

CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTH FLORIDA YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

Article I Name

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the North Florida Youth Soccer League (NFYSL), a non-profit public education organization.

Article II Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of this league is to foster and advance the sport of soccer, and to provide administration of youth soccer activities for the affiliated member clubs in the North Florida area.

Article III League Colors

Section 1. Not used at this time.

Article IV Affiliation With Other Organizations

Section 1. NFYSL shall be an affiliate of the Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA) and the United States Soccer Federation (USSF).

Article V Government of the League

Section 1. The League shall be governed by its Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations, except when these provisions are superseded by the governing authority of the FYSA or USSF, with whom this league is affiliated. Should there arise a conflict between any part of the League's Constitution, Bylaws or Rules and Regulations, the following shall apply: The Constitution shall have precedence above all others, thence the Bylaws and thence the Rules and Regulations.

Section 2. The governing authority of the NFYSL, whose powers shall be delegated by the Constitution and Bylaws, shall be vested with the Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee of the League.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of one (1) voting representative from each Member Club. The method of selection and/or replacement of said Club Representative shall be left to the discretion of the member club.

Section 4. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall be comprised of the Commissioner, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Competition-Select, Director of Competition-Recreation and Director of Discipline. These officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting from the Board of Directors of NFYSL or anyone who is a member in good standing of a USYSA sanctioned association (i.e. FSR officials, FYSA officials, GSSA officials, registered FYSA volunteer/coach, etc.). *Modified June 2002.*

Article VI Eligibility of Membership

Section 1. Membership in the North Florida Youth Soccer League shall be by affiliated member club and shall become active only when all dues and/or assessments have been paid in full.

Section 2. Membership shall be open to any affiliated club in the North Florida area and to GSSA affiliated clubs in Southeast Georgia desiring to play within the League, provided said clubs are in good standing with FYSA.

Section 3. All members shall abide by the Constitution and Bylaws and all existing Rules and Regulations as set forth by the Board of Directors, as well as those established in the future, all applicable Rules and Regulations as may be required by FYSA and USSF, with which this League is affiliated.

Section 4. Each member club shall submit annually at the AGM written representative credentials along with a written pledge signed by that member club's President affirming that it's teams, while playing within the League, agree to conform to the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations and Schedule of NFYSL.

Section 5. Member clubs and their teams shall submit to all rulings of the Board of Directors or be barred from further participation until it complies with said ruling.

Section 6. There shall be two (2) classes of membership: Full and Associate.

A. Full Membership: The club is entitled to all benefits, responsibilities and duties of North Florida Youth Soccer League as defined elsewhere in the Constitution and Bylaws.

B. Associate Membership: The club is entitled to all benefits, responsibilities and duties of North Florida Youth Soccer League except that it's representative may not hold elective office, may not make motions, may not vote and may not be appointed to committees.

C. Clubs may voluntarily elect Associate status at any time and request Full Membership at any time. Full Membership must be granted by an affirmative vote of the majority of the Full Member clubs in attendance at a regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting where a quorum is present.

D. Full Membership clubs may be involuntarily moved to Associate status after missing three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled Board meetings. This will require a two-thirds vote of the eligible votes present at two (2) consecutive meetings of the Board, provided the second meeting is at least fourteen (14) days from the initial meeting held for such purpose. Such clubs may re-apply for Full Membership at the next AGM, with approval requiring a majority affirmative vote. However, such Clubs may not hold elective office until the next AGM following approval to Full Membership.

E. The Board may approve by eligible votes of members present providing there is a quorum, a club from outside of District B-3 to participate in league play.

Unless revoked by a majority vote, the guest club's teams remain eligible to participate for the remainder of the seasonal year. A \$500.00 per team bond must be posted at the time of acceptance and prior to scheduling. With board approval, the \$500.00 bond will be refunded at the end of league play.

Enacted 6-24-01

Article VII Annual General Meeting

Section 1. Near the end of each seasonal year (September 1 through August 31), the Commissioner, with the concurrence of the Executive Committee, shall call for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the membership, to be held no later than July 15th of that year. Notification to all member clubs and all clubs petitioning for membership shall be made in writing no later than thirty (30) days prior to the AGM.

Section 2. The agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall be:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Submitting of representative's credentials
4. Review of petitions for membership
5. Reading and acceptance of previous minutes
6. Reports from:
 - Commissioner
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Director of Competition-Select
 - Director of Competition-Recreation
 - Director of Discipline
7. Old Business
8. Proposed revisions to Constitution/Bylaws
9. Election of Officers
10. New Business
11. Good of the Game
12. Adjournment

Article VIII Voting Procedures

Section 1. The voting procedures of this League shall be as follows: The designated club's representative shall cast his/her Club's vote. In the absence of a representative, the club's designated alternate representative may cast the club's vote. In the absence of both the representative and the alternate the club's President may cast the club's vote.

Section 2. The vote cast by each club's representative shall be as follows: In all matters concerning the election of officers, the recall of officers, the replacement of officers when vacancies occur due to resignation, demise, removal from office or permanent incapacitation, amendments, additions or deletions to the Constitution or the Bylaws.

Section 3. In all other matters not specifically reserved under *Section 2* above, shall be on the basis of one vote for each Full Member club affiliated during the current seasonal year, provided all Club affiliation fees and fines have been paid at the time of the vote. Approval of any motion, not specifically reserved under section 2 above, requires a simple majority of the Full Member clubs present at a meeting, provided a quorum is

present as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws. In votes taken by the Executive Committee and all committees shall be one vote per member of the committee.

Section 4. All member clubs are bound by the Vote(s) cast by their club representative and said vote(s) are not subject to later review or reversal.

Article IX Amending the Constitution and Bylaws

Section 1. Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of NFYSL will be made at the AGM by the membership, unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws of the League. An amendment shall be deemed adopted by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the eligible Full Members club representatives present, and a quorum has been established at the meeting. Proposals to revise or amend the Constitution or Bylaws shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least twenty (20) days in advance of the AGM. The Secretary shall then send copies of all proposals to the League Representatives of all member clubs at least fifteen (15) days before the AGM.

BYLAWS OF THE NORTH FLORIDA YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

Article I League Affiliation Requirements

Section 1. Upon Request all affiliate clubs must annually submit to the League Commissioner:

- A. All documents and affiliation forms required by the NFYSL, properly completed and signed.
- B. Full payment of all applicable fees.

Article II The Board of Directors

Section 1. The affiliated club representatives, upon acceptance of their credentials at the AGM, or in the case of a replacement representative at any subsequent meeting, shall make up the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of this League and shall review petitions for membership, amend the Constitution and Bylaws, and make such Rules and Regulations as necessary to permit the League to operate. The Board shall act as necessary to meet the financial requirements of this League.

Section 3. The Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee shall have vested the responsibility and authority to:

- A. Interpret and enforce the NFYSL Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations.
- B. Approve the affiliation petitions of prospective member clubs.
- C. Budget for and administer the funds of the league. Expenditures in excess of \$100.00 requires specific Board approval.
- D. Approve the playing schedule for each season.

- E. Review and sanction the formation and operation of any youth tournaments or cup competitions to be sponsored, operated, or sanctioned by the League.
- F. Amend the Constitution and Bylaws as provided for in the Constitution, and to make such Rules and Regulations as necessary to operate the League.

Article III The Executive Committee

Section 1. The Board of Directors at the AGM shall annually elect an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall be an administration arm of the Board to operate the League when the Board is not in session. The Executive Committee shall possess only those powers specifically granted to it and its members by the Constitution and the Bylaws of this League. All decisions and actions not so specified shall be subject to review by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall be comprised of the Commissioner, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Competition-Select, Director of Competition-Recreation and the Director of Discipline. The duties and responsibilities of the Executive Committee shall be:

A. Commissioner: shall conduct all of the meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. He/She shall appoint standing committees and chairpersons at the beginning of his/her term, and he/she shall appoint committees and chairpersons to any elective position not filled at the AGM, with such committees actions being subject to the Board's ratification. He/She shall submit an annual report in writing to the membership at the NFYSL AGM. The Commissioner shall serve as the liaison between the League and the FYSA District Commissioner. He/She shall be the chief executive officer of the League and shall be responsible for the overall operation of NFYSL. When the Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee is not in session, the Commissioner shall act on any and all matters within the powers permitted by the Constitution and Bylaws necessary to operate the League.

B. Secretary: shall maintain an accurate record of all meetings, handle all correspondence, provide notice of all meetings and maintain the files of the League, as required. He/She will mail copies of Board of Director and/or Executive Committee meeting minutes within fourteen (14) days following such meetings. He/She shall be responsible for the preparation of the League's Annual Report.

C. Treasurer: shall maintain records and receipts of all monies to be deposited in a recognized bank in the name of the League. He/She shall assure that all accounts are paid by check and bear the signature of the Treasurer. He/She shall produce all financial records when required by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee, being properly balanced and showing the current financial status of the League. At each scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors and/or Executive Committee the Treasurer shall submit, in writing, a financial summary statement.

D. Director of Competition-Select: shall be responsible for planning, organizing and directing the League's seasonal select competition, as well as any select cup competition. He/She shall not be a voting member of any protest or appeals committee. The Director of competition shall have the authority to appoint an assistant, with the approval of the Board, to record added, postponed, rescheduled and cancelled

matches scheduled under league regulations. All game changes will be forwarded to the league assignor. All games scheduled or rescheduled, cancelled or postponed outside of the league's time guidelines for reporting will be subject to fines.

E. Director of Competition-Recreation: shall be responsible for planning, organizing and directing the League's seasonal recreation competition. He/She shall not be a voting member of any protest or appeals committee. Director of Competition-Recreation is responsible to ensure that only recreation teams, as defined by Florida Youth Soccer Association, are placed in the recreation scheduling rotation. The director of recreation shall be responsible for recording game changes and with Board approval have the authority to appoint an assistant to record such changes.

F. Director of Discipline: shall be responsible for discipline, protest and appeals relating to the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the League. He/She shall have the authority to act on behalf of the League, specifically but not limited to Article X and Article XI. He/She shall not be a voting member of any protest or appeals committee.

Article IV Removal from Office

Section 1. The following procedures are the only means of *involuntarily* removing or replacing a member of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee of the League.

Section 2. Conduct prejudicial to the best interest or Objectives of the League, or nonfeasance or malfeasance with official NFYSL duties, shall be cause for the removal of a member of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee, provided that the following conditions are met: That such allegations are brought to the Board of Directors in writing by another member of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee, and that the member so charged is notified of these allegations in writing by letter and postmarked at least fourteen (14) days in advance of a regularly scheduled meeting or a special meeting called for the express purpose of reviewing such allegations.

Section 3. Removal of a member of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of eligible votes present at two (2) consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors, provides the date of the second meeting is at least fourteen (14) days from the initial meeting held for such purpose.

Section 4. In the event of a resignation, demise, removal from office or permanent incapacitation of any member of the Board of Directors, the member club shall appoint another club representative. In the event the person so removed or replaced was serving on the Executive Committee, a special election shall be held at the next regular meeting to elect a new officer from the Board of Directors. In the event an Executive Committee position becomes vacant, the Commissioner may appoint a temporary replacement.

Modified June 2002.

Article V Meetings and Agendas

Section 1. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors and/or Executive Committee will be held at the call of the Commissioner. The Board of Directors and/or Executive Committee shall also meet when specifically instructed to do so, in writing, by one-third

(1/3) or more members of the Board. At any meeting of the Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee the agenda will be as follows:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Reading or acceptance of previous minutes
- D. Correspondence
- E. Reports of the Executive Committee
- F. Old Business
- G. New Business
- H. For the Good of the Game
- I. Adjournment

Article VI Quorum

Section 1. At all meetings of the Board of Directors, one-half (1/2) of the voting representatives of the member clubs shall be present to constitute a quorum to allow for the transaction of business, unless otherwise specified.

Section 2. At meetings of the Executive Committee, at least four (4) of the six (6) members, one of which being the commissioner, shall be present to constitute a quorum to allow for the transaction of business.

Article VII Rules of Order

Section 1. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for all meetings of the League unless otherwise agreed to in advance by all participants.

Article VIII Standing Committees

Section 1. The Commissioner of the League shall annually appoint Chairpersons to the following committees, subject to the ratification of the Board of Directors:

- A. Referees
- B. Rules and Revisions
- C. Planning

Article IX Seasonal Year and Terms of Office

Section 1. For purpose of administration the seasonal year for NFYSL operations and activities is established as commencing on September 1, and ending on August 31, annually. Officers shall hold office from one Annual General Meeting until the next unless otherwise removed or replaced.

Article X Disciplinary Actions

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall have the right to, and authority to, reprimand, suspend from participation, bar completely, or otherwise discipline any player, coach or referee, and/or any affiliated club or team for violations of the NFYSL Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations.

Article XI Protest, Appeals and Litigation

Section 1. In the matter of protest and appeals relating to the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the League, or to the disciplinary actions imposed, or to the results of competitions sanctioned by the League, no organization, commission, official, club, team, player or referee may invoke the aid of the courts or to engage the services of an attorney, without first exhausting all available remedies within the regularly established channels of soccer, including final appeal to the Annual General Meeting of the United States Soccer Federation Council.

Section 2. For violation of this Bylaw, the offending party shall be subject to the sanctions of suspensions and fines, and shall be liable to the NFYSL for all expenses incurred by the League and it's officials in defending each court action, including but not limited to the following:

- A. Court costs and/or attorney fees
- B. Reasonable compensation for time spent by NFYSL officials in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances.
- C. Travel costs
- D. Expenses for holding special meetings of the Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The established channel for protest and appeals is:

- A. Player/team/club to club representative to the NFYSL Commissioner who shall pass along the protest/appeal to the Director of Discipline.
- B. League to the FYSA District Commissioner.
- C. Then as per FYSA Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 4. All such protests and appeals shall be in writing. Within the NFYSL jurisdiction a check or money order for \$25.00 and payable to the North Florida Youth Soccer League must accompany each protest or appeal. Such monies shall be refunded in total only upon favorable decision to the player of club requesting the appeal. Should such a protest or appeal be carried to a higher level than the NFYSL, any additional fees required by that higher level will be in addition to the \$25.00 required by the League.

Article XII Financial Procedures

Section 1. All bank drafts, check, and money orders submitted to the League shall be made payable to the North Florida Youth Soccer League or to NFYSL. No cash transactions nor third party checks will be accepted by the League.

Article XIII Dissolution of Assets

Section 1. Should the North Florida Youth Soccer League be dissolved, all assets remaining after payment of all debts shall be transferred to the individual member clubs proportionate to the number of teams each club has affiliated at the end of the League's last playing season.

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE NORTH FLORIDA YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

1. Presentation of player passes and roster at league games.

All (Premier, Classic and U-17, U-18 and U-19 Recreational) teams in the league rotation must present signed, laminated player passes with player pictures that comply with FYSA/GYSA rules. All teams at all ages and levels (Premier, Classic and Rec) must provide a roster (all typed or all handwritten) verified and signed by the Club Registrar on the official FYSA form before every game. (Georgia teams must have an official GYSA roster verified by the club official appointed by GYSA as the state official.) **In lieu of the manually completed and signed FYSA/GYSA roster, teams may present an unsigned roster generated from the state registration system with no manual additions or deletions.** The referee retains the roster and passes while the match is being played and returns them to the coach upon completion of the game.

Modified August 2006 Previous Deleted as of 7/19/09

PER FYS RULES NFY POLICY:

ALL NFY TRAVEL TEAMS BOTH REC & ADVANCE
MUST NOW CARRY BOTH OFFICIAL FYSA / GYSA ROSTER & SIGNED LAMINATED PASSES
WITH PHOTO. NOTE: VERIFY BIRTH CERTIFICATES WHEN YOU REGISTER PLAYERS
Modified July 19, 2009

2. Changes in schedule

After both teams have agreed to reschedule a game, the two head coaches must receive permission to reschedule the game from their respective clubs. The clubs must notify the League Referee Assignor of the change for U-15 and above select team games 7 days prior to the originally scheduled game. Any teams not complying with these procedures must show good cause to the NFYSL Board or be fined. **Amendment 1.** A log will be kept by NFYSL of all "no shows", the fines, coaches involved, the circumstances and the referee fees incurred by the home team. **Amendment 2.** Referee fees incurred by the home team on "No Shows" will be reimbursed from the fine. **Amendment 3.** All fines must be paid in full thirty (30) days prior to the next seasonal scheduling meeting or the club will not be allowed to participate in the league scheduling process. **Amendment 4. (Enacted 6-24-01)** No show and cancellation fines for advanced teams will be \$200.00 (*Modified 6-24-01*) and for recreational teams \$100.00. plus referee fees when referee fees were paid. (*modified 05-17-09*) Any game on the original advanced NFYSL schedule not played by the end of the season will be treated as a no show for the team that originally cancelled the match..

Amendment 5 (Enacted March 14, 2010

Clubs must turn in no shows to NFYS Secretary with 14 days of game date

ADD (Enacted 05-17-09)

No show fines will be assessed to teams forfeiting games due to lack of players sufficient to play, or for any administrative reasons such as problems

with player passes, approved rosters, lack of a rostered coach, playing a player under red card suspension or playing a player not on the approved roster.

ADD (Enacted 05-17-09)

Teams submitted after the approved team submission cut off date but prior to the preliminary schedules being released will be assessed a \$100 fine to enter NFY. Teams may not be added to NFY after the prelims have been released. Teams not participating in NFY league play will not be included in NFY's schedules.

ADD (Enacted 05-17-09)

Teams that withdraw after the approved team submission cut off but before the prelims are released incur a \$100 fine per team. Teams that withdraw after the prelims have been released incur a \$200 fine per team. Teams that are submitted to participate in NFY but that subsequently are withdrawn prior to the cut off date require confirmation from NFY to avoid these fines.

ADD (Enacted 05-17-09)

Advanced and Classic Teams will only be allowed to submit two blackout weekends per season. Recreational Teams will be allowed to request one blackout weekend per season. These blackout dates will be applied by the NFY schedulers prior to releasing the preliminary schedules.

3. Advanced Scheduling

Coaches are not allowed at the Scheduling Meeting. NFYSL will not create a schedule for any age group with less than four teams. If four teams are submitted, the schedulers will contact the respective clubs to get consensus that each team is agreeable to receiving a home and away six game schedule with each of the other three teams. No U-13 advanced team is allowed to play up during the fall season. In all other cases, advanced teams may submit a request to the Director of Select Competition to play up with the previous season's league record and tournament results to support the request. However, no more than two teams from any age group will be allowed to play up. A vote of the Executive Committee will decide which teams are allowed to play up in the event that more than two teams request to play up from any age group.

ADD (Enacted 05-17-09)

U-15 and above teams will have no more than 8 scheduled NFY games scheduled in the fall, and no more than 8 scheduled games in the spring season.

4. Assignor's Course

A current certified Referee Assignor must assign referees for all league games. *Modified 6-24-01*

5. Aggravated Dissent

NFYSL will fully adhere to and enforce the mandatory minimum suspensions prescribed by FYSA in their administrative handbook for any offences, on or off the field, requiring discipline of a player, coach, parent or volunteer. NFYSL reserves the right to apply suspensions in excess of the minimum when circumstances warrant such actions.

6. Number of coaches on sideline

A maximum of 3 coaches, managers and trainers (with passes) will be allowed on the players' side of the field. All fans must be on the other side of the field.

7. Out of district red cards

NFYSL will not condone additional one (1) game suspensions given to district players for receiving out of district red cards.

8. Reporting of Cards, Injuries, Ejections, Terminations and Cancellations

It is the home team member's club responsibility to obtain a copy of the signed USSF game report from the center referee and forward it to the designated league official if any of the following circumstances occur in a league game.

1. A Double Yellow card issued to one or more players on either team.
2. A Red Card is issued to one or more players on either team.
3. An injury occurs to any player, coach, parent or volunteer serious enough to possibly result in future medical treatment.
4. A coach, parent, volunteer or other attendee is ejected from the field.
5. A game is prematurely terminated for any reason, including inclement weather.
6. A game is cancelled due to one or both teams failing to arrive at the field of play with the minimum number of required players within 15 minutes of the scheduled match time.
7. A game is cancelled due to one or both teams failing to provide the required credentials (signed roster and laminated player passes) prior to the start of the match.
8. Only a club official from either of the two teams involved in a cancellation (no-show) can file a no-show against the other club. *Added June 2002.*
9. In the absence of a USSF Game Report for a cancellation (no-show), a written statement from the Club, including the date, time, team numbers and clubs involved, with game number or match location, shall be submitted to the Commissioner within 30 days of the incident. *Added June 2002.*

9. Recreational Team Scheduling Requirement

NFYSL requires each member club to enter at least one recreational team in the league scheduling rotation for any age/sex group at **U-12** and above for which it has a recreational team registered with FYSA. Failure to comply with this rule will put the club in bad standing with the league and prevent the member club from scheduling any teams in the league scheduling rotation. *Modified May 2002.*

10. Governance of FIFA Laws of the Game

In all cases, the official FIFA Laws of Soccer, as modified by the USYSA guidelines for U-10 and under small-sided games, will be in force during any league competition.

11. Definition of a League Team

NFYSL member club teams that chose not to be part of the league scheduling rotation during any season are not considered to be an NFYSL league team. Their hand-scheduled games will not be considered NFYSL league games and are not governed by NFYSL policies and procedures. Player ejections (red cards), coach or spectator ejections and game terminations for these games are to be turned in to the District Commissioner of the home club for disciplinary action. However, hand scheduled add-on games between two NFYSL member club teams that are part of the league scheduling rotation are governed by all NFYSL policies and procedures. *Modified June 2003.*

12. League Scheduling Fee

Each club shall pay a \$10 fee to NFYSL for each advanced and recreational team placed in the league scheduling rotation each season (fall or spring). *Modified June 2003.*

13. Non-Competitive Game Cancellation Request

All NFYSL league scheduled games are required to be played unless the two teams have already played once during that scheduling cycle and the game was incredibly lopsided (usually a 7 or more goal differential) AND both coaches agree in writing to cancel the second game AND the Director of Select or Director of Recreation, whichever is appropriate, approves the cancellation as a non-competitive match. *Added April 2006.*