfeited games, the referee upon appearance shall be entitled to his full fee as provided above.

Rule 6 Uniforms

- a. All players shall wear matching uniforms under normal playing conditions. Uniforms shall consist of shorts, shirt, shin guards covered by knee socks. Undergarments such as cycling shorts are authorized provided they are the same color as the shorts of the player wearing them and may not extend below the knees. Players will be sent off the field of

play to correct his/her attire. He/she will be allowed to reenter the field of play at the discretion of the referee. Where the uniforms of two competing teams are so similar as to create possible player identification problems on the field as determined by the referee, the home team must change its uniform. Goal-keepers must wear colors which distinguish them from other players and the game officials. Clearly visible numerals at least 8 inches high must be worn on the back of the player's jerseys.

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Rule 7 Home Team Game Obligations

a. The home team must take every precaution to keep its grounds in playing condition and, if necessary, either team may apply to the Association who shall require the referee or some other official, to examine the grounds and decide whether it is fit for play. The home team must provide nets and balls and have the field of play properly marked. If in the opinion of the referee, there is adequate reason the field of play cannot be ready at the scheduled starting time, the referee may allow an additional fifteen (15) minutes for the home team to meet the requirements. In the event they do not, the home team shall forfeit the game.

Rule 8 Matters Not Provided For

a. Any matters not provided for in these rules, or by the rules of the USSF, shall be determined by the officers of the Association, whose decisions shall be final.

