

NORTH CAROLINA ADULT SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.

CONSTITUTION

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PREFACE

The United States Soccer Federation, Incorporated is a nonprofit New York corporation that was instituted on April 5, 1913 and incorporated on May 30, 1914.

The Federation is recognized as the National Governing Body for soccer in the United States by the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) as provided in the Amateur Sports Act of 1978.

FIFA is comprised of National Soccer Associations and is responsible for promoting and organizing the game of soccer throughout the world. FIFA also determines the basic playing "Laws of Soccer." The Laws are available from the Federation in a special booklet.

The Rules and Regulations of the Federation have evolved over a period of time to govern the game of Soccer and to protect the interests of all participants, players, officials, administrators, clubs, leagues, national state associations and the Federation. Therefore, they must be accepted and observed by all members of the Federation until changed in accordance with the procedures provided therefore.

ARTICLE I NAME – This body shall be known as the North Carolina Adult Soccer Association, Inc. (NCASA)

ARTICLE II PURPOSE – The purpose of this Association shall be to develop, promote, and administer the game of soccer among men and women players over nineteen (19) years of age within the state of North Carolina and to educate the players and the public about the game of soccer.

ARTICLE III COLORS – The representative colors of this Association shall be red, white and blue.

ARTICLE IV AFFILIATION – This Association is affiliated with and will comply with the authority of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF).

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

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

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 not later than 90 days after adoption, and (C) provide copies of those documents to its members.

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Membership

Membership in this Association shall be through affiliated organizations (Leagues) in good standing with the Association and USSF and is open to any soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials not subject to suspension under section 4 of USSF Bylaw 241, and to any amateur soccer organization in its territory.

The State Association will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or nation origin.

The State Association will register all of its players, coaches, teams, referees, and administrators with the Federation at least once each year and timely pay all dues and fees of the Federation.

Team and Player registration must come through an affiliate and all players in such leagues must be registered.

To be considered in good standing by The State Association an affiliate organization is subject but not limited to the following:

- A. Each affiliate must file a list of officers, managers and coaches with the association secretary and provide timely revisions.
- B. Each affiliate must designate a registrar candidate that must complete a NCASA Registrar Certification Class.

Section 2 Affiliate Size

Leagues of no fewer than 4 teams may apply to this Association for membership. If it is deemed in the interest of developing new leagues, a league of a lesser number of teams may be accepted on an interim basis and authorized to schedule games with other NCASA or USSF affiliates.

Section 3 Application

Application for membership must be made in writing by the duly authorized agent for the applicant and must be directed to the Association Secretary. Application must include:

- A. Official league name
- B. Colors (if any)
- C. Address and directions for location of home playing fields.
- D. A list of officers, managers and coaches with addresses and telephone numbers.
- E. A copy of the ruling charter and By-Laws of the league organization. These must specify a covered territory and a league purpose.
- F. Annual playing calendar with seasonal start date(s) and end date(s) and monthly or periodic organizational meeting dates.
- G. Payment of registration fees and dues. These will be refunded if the application is not accepted.
- H. Every league shall have a United States Soccer Federation ("USSF") certified referee assignor ("certified assignor") who is properly and currently registered through the North Carolina Soccer Referees Association ("NCSRA") responsible for assigning the officials to its matches.

Section 4 Territory

Each member league may be granted exclusive NCASA rights to a specific territory by the Council of the Association for a specific purpose or purposes. Teams of a member league must have home fields within the specified territory.

Section 5 Fees, Dues and Assessments
Fees and dues shall be set annually by the North Carolina Adult Soccer Association at a Council meeting. These shall be paid by affiliates on or before various deadlines set by the Council. Special assessments may also be voted by a Council meeting and levied at a date set by the Council.

Section 6 Games with Non-Affiliates of NCASA
Members of the NCASA shall not, without prior written approval from the Association, have any relationship with leagues/teams that are not affiliated and in good standing with NCASA or USSF. Tournaments or Games of any nature with Teams from outside the State of North Carolina require prior written approval from the Association.

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

Section 7 Acceptance of Membership
The Executive Committee, as hereinafter defined, shall have sole authority to determine qualifications for affiliation and to accept or reject any application.

The Executive Committee, as hereinafter defined, shall have the authority to reject such application if the following qualifications are not met:

- completed application for membership received by NCASA that includes
 - league name and contact information
 - play season
 - listing of officers, discipline and appeals committee members, and administrators with contact information
 - signature of league official
- organizational governance documents are received by NCASA that coincide with the application and include:
 - the recognized authority of NCASA, USASA, US Soccer and FIFA
 - discipline and appeal procedures for the league
 - provisions for administration, meetings and replacement of officers
- appropriate application fee

The Executive Committee may designate the Membership Committee, as defined in the bylaws, to accept any application for membership if the above qualifications have been met.

League applying for membership in the months of and between November and April will be prioritized for Spring to Winter Calendar year membership. Leagues applying for membership in the month of and between May and October will be prioritized for Fall to Summer FIFA year membership.

Every organization that accepts membership in this Association thereby agrees for itself, its team, officers and all present and future members, to recognize the administrative jurisdiction of the Association. Members also agree to accept, support and adhere to the regulatory authority of this Association as herein provided and as they may hereafter be formulated by applicable rules and regulations, alterations of and amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws which the Association may from time to time enact. Each applicant when accepted for membership shall be presented with a copy of the current Constitution and By-Laws of this Association.

Section 8 In order to maintain their membership in NCASA, member leagues must annually pay an affiliation renewal fee prior to the beginning of their seasonal year. Timely payment of the renewal fee by a member league gives the league full access to all NCASA membership benefits, including the right to register players. The amount of the renewal fee is established by the Council.

ARTICLE VI ADMINISTRATION

Section 1 This Association shall be governed by its Articles of Incorporation and its Constitution and By-Laws, supplemented by rules of the United States Soccer Federation. In the event of conflict, the rules of the latter shall apply.

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.

Section 2 The North Carolina Adult Soccer Association shall have the authority to investigate and correct or demand to be corrected, unfavorable conditions which may develop in its affiliated organizations. Affiliate organizations unresponsive to NCASA demands for corrective action can be placed in "bad standing" by majority vote of the NCASA Executive Committee with specified sanctions and/or fines. The NCASA Executive Committee may also deem an affiliated organization already in bad standing as an "outlaw" organization or association with further specified sanctions and/or fines.

Section 3 This Association shall have the authority to make and decide on all matters of controversy under appeal from affiliated clubs subject to the Appeal procedures of the League with which the club is in turn affiliated. Proceedings concerning any alleged assault on a referee shall be conducted by this Association under applicable USSF rules.

Section 4 This Association shall have the authority to do that which it deems expedient in order to enforce the purpose for which it was organized.

Section 5 A quorum shall consist of ten (10) Council members, or a majority, whichever is less, to conduct any Council Business for which fourteen (14) days written notice was provided to Council members. A quorum to conduct any business not included in the written notice shall consist of a majority of the Council.

Section 6 The Association shall have the authority to enter into agreements of business with legally incorporated entities, utilizing its full portfolio of resources and assets, for the purposes of marketing, promotion and/or such transactions that benefit the Association.

Section 7 All affiliated leagues using NCASA's approved electronic registration process having signed and received a consent form from NCASA are not required to submit player registration forms, but are required to maintain completed and signed player registration forms on file or in electronic storage for not less than three (3) year from the start of their season for review by NCASA, USASA and/or USSF.

ARTICLE VII COUNCIL

Section 1 The sole authority of this Association except that which is herein otherwise delegated, shall be vested in a Council consisting of the Executive Committee and representatives of each organization as hereinafter provided. The Council will serve as the Board of Directors of the Association.

Section 2. In each Council meeting, each currently registered league in good standing shall have the following number of voting representatives based on player registration:

0-49 registered players	no vote
50-300 registered players	1 representative (1 vote)
301-550 registered players	2 representatives (each with 1 vote)

551-800 registered players	3 representatives (each with 1 vote)
801-1050 registered players	4 representatives (each with 1 vote)
1051 or more registered players	5 representatives (each with 1 vote)

Section 3 Each affiliated organization's player registration at the end of its previous regular seasonal/fiscal year, based on actual payments received by NCASA, shall be used to determine that organization's voting power.

Section 4 At the sole discretion of an affiliated organization that has more than one vote, one individual may cast all or part of the votes of the organization.

Section 5 Each affiliate with the right to representation on the Council shall supply the secretary of this Association in writing with the names, addresses and phone numbers of their representatives before the latter may be seated. Said representatives must be members of that affiliate in good standing.

Section 6 No Executive Committee Member shall be allowed more than one vote at any meeting of this Association and there will be no votes by proxy.

ARTICLE VIII EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1 For the purpose of administering the affairs of the Association between Council meetings, there shall be an Executive Committee composed of the President, Executive Vice President, Vice President/Development, Vice President/Calendar Year, Vice President/FIFA Year, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Referee Liaison and Discipline and Appeals Chairman.

Section 2 The Executive Committee at its discretion may combine any two of the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar and Discipline and Appeals Chairman into a single position until the next Annual Meeting of the Council. At that meeting, the Council must determine by formal vote whether to continue the combination of offices.

Section 3 The State Referee Administrator (SRA) normally shall serve as Referee Liaison. The President and SRA may jointly appoint another person to serve as Referee Liaison. Said person shall have voting privileges at meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Council.

Section 4 This Committee shall have full authority to act for the association in all matters of administration, and shall make a report of such actions to the Council at its meetings. This Committee shall have power to incur pecuniary liabilities on behalf of the Association.

Section 5 The officers of this association shall be elected in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws and shall hold office for two (2) years, or until their successors have been elected and installed.

Section 6 The Committee's responsibilities shall include:

- A. To organize statewide play-offs for the competitive and recreation divisions to be held once a year.
- B. To publish a website and other communications.
- C. To provide liaison with the North Carolina Youth Soccer Association, the Referees Association and the Varsity Coaches.
- D. To appoint State Coaches for men and women.
- E. To supervise (a) the selection of statewide select teams for men and women and (b) the selection of teams for Cup Competition.
- F. To enact policies of the Association.
- G. To organize and hold NCASA's Annual General Council Meeting and regular meetings of the Executive Committee.

- Section 7 The Committee's specific authority shall include:
- A. Delegating for any endeavor, its authority to such person or persons whom it may from time to time designate.
 - B. Arranging games in the name of NCASA and setting rules of eligibility for the play-offs. This may require the support of any or every affiliate.
 - C. Reviewing such papers, books, documents, and accounts of the affiliates as it may from time to time require.
 - D. Suspending, expelling, and/or imposing penalties upon any affiliate, team, and/or persons under its jurisdiction guilty of violation of breach of the rules of this association or the USSF.
 - E. Settling all disputes between two or more affiliates.
 - F. Investigating and correcting or demanding to be corrected conditions which are detrimental to the operation or reputation or the Association.

- Section 8 The Executive Committee shall have the power to adopt and amend policies for the Association by majority vote at a regularly scheduled meeting of the committee.
- A. In order to consider establishing a policy, the Executive Committee must notify the leagues of the proposed policy no less than 14 days in advance of the meeting at which the proposal will be considered. The notification must include an explanation of the basis for the proposal and the time and location of the Executive Committee meeting.
 - B. If a policy is adopted, the leagues must be given 30 days written notice.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution shall be made at any meeting to the Council of the North Carolina Adult Soccer Association where a quorum is present by a two-thirds vote of the representatives present. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least thirty (30) days in advance and the representatives to that meeting mailed a copy with the meeting notice fourteen (14) days in advance.