



# FLORIDA STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

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**FLORIDA STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION  
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

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## **FLORIDA STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

### **A. CONSTITUTION**

**1. NAME. PURPOSE AND AFFILIATION**

101. Name

This body shall be known as the Florida State Soccer Association

102. Purpose

To promote physical fitness and administer the game of soccer in all its United States Soccer Federation approved forms, be it outdoor or indoor, among men and women eighteen (18) years of age and over within the State of Florida and to manage all intra-state games leading to National Cups and to support training of coaches, referees and players.

103. Term

The term of this Association's existence is perpetual.

104. Location and Resident Agent

The Registered Office of this Association shall be the residence of the Secretary who shall be the Registered Agent. These provisions may be waived only in case of a vacancy in this position and/or as determined by the Board of Directors to enhance communication.

105. Colors

The colors of this Association shall be green, orange, and white.

106. Affiliation

This Association shall be affiliated with and will comply with the authority of the United States Soccer Federation, hereinafter referred to as the USSF, and the United States Adult Soccer Association Inc., hereinafter referred to as the USASA.

107. Robert's Rules of Order

Except where otherwise provided in these bylaws, all meetings of FSSA shall be conducted in accordance with the latest published edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

108. Definitions

- a. ADMINISTRATOR: Means the paid administrator of FSSA.
- b. AFFILIATE: Means the multi-sport or single sport organization that independently conducts soccer programs within the State of Florida.
- c. AMATEUR SPORTS ACT: Means the Ted Stevens and Amateur Sports Act. (Chapter 2205 of Title 36, United states Code)
- d. BOD: Means the Board of Directors established herein.
- e. CLUB: Means an organization of one or more soccer teams usually playing within a geographical area.
- f. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Means the executive committee of FSSA as established herein: The president, vice president, secretary, treasurer.
- g. FEDERATION: Means The United States Soccer Federation, Inc. (USSF).
- h. FIFA: Means the Federation Internationale de Football Association to which FSSA, USASA and USSF are affiliated to.
- i. FISCAL YEAR: Means the period beginning September 1 and ending on August 31 of the following calendar year.
- j. FOREIGN GAME: Means any game between a United States and a non-United States team (or 2 or more non-United States teams when the game is played in the USA) that is not an International game.
- k. GENERAL COUNCIL: Means the General Council established by bylaw 202 herein.
- l. INTERNATIONAL GAME: Means a game arranged between the teams, which are members of USSF and another FIFA national association or a team composed of players of more than one FIFA national association.
- m. LEAGUE: Means an organization that conducts competition among soccer teams.
- n. NATIONAL CUPS: Means those Cups provided for under USSA policy on National Cups competitions.
- o. SEASONAL YEAR: Means the period beginning September 1 and ending on August 31 of the following calendar year.
- p. SRA: Means the State Referee Administrator responsible for all referee activity.
- q. STATE ASSOCIATION: Means the administrative body within this state determined by the National Council to carry out USASA programs for amateur adult players.
- r. USASA: Means the United States Adult Soccer Association.
- s. YOUTH PLAYER: Means an individual who has not reached 19 years of age prior to August 1 immediately before the start of any seasonal year. A player who reaches 19 years of age during (A) a seasonal year is allowed to complete that season year, and (B) August of one seasonal year shall be allowed to complete all of that seasonal year.

B. ORGANIZATIONAL RULES

**2. MEMBERSHIP AND GENERAL COUNCIL**

201. Board of Directors

The Association shall be administered by a Board of Directors selected without

regard to race, color, religion, national origin, or sex and shall consist of:

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer
- e. Not more than five (5) Directors one of which shall be the State Referee Administrator appointed by the president and approved by the elected members of the Board of Directors.

202. General Council Membership and Voting Rights

The Association shall be governed by the General Council which shall consist of:

- a. The Board of Directors, each member having one vote except in the election of officers of the Association.
- b. Member leagues in good standing, each having one vote except in the election of officers which shall be set forth in section 202.d.
- c. Hall of Fame Members.
- d. Each affiliated league in good standing shall be entitled to be represented at the Annual General Meeting by one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate. Voting strength shall be as follows:

Less than 72 players	0 vote
72 to 100 players	1 vote
Each 100 additional registered players	1 vote
- e. No individual league or association at any time shall control more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the voting strength of this Association. Individual teams affiliating directly with this Association shall not have a vote at the Annual General Meeting.
- f. Proxy voting is not allowed.

203. General Membership Qualifications and Duties

- a. The membership of the FSSA shall be open to any soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials not subject to suspension under USSF Bylaws, and to any amateur soccer organization in its territory.
- b. The FSSA will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, religion, age, gender, or national origin.

- c. The FSSA shall enforce policies of the USSF prohibiting sexual and physical abuse that meet certain minimum requirements established by the Federation.
- d. New Members
  - 1. Every club, team, or league in good standing with the USSF with headquarters within the State of Florida shall be eligible for membership in this Association. Teams from vessels touching at a point within this Association's territorial limits, all scholastic teams and teams of the United States Armed Forces shall be entitled to play against FSSA member clubs upon permission being requested and granted.
  - 2. Affiliated players, teams, clubs shall not be granted permission to participate in any game involving non-affiliated teams, clubs, leagues, and tournaments.
- e. Loss of Membership

A club, team or league loses its membership by:

  - 1. Having been separated from organized soccer by the USSF.
  - 2. Having been expelled from this Association by the mandatory two-thirds (2/3) vote.
  - 3. A league failing to have at least four (4) teams with duly registered players during the current fiscal year.
  - 4. A league failing to have competition in the current seasonal year unless it has been granted a waiver by the General Council, in which case two such waivers shall not be granted to the same league consecutively. This waiver does not exempt them from 203.e.3.
- f. Application for Membership
  - 1. Application for membership shall be submitted to the Membership Committee Chairman who will immediately begin to investigate the impact of the proposed new affiliate on existing affiliated soccer in the area.
  - 2. The Membership Committee shall submit the report of its findings and recommendations in writing. The report and recommendations shall cover at least the following areas:
    - a. Impact on available fields
    - b. Impact on available referees
    - c. Impact on currently registered players

3. The report and recommendations will be presented or mailed to the Executive Board of this Association. The Executive Committee may or may not grant provisional approval for membership. Provisional approval is subject to final approval by the member leagues present and in good standing at the next regularly scheduled General Council Meeting.
4. Application for membership shall be submitted at least thirty (30) days before the application is to be voted upon and must be accompanied by:
  - a. One (1) copy of the applicant's Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations.
  - b. Payment of the appropriate fees, which shall be returned if the application is denied.
  - c. A roster of officers and team managers with current addresses, telephone numbers, fax numbers, and email address where applicable.

g. Out of State Team(s)

Leagues affiliated with this Association may admit clubs from outside the jurisdiction of this Association provided that:

1. Such teams are members and in good standing with a USSF affiliated association; and
2. They have the approval of the state association to which the team(s) belong or reside.

h. Membership Dues

1. Affiliation fees must accompany the application for membership. Fees shall be set forth annually by the General Council.
2. Affiliated leagues and directly affiliated teams shall pay annually to this Association all fees, as prescribed by the General Council.
3. Failure to comply with the payment of the prescribed fees and dues will result in the loss of voting rights and any other penalties set by this Association.

i. Annual Report and Financial Statement

Member leagues shall submit financial statements and reports to ensure that all obligations to the Association have been met. Reports from the leagues naming their officers, certifying their members in good standing and voting rights shall

be filed with the Association office not later than fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Failure to comply with this rule, affiliated bodies shall be subject to appropriate sanctions by the General Council. All members of this Association shall, within thirty (30) days after their Annual General Meeting, file with the Rules and Revisions Committee two (2.) copies of any changes in its rules, regulations and bylaws for the ensuing season. These changes may be submitted by paper copy or electronic copy. For failure to comply with this rule affiliated bodies shall be subject to appropriate sanctions by the General Council.

j. Failure to Attend Meetings

Any member League failing to have representation at any properly called meeting shall be subject to a fine to be determined by the General Council.

k. Method of Payment to FSSA

1. All payments submitted to this Association shall be made payable to the Florida State Soccer Association or to the "FSSA".
2. A fine of \$50.00 shall be assessed for any checks which are returned from the bank due to insufficient funds and/or improper endorsement and/or any other reason which causes a bank fee's to the Association's account.

204. General Council Representatives

- a. All representatives to the General Council shall be elected in accordance with the rules and regulations of the affiliated league, club or other affiliated body, if not in conflict with the Association rules.
- b. Alternates for representatives may attend the meetings of the General Council. Alternates shall not have a vote in the presence of the representative, but shall have the right to speak. Representatives shall submit the names of alternates at the beginning of each meeting. The courtesy of the floor shall be requested from the chairman of the meeting before non-members are granted the privilege of speaking.
- c. No representative shall be allowed to vote on behalf of more than one league.

205. General Council - Eligibility to Vote

- a. Except as otherwise provided herein, only members in good standing shall be entitled to vote at meetings of the General Council. The number of votes for each member shall be as determined under Rule 212. All the members' votes may be exercised by the representative or representatives present even if not all of the member's representatives are present at the time of the vote.
- b. The right of the officers to vote, as herein provided, shall cease at that part of the next Annual General Meeting following their term of office when a temporary

chairman has been appointed to conduct the election of officers for the ensuing year.

206. General Council Quorum

The General Council shall determine its own quorum but, until otherwise provided, fifty-one percent (51%) of the eligible vote in accordance with Rule 202 shall form a quorum. Whenever during the transaction of business it is factually stated to the President or the presiding officer, that a quorum is not present, the President or presiding officer shall declare the meeting at a close, (adjourned).

207. Delegation by the General Council

The General Council may delegate any of its powers to committees, commissions or to any affiliated league. All decisions made by these bodies must be approved by the General Council before decisions take effect.

208. Annual General Meeting of General Council

- a. There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the General Council held on a date and at a place each year to be fixed by the President.
- b. In the event of an emergency, or under unusual circumstances, an Annual General Meeting may be postponed by a majority mail vote of the entire General Council, in which event authority shall be vested in the incumbent officers of the Association to continue in office until an Annual General Meeting shall be held.

209. Proposals for Agenda of General Council Meeting

Notice of any business to be submitted to any meeting by an affiliated member of this Association shall be given to the Secretary at least thirty (30) days in advance of such meeting. In urgent cases, the General Council shall have power to consider proposals given after the mentioned time if three-quarters (3/4) majority of the members present agree.

210. Notice of General Council Meetings and Agenda

The Secretary shall give thirty (30) days notice to each member of every meeting of the General Council to be followed by an agenda of the business.

211. Record of General Council Meeting

A record shall be kept of the attendance of members and the business transacted at each meeting, (minutes).

212. General Council

- a. The business of this Association shall-be transacted by the General Council which shall be composed of the Board of Directors, one (I) representative from each affiliated league, and Hall of Fame member if present.
- b. Meetings of this Council shall be at least twice per calendar year, one of which shall be the Annual General Meeting. Special General Council meetings may be called by the Secretary by order of the President or upon request by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of this Association. A full report of each meeting shall be rendered prior to the next General Council Meeting or AGM whichever is sooner.
- c. The General Council shall have the power to enforce the laws of the game and rulings of the USSF. It shall have the power to settle disputes or protests or appeals from the decisions of affiliated subordinate organizations and its decision shall become final, subject to appeal to the USSF. The General Council shall have the power to fill any vacancy arising in the elected officers of the Board of Directors.
- d. The General Council shall decide, after consideration of a report from the Treasurer. on the actual number of delegates and alternates (appointed by the President) that shall travel to the meetings of the Regional or USSF Councils. This delegation shall represent this Association and shall have full power to deal with matters coming to its attention subject to the action of the USSF, and may delegate subcommittees with full power. This delegation shall give a full report of their actions while at these Meetings.

213. Order of Agenda for General Council Meetings

The agenda shall be set by the Secretary and approved by the President. It shall be published and disseminated with the notice of the meeting.

214. Order of Agenda for Annual General Meeting

The order of business at the Annual General Meeting shall be as follows:

- a. Roll Call
- b. Proof of notice of meeting or waiver of notice
- c. Reading of Minutes
- d. Communications
- e. Reports of Officers
- f. Reports of Leagues
9. Reports of Committees
- h. Unfinished Business
- i. New Business
- j. Amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations
- k. Election of Officers
  
- l. Good and Welfare
- m. Adjournment

215. Mail, Fax, Telephone or Email Vote

In matters of urgent importance, the Board of Directors may submit proposals for action needing a vote by mail, fax, telephone or email to the members of the General Council.

216. Allowable Expense Reimbursements for Travel and Meeting Attendance

a. General Council Midyear Meeting

1. One representative for each league in good standing receives reimbursement of .30 cents per mile, round trip, or a combination of air fair and local transportation whichever is the lowest.
2. Although all Hall of Fame Members are entitled to attend these meetings, financial allowance will be granted only if the HOF member's presence is required at the meeting as determined by the President.
3. Board members receive reimbursement of .30 cents per mile, round trip, or a combination of air fair and local transportation whichever is the lowest, one hotel room night at the FSSA group rate for that meeting and one day per diem reimbursement of \$25.00 unless meals are included in the meeting.

b. Annual General Council Meeting

1. One representative for each league in good standing receives reimbursement of .30 cents per mile, round trip, or a combination of air fair and local transportation whichever is the lowest and one hotel room night at the FSSA group rate for that meeting.
2. Hall of Fame members receive reimbursement of .30 cents per mile, round trip, or a combination of air fair and local transportation whichever is the lowest, one hotel room night at the FSSA group rate for that meeting and one per diem reimbursement of \$25.00 unless meals are included in the meeting.
3. Board members receive reimbursement of .30 cents per mile, round trip, or a combination of air fair and local transportation whichever is the lowest, one hotel room night at the FSSA group rate for that meeting and one day per diem reimbursement of \$25.00 unless meals are included in the meeting.

c. Other BOD Travel

Members of the BOD and/or other State Representatives may be required to travel to additional meetings, cups, hearings, etc. Reimbursement for this travel shall be as prescribed in bylaw 216 b3 above. They will be entitled to \$25.00 per day per diem if the event is within the state or \$35.00 if it is out of state.

d. Board of Directors Authority

The BOD has the authority to diminish and/or adjust the above and any other allowances, based on available funds. Adjustments, when necessary, will be made based on the treasurer's report.

### **3. OFFICERS**

#### **301. Elected Officers**

The elected officers of this Association shall be known as the Executive Committee. They shall serve a term of two (2) years. These officers shall be:

- a. The President
- b. The Vice President
- c. The Treasurer
- d. The Secretary
- e. Immediate Past President
- f. Not more than five (5) Directors one of which shall be the State Referee Administrator to be appointed by the president and approved by the elected members of the Board of Directors.

#### **302. Election of Officers**

- a. The officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of this Association. They shall be voted for separately and shall be elected by a majority of all votes cast.
- b. If after two (2) ballots no candidate has received a majority, there shall be a run-off election between the two (2) candidates receiving the most votes.

#### **303. Eligibility for Office**

- a. The officers shall be residents of the State of Florida.
- b. No officer of the General Council shall be qualified to serve as a salaried official employed by this Association until his or her resignation as an officer has been received and accepted.
- c. An elected officer of any league affiliated with this Association must resign such position within 30 days of his or her or her election as President of this Association.

#### **304. Election of Office**

- a. The President and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years.
- b. The Vice President and The Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years.

#### **305. Vacancy in Office**

In case of a vacancy occurring among the elected officers, the Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy until an election can be held by the General Council.

306. President

The President of this Association shall preside at all meetings except at the election of officers, which shall be presided over by a chairman appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the General Council. The President shall approve all bills of this Association and may countersign all checks. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and shall appoint all committee chairmen and directors not required to be elected. The President shall have one (1) vote, except in the election of officers.

307. Vice President

The Vice Presidents shall assist the President in the performance of his or her duties. The Vice President shall succeed the President in his or her absence. The Vice President shall have one (1) vote except in the election of officers.

308. Secretary

The Secretary shall be in charge of the day-to-day business of this Association, shall keep accurate records and shall have charge of all Association property except all things pertaining to finance. The Secretary shall attend to all correspondence including notification of time, date and place of meetings as directed by the President. The Secretary shall have one (1) vote except in the election of officers.

309. Treasurer

- a. The Treasurer shall keep detailed accounts of this Association in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in a suitable book or books, or by computer, and shall report on the financial status of the Association at all general meetings, or at the request of the President. Computer printouts are acceptable for such reports.
- b. The Treasurer shall be bonded and shall sign all checks, which must be countersigned by the President, or other elected officer as designated by the President.
- c. The Treasurer shall submit a full financial statement for the concluding fiscal year at the Annual General Meeting. This report may be in the form of a computer printout, and must be accompanied by a statement from the bank to be submitted to the Audit Committee. The Treasurer shall have one (1) vote except in the election of officers.
- d. The Treasurer shall be the chairman, or a permanent member of the Foundation Planning Committee.

310. Past Presidents.

- a. Past Presidents shall be entitled to all the privileges of this Association, including the right to make and second motions, and excluding only the right to vote.
- b. The Immediate Past President shall be a member of the Board of Directors. The Immediate Past President present at any meeting of this Association shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote, except in the election of officers. Presidents who resign or are removed from office shall not be accorded the privileges of a Past President.

311. Directors

- a. Directors not to exceed five (5) in number, may be selected by the President, subject to the approval of the elected Board of Directors, to advise and assist in the conduct of business of this Association.
- b. Each Director shall serve a term of one year or a term concurrent with the term of the President then in office, whichever is shorter.
- c. Each Director shall attend all regular meetings of the Board of Directors and General Council of this Association at the expense of the Association if funds are available for such expense. Each Director shall have one (1) vote, except for the election of officers.
- d. Directors are expected to discharge a variety of duties as directed by the President. These duties may include heading ad-hoc and/or standing committees as necessary.

312. Hall of Fame Members

Hall of Fame members shall be entitled to all the privileges of this Association, including:

- 1. Life Membership,
- 2. The right to make and second motions.
- 3. The right to vote on all voting matters.
- 4. The right to attend free of charge all activities sponsored by this Association or any of its affiliated bodies.

313. Absences

- a. Any member of the Board of Directors absenting himself or herself from three (3) successive meetings without excuse may have his or her office declared vacant at the discretion of the General Council who may elect a successor.
- b. Any officer is subject to removal from office upon proper charges being pressed against that officer. Such removal must be accomplished by at least two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members of the Board of Directors.

#### 4. ADMINISTRATION

##### 401. Seasonal and Fiscal Year

The seasonal and fiscal year of FSSA each begin on September 1 of one calendar year and end on August 31 of the following calendar year.

##### 402. Yearly Budget

The treasurer shall prepare a proposed budget for the next fiscal year. The proposed budget shall be presented to the General Council for adoption at the State Annual General Meeting.

##### 403. Board of Directors and Executive Committee

a. For the purpose of administering the affairs of the Association between meetings there shall be a Board of Directors consisting of:

1. The President
2. The Vice President
3. The Secretary
4. The Treasurer
5. The Immediate Past President
6. Not more than five (5) Directors one of which shall be the State Referee Administrator to be appointed by the president and approved by the elected members of the Board of Directors.
7. The paid Administrator (non-voting)

b. There shall be an Executive Committee which shall have the authority to act in the place of the Board of Directors between Board of Directors meetings and in emergency situations. The Executive Committee shall have four (4) members consisting of:

1. The President
2. The Vice President
3. The Secretary
4. The Treasurer

c. The actions of the Executive Committee shall be subject to approval of the General Council which, if withheld, shall invalidate the actions of the Executive committee. Only the General Council shall have the power to incur liabilities on behalf of this Association.

d. Special meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee must be called within fifteen (15) days upon request of the President or upon request in writing from a majority of the Association's members to the Secretary of this Association.

##### 404. Duties of Committees

a. Appeals Committee

The Appeals Committee shall consider and act upon appeals of decisions made at a level lower than State. All avenues of appeal must be exhausted at the lower levels before the committee will consider hearing an appeal.

b. Arbitration Committee

1. The Arbitration Committee shall consider and act upon all disputes between members of this Association when not appropriate to be handled at entry level such as league, tournament, cup or similar levels.

2. It shall act on matters of discipline.

3. The committee has the power to appoint satellite-hearing boards made up by local qualified, knowledgeable personnel. When convened, these boards shall have the power of the State Committee.

(Jacksonville/Orlando, Tampa/St. Petersburg, Panama City/Pensacola, Miami/West Palm Beach.)

c. Audit Committee

The Audit Committee shall be appointed at the close of each fiscal year and shall review the accounts of the State Association including the State Referee funds and finances and report to the Annual General Meeting.

d. Coaches

The Coaches Committee is subject to the overall authority of the General Council and the Board of Directors. The Committee shall be responsible to development programs and instruct, examine, grade and administer coaching to constituents under its jurisdiction.

e. 23 and Under Development

The 23 and Under Development Committee shall administer the development and organization of a 23 and Under State League, teams and programs for this age group.

f. Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee shall report on the eligibility of representatives at the Annual General Meeting. The Credentials Committee shall include representatives from the Rules, Registration and Finance Committees.

g. Cups and Games Committee

1. The Cups and Games Committee shall have charge of all matters affecting cup games.
2. This Committee is also responsible for the administration of domestic cups and tournaments sponsored by other than USSF and Region.
3. It shall provide applicants with the necessary forms, information and guidance to host tournaments. This information and guidance may be in the areas of legal administrative and financial concern.
4. It shall recommend to FSSA approval or disapproval of tournaments. It shall work closely with the International Games Committee in cases where foreign clubs are involved.

h. Hall of Fame Committee

The Hall of Fame Committee shall be responsible for:

1. Selection of eligible and qualified persons nominated by affiliated members for induction into the State of Florida Hall of Fame.
2. Maintaining records on all state Hall of Fame members as well as those nominated for selection.
3. Organization of the annual Hall of Fame/Friends of Soccer gathering.
4. Selection of recipients for the "Friends of Soccer" award.
5. Requesting an annual budget and staying within its limits. The budget will cover expenses for the annual gathering, travel, plaques and/or presentations.
6. The Hall of Fame Committee shall do everything possible to hold the annual gathering conjunction with any regular meeting, to include the Annual General Meeting.

i. Insurance Committee

The Insurance Committee shall have charge of all matters concerning insurance.

j. International Games Committee

The International Games Committee shall have charge of all international games. Its Chairman shall serve the Association as liaison with all foreign associations and teams and the United States Soccer Federation International Games Committee.

The International Games Committee will be responsible for:

1. Ensuring that any prospective international game(s) host, sponsor and/or promoter completes and submits to the Chairman an official FSSA/USSF Application for International Games.
2. Ensuring, insofar as is possible the legitimacy of any entity applying for permission to host, sponsor and/or promote an international game within the State of Florida.
3. Obtaining approval for any international matches in accordance with current directives by USSF.
4. Obtaining complimentary game tickets for all FSSA officers, directors, Hall of Fame members and affiliated league representatives residing in the vicinity of the game(s) site(s).
5. Providing proper accounting of gate receipts to USSF and insuring payment of appropriate fees to USSF in accordance with current directives by USSF.
6. Obtaining complimentary game tickets to US National Team games played within the State of Florida for FSSA officers, directors, Hall of Fame members and affiliated league representatives residing in the vicinity of the game (s) site(s), whether or not the opponents are foreign teams.

k. Membership Committee

The Membership Committee shall oversee all matters pertaining to recruitment and retention of leagues to include recommendations on action to be taken on new applicants for membership.

l. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for furnishing a slate of officers to the General Council thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

m. Communications Committee

The Communications Committee shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to the media, and communications. This committee shall serve as the oversight of the FSSA website.

n. Referee Committee

The functions of the Referee Committee are described in Rule 1201.

o. Registration Committee

The Registration Committee shall administer the registration and transfer of players. Its chairman shall be known as the Registrar.

p. Rules Committee

1. The Rules Committee shall review and make recommendations to the General Council on all matters pertaining to all constitutions, bylaws and rules for FSSA and all its affiliates.

2. It shall ensure that all leagues applying for membership have an acceptable and viable set of governing rules and regulations.

q. Women's Committee

The Women's Committee shall coordinate, promote and recommend policy on all matters pertaining to women's soccer.

r. Youth Liaison Committee

The Youth Liaison Committee shall establish mutual areas of cooperation with the Florida Youth Soccer Association.

s. Indoor and Five-a-Side Soccer Development

The Indoor Soccer Development Committee shall administer the development and organization of indoor and five-a-side soccer in the State of Florida.

t. Foundation Committee

The Foundation Committee shall:

1. Create a granting foundation by developing a foundation entity called the Florida State Soccer Association Foundation.
2. On a semi-annual basis, in concert with the Treasurer and the Audit Committee, report to the FSSA Board of Directors for confirmation of the following:
  - a. Investment portfolio performance;
  - b. Investment plan for the time horizon of 3 – 5 years;
  - c. Report the risk factors of the investment portfolio in terms of fund ratings from financial sources.
  - d. A recommended risk model to be applied to the portfolio for future investments.

3. On an annual basis, report to the FSSA Board of Directors for confirmation of the following:
  - a. Investment return objective for the year in terms of percentage or monetary amount, to include an adjustment for inflation.
4. The committee shall establish the granting foundations:
  - a. Constitution And Bylaws;
  - b. Granting Policy;
  - c. Not-for-profit Corporation.
5. Up to ten percent (10%) of the annual net value of the Foundation may be used for Grants to members of the FSSA
6. The Foundation Planning Committee will provide Grant application, rules, policy and procedures to the FSSA membership.
7. The following focus has been established as a guide for the Foundation Planning Committee's funding decisions; develop players, referees, and coaches through programs, and field enhancements.
8. Grants will be distributed at the FSSA AGM.
9. The committee and Grant program shall dissolve if the foundation has no more funds .
10. The office of the treasurer shall be a member of this committee and may serve as its chairman, in accordance with Rule 402.a.

405. Expenses

- a. Elected officers, including the Immediate Past President and Directors, shall be entitled to legitimate expenses, as funds permit.
- b. Committee chairmen shall be reimbursed by the Association for legitimate expenses as funds permit. Provided their respective committees have been given an agenda.
- c. Hall of Fame members shall be reimbursed for legitimate expenses, as funds permit, for participation at the Hall of Fame ceremony and the Annual General Meeting.
- d. Legitimate expenses will be explained on an Expense Voucher provided by this Association.

**5. JURISDICTION OVER RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN NATIONAL SOCCER ASSOCIATIONS**

501. International Matches

a. International Match Defined

An international match recognized by this Association is a match arranged between this Association through the USSF and another national association.

b. Arrangement of International Matches

The General Council of this Association shall have power to seek national or international matches in conformity with the rules of the USSF.

502. Other Matches Involving Foreign National Soccer Associations

a. USSF Jurisdiction

1. Inter-league or Inter-club matches between leagues or clubs under the Jurisdiction of this Association and leagues or clubs of different nationality can only be played under the auspices of the USSF and the other national association with which such leagues or clubs are affiliated. Each league or club must comply with the rules of its own national association.

2. This Association shall inform the USSF of any matches known to have been arranged or played within its jurisdiction for which consent has not been given.

b. Timely Application for USSF Permission Required

A league or club affiliated with this Association wishing to play an association, league or club of differing nationality under the auspices of the USSF must make application to play at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the intended match; provided, however, that the USSF International Games Committee does not specify a longer or shorter period for advance notice.

503. Players Selected to Represent FSSA

Players failing to comply with a request of this Association to represent it in representative games without adequate reason and explanation shall be dealt with as this Association deems proper.

504. Teams receiving Funds to Attend National Cups

a. A team shall be eligible to receive travel funds from FSSA to attend regional and/or National Cup Final tournaments if:

1. The team has played a season of at least 4 games in an FSSA affiliated league during the current seasonal year.
2. The team has been selected to represent the State at the Regional or National Cup Finals.

- b. For competitions where open entry is allowed the teams representing the State will divide the available funds equally.
- c. Funds will be given to the teams at the Regional or finals tournament in which they are participating if an FSSA official is attending. If not, the funds will be mailed to the team upon their return to Florida.

**6. HALL OF FAME (See also bylaw 403.h.)**

601. Historian

A historian shall be appointed by the President to collect and assemble memorabilia of this Association.

602. Passes to Hall of Fame Members

This Association shall issue passes to members of the Hall of Fame for games and /or other activities sponsored by FSSA.

603. Hall of Fame Committee

The Hall of Fame Committee shall be composed of not less than seven (7) members. These members shall be:

- a. Chairman.
- b. At least two (2) previously inducted members of the Hall of Fame, which number may include the Chairman.
- c. At least one of the members of the current Executive Board of this Association in addition to any of the above.
- d. At least one representative from an FSSA affiliated League in good standing.
- e. Selection must be by unanimous vote. Voting must be recorded by name and be made a part of the Hall of Fame records.

604. Friends of Soccer

The Hall of Fame committee shall be responsible to seek and select persons who have assisted in the accomplishment of the Association goals. These may be journalists, parks and recreation personnel or any other such persons. When selected, nominees will be honored at the annual Hall of Fame Banquet. Not more than three (3) persons shall be so selected each year.

605. Criteria for Selection for Hall of Fame

- a. At least ten (10) years of high achievement and excellence in contributing to Florida State Soccer Association in one or more of the following categories:
  1. Player
  2. Coach
  3. Referee
  4. Administrator
  5. Journalist
- b. Contributions of individuals must be properly documented and substantiated.
- c. Documents may be in the form of letters, clippings and other papers from which a legitimate selection may be made, or from which proof of accomplishments can be determined and recommendations made.

606. Limit

There will be a limit of 12 active Hall of Fame Members.

**7. ENFORCEMENT AND APPEALS**

701. Supreme Authority of Board of Directors

- a. The Board of Directors shall have the obligation to deal through its arbitration and appeals committee with all differences and controversies, which may arise between one or more leagues or above, mentioned associations or other bodies, or any matter not covered in these rules.
- b. The Board of Directors shall have the obligation to deal through its arbitration and appeals committees with violations of the rules of the game, the rules and regulations of this Association, or misconduct by any league, club, team, players, official, referee, member or spectator under its jurisdiction either in scheduled or exhibition games, in the event that such violation or misconduct is not dealt with by the proper organization or authorities in the proper manner.
- c. Anything contained herein to the contrary notwithstanding, the Board of Directors shall have the power to review suspensions exceeding a term of ninety (90) days and fines in excess of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) imposed by an affiliated body and may modify or rescind such suspensions or fines. This provision shall not apply to Rule 1108.
- d. The Board of Directors may call upon any league, club, team, or player to produce any books, letters, or documents and other evidence they may require.
- e. An appeal from a decision of an affiliated body brought before this Association must be accompanied by the sum of One hundred dollars (\$100.00), which shall be forfeited if the appeal is not upheld. The appeal must be brought within fourteen (14) days of the action, and the action shall be binding pending the result of the appeal the event that a special meeting is called to hear an appeal the Association may require the appealing body, should the appeal not be upheld, to pay part or all of the expenses thereof. In the event the appeal is upheld, the

expenses shall be borne by the league or club appealed against. The appeal process begins at the level of the initial adjudicating body.

- f. No appeals of decisions of the United States Soccer Federation shall be considered by the Appeals Board of this Association.

The line of authority for appeals or protests shall be:

1. League
2. Appeals Committee
3. FSSA Board of Directors
4. FSSA General Council
5. United States Amateur Soccer Association (USASA) Appeals Committee
6. USSF Appeals Committee
7. USSF National Council

#### 702. Delegation of Authority by Board of Directors

The Board of Directors may delegate any of its powers to committees or to any affiliated leagues or teams.

#### 703. Suspensions

- a. No amateur player, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official shall be suspended from participation in, or declared ineligible for any amateur athletic competition without first being offered the opportunity to appeal any such suspension or declaration, such appeal first being made to the original ruling body. If, after a hearing in accordance with these By-Laws, an appeal is denied, further appeal may be made to the next level of authority, as outlined in 701.f, who, in turn, shall offer the right to a hearing before any suspension or declaration by that body shall be enforced.
- b. Suspension of a player, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, official or team shall be imposed only for stated reasons, for a definite period of time and in accordance with the ruling body's Bylaws.
- c. No player or official of any team shall be suspended for an offense committed by the management of his or her team, unless proof is submitted connecting such individual with the offense committed.
- d. Suspensions imposed by this Association, or any affiliated league or club, shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations, after proper notification.

#### 704. Appeals

- a. Appeals against decisions made by affiliated leagues shall be entertained by the Appeals Committee only: after such decisions have been reconsidered or an application for reconsideration has been refused; in cases of interpretation of rules; decisions pertaining to matters plainly of a general character; where a divergence of opinion exists as to jurisdiction in a case.

- b. Appeals must be made in writing and must be sent to the office of the Executive Secretary of this Association within fourteen (14) days of the date of official receipt, by the party making the appeal, of the decision being appealed. An appeal shall not be considered valid unless the complete appeal has been received and Rule 701.e has been complied with.

705. Hearings – Procedures

In all hearings conducted under these Bylaws, the parties shall be accorded:

- a. notice of the specific charges or alleged violations, in writing, and possible consequences if the charges be upheld, including, but not limited to, costs and/or fees associated with an unsuccessful appeal;
- b. reasonable time, between receipt of the notice of charges and the hearing, within which to prepare a defense;
- c. the right to have the hearing conducted at a time and place practicable for the person charged to attend;
- d. a hearing before a disinterested body of fact-finders;
- e. the right to be assisted in the presentation of one's case at the hearing;
- f. the right to call witnesses and present oral and written evidence and argument;
- g. the right to confront witnesses, including the right to be provided the identity of witnesses in advance of the hearing;
- h. the right to have a record made of the hearing;
- i. a written decision, with reasons for the decision, based solely on the evidence of record, issued in a timely fashion.

706. Hearings – Opportunity to Participate

Section 1. Fair notice and an opportunity for a hearing shall be accorded to any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official before this Association, or any affiliated league may declare that individual ineligible to participate in any amateur athletic competition.

Section 2. a) Neither the Federation (USSF) nor any Member of the Federation may:

- 1) deny or threaten to deny any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or other official the opportunity to compete in the Olympic Games, Pan American Games, World Championship competitions or such other "protected competition" as defined in the USOC Constitution; and
- 2) subsequent to that competition, censure or otherwise penalize any such individual who participates in any such competition.
- 3) Any individual identified in subsection a) of this section who alleges that he or she has been denied by the Federation (USSF) or a Member of the Federation a right established by subsection a) of this bylaw shall immediately inform the President of the Federation (USSF) and the

Federation's OSOC Athletes' Advisory Council representative who shall cause an investigation to be made and steps to be taken to settle the controversy informally or through the Federation's grievance procedures set forth in these bylaws, the individual may refer the matter to the Executive Director of the USOC for action, as appropriate, under Article IX of the USOC Constitution.

707. Grievances Related to Opportunities to Participate

Section 1. A grievance may be filed by any eligible athlete, coach, trainer, administrator or official regarding that individual's opportunity to participate in, or attempt to qualify for selection to participate in, 1) any amateur competition, 2) any soccer event of the Pan American Games, the Olympic Games, World Championship competitions, or 3) any other "protected competitions", as that term is defined in Article 1, section 2 (G), of the USOC Constitution. Any grievance must be made in writing and signed under oath by the person(s) presenting the grievance, and must state the full name(s) and addresses of the individual or entity against whom the grievance is made, and must include with specificity a complete statement of the acts which constitute the grievance, including the requested relief sought. The maker(s) must be prepared to substantiate the grievance at a hearing by personal testimony of a witness or witnesses with personal knowledge subject to cross-examination and by sworn statements, other witnesses and by other competent evidence. The accused shall have the right to be assisted in the presentation of his or her case at the hearing, including the assistance of legal counsel, if desired, the right to call witnesses and present oral and written evidence and argument, the right to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, and the right to have a record made of the hearing.

Section 2. The grievance should be addressed to the President of the USSF and should be transmitted to the attention of the Secretary General at the Federation office by hand delivery, certified mail or facsimile as soon as practicable following the events which are the subject of the grievance.

Section 3. As soon as practicable after the receipt of the grievance, the Secretary General shall promptly communicate informally with the parties and the President of the Federation and the Federation's OSOC Athletes' Advisory Council representative, and they shall make every effort to resolve the grievance to their and the parties' mutual satisfaction. If unsuccessful, the Secretary General shall, without prejudice to the right of the complainant to pursue remedies available under the Amateur Sports Act and the USOC Constitution, arrange for a prompt hearing of the grievance by a Hearing Committee. The Hearing Committee shall be appointed by the President of the USSF in the manner prescribed in section 3(b) of Bylaw 704 (USSF Bylaws).

Section 4. Any person, committee or association against whom a grievance has been filed is entitled to a hearing. The hearing shall be after advance written notice of (1) the specific charges or alleged violations, and (2) the time, place and opportunity to participate in person and by counsel or other representative

given to the person or persons presenting the grievance, the accused and all other possibly affected parties. Notices of hearings must be accompanied by a copy of the written grievance and shall set forth the possible consequences if the charges are upheld.

Section 5. The Hearing Committee shall review the record of any grievance hearing and promptly issue its written findings and determination based on the evidence of record in accordance with Bylaw 701 (USSF Bylaws), which shall be final and binding upon the parties, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and Bylaws of the USOC.

Section 6. The hearing shall take place no earlier than 20 days after receipt of notice by the person charged and not later than 60 days from such receipt so as to ensure that the person charged has sufficient time to prepare a defense. In emergency situations, these time periods may be shortened by the Hearing Committee in order to expedite a hearing as practical to resolve a matter relating to a scheduled competition.

708. Litigation Involving Florida State Soccer Association

Whenever a member or an affiliate of a member of this Association makes a ruling or renders a decision which is in violation of or conflicts with a rule of this Association and which results in litigation involving this Association as a defendant, That member or affiliate shall be responsible for the legal costs incurred by this Association in defending the lawsuit.

709. Responsibility of Members

- a. Players, officials and spectators are only allowed to take part in or attend games on condition that they observe the rules, regulations and bylaws of this Association. Every affiliated league or team is required to observe and enforce such rules, regulations and bylaws.
- b. Every league or team is responsible to the General Council of this Association for the conduct of its players, officials and spectators and is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent spectators from, threatening or assaulting officials and players before, during or after the conclusion of games.
- c. It shall be compulsory for any referee, team, player or Association official to report cases of misconduct in writing to the office of this Association.

**8. AMENDMENTS**

801. Amendments to Rules and Bylaws

Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws shall be made at the Annual General Meeting by a majority vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of all votes cast. Such

propositions must be submitted to the Secretary of this Association at least 45 days in advance of such meeting. The Secretary of this Association shall forward proposed amendments to all leagues, affiliates and the Rules and Revisions Committee Chairman no less than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

802. Effective Date

Unless otherwise provided, any amendment to the rules or Bylaws of FSSA is effective immediately after the amendment is adopted.

**NOTE - SECTION 9 IS NOT IN EFFECT**

**C. GAME PLAY AND GAME PARTICIPANTS**

**10. PLAYING RULES**

1001. United States Soccer Federation Rules Govern

The rules or laws of the game as promulgated by FIFA and USSF shall come into force at the beginning and throughout the season next ensuing.

1002. Seasons Determined Locally

- a. Each affiliated league shall determine when its season shall start and end, subject to the approval of this Association
- b. All player passes expire on August 31<sup>st</sup> regardless as to when the leagues register their players or when their season starts or ends.

1003. Indoor, Five-a-side, Futsal or any other variety of soccer.

The Florida State Soccer Association shall have jurisdiction over indoor, Five-a-side, Futsal and any other variety of soccer games and other irregular tournaments and shall supervise same.

1004. Women's Soccer

The Florida State Soccer Association shall assume jurisdiction over women's soccer in all its forms.

**11. PLAYERS – OTHER TYPES OF ORGANIZED SOCCER**

1101. Player Status Definition – Professional, Adult Amateur, Youth. Under the rules of this Association, players are either amateur or professional as defined below.

- a. A professional player is a person who receives or has received remuneration for playing or when he or she signs a professional form of the USSF.

- b. An adult amateur player is a person other than a professional player. An Amateur player may not receive and/or retain any remuneration for playing except for expenses actually incurred by the player directly related to the game or games.
- c. This Association recognizes the International Olympic Committee's definition of an amateur player in regard to the selection of the United States Olympic Soccer Team.
- d. A Youth player is one who has not reached the age of nineteen (19) years of age prior to August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current seasonal year. A player who reaches his or her (19<sup>th</sup>) birthday on or after August 1<sup>st</sup> of the seasonal year shall compete as a youth player for that entire seasonal year. He or she shall pay the applicable registration fee.

1102. Women's and Men's Soccer

The Florida State Soccer Association shall have jurisdiction over all adult amateur soccer on all its forms.

1103. Indoor, Five-a-side, Futsal, Beach/Sand or any other variety of soccer

The FSSA shall have jurisdiction over all of the above types of soccer and shall provide supervision as necessary.

1104. Misconduct Toward Game Officials

a. General.

Misconduct against referees may occur before, during and after the match, including travel to and from the match. Misconduct may occur also at later times when directly related to duties as a game official as a referee.

b. Terms and References as Used in this section:

1. "Referee" includes the following:

(a) All currently registered USSF referees, assistant referees, 4th officials, reserve referees or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match.

(b) Any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency under Rule 1209.

(c) Any club assistant referee.

2. "Hearing" means a meeting of at least three neutral members, one of which is designated or elected to serve as chairman.

3. "Referee Assault" is an intentional act of physical violence directed at or upon a referee.

(a) Such assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting at or on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniforms or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.

4. "Referee Abuse" is a verbal statement or physical act, which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.

(a) Such abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee: spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; or verbally threatening a referee.

(b) Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as "I'll get you after the game" or "You won't get out of here in one piece," shall be deemed to be referee abuse.

(c) Jurisdiction and Hearings.

c. General

a. When an amateur or professional player, coach, manager, club official, or game official assaults or abuses a referee, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in this Association or professional league as appropriate.

b. When the allegation of assault is verified by FSSA, the person is automatically suspended until the hearing on the assault.

c. FSSA must hold a hearing within thirty (30) days, of the abuse or assault. If the FSSA does not adjudicate the matter within that period of time, original jurisdiction shall immediately vest in the National Appeals Committee to adjudicate the matter, to which the same provisions as to the term of suspension shall apply.

d. Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind the automatic suspension.

e. In cases of report of referee abuse, a hearing is held only when requested by the alleged assailant or otherwise deemed appropriate by FSSA.

d. Events, Tournaments and Cups.

1. In the event an assault on or abuse of a referee occurs in an event outside the alleged offender's home state. The referee shall immediately notify the event chairman and follow it by forwarding him/her a copy of the report.

2. The event chairman shall have the right to immediately convene a hearing at the site of the event at which the alleged offender, the coach of the alleged offender when the offender is a player and the game official should be present. Information presented at this hearing shall promptly be relayed to the alleged offender's National State Association President by the event chairman, both orally and in writing: however, failure to provide written information shall not restrict FSSA from taking action with regard to any referee abuse or assault.
  3. In cases involving Florida personnel, final jurisdiction shall vest with the FSSA. A hearing shall be held within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the initial report of the abuse or assault on a referee.
- e. Penalties and Suspensions.
1. Assault: The player, coach, manager or official committing the referee assault is automatically suspended for at least one (1) year from the time of the assault, unless serious injuries are inflicted. Then the minimum suspension period will be at Least five (5) years. FSSA may not provide shorter periods of suspension but, if circumstances warrant, may provide a longer period of suspension.
  2. Referee Abuse: The minimum suspension period for referee abuse shall be at least three (3) scheduled matches within the rules of that competition. FSSA may provide a longer period of suspension when circumstances warrant such as that for habitual offenders.
- f. Appeals.
1. Assault: A player coach, manager, or official who is found to have committed the assault may appeal directly to the FSSA appeals committee by following the provisions of Rule 701 within (30) days from receipt of the decision of FSSA.
  2. Abuse: A player, coach, manager, or official who is found to have committed the abuse may appeal the decision by following the appellate procedures of Rule 701 following the line of authority indicated therein.
- g. Procedure for Reporting Assault and Abuse.
1. When a referee is deemed to be assaulted or abused, the referee will report the incident to the SRA by the most expeditious means and then follow it up with the proper report in writing within 48 hours as per procedures directed by the SRA.
  2. A true copy of the report will be forwarded simultaneously to the President of FSSA.

3. The SRA will make a determination as to whether the report constitutes an assault or abuse.
  4. If the SPA determined that the incident in question is abuse, the SRA shall forward this information immediately to the appropriate club or league for action. A copy of such determination shall be forwarded to FSSA's President. Failure by the league or club to take the necessary action may result in FSSA overtaking jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter.
  5. If the SRA determined that the incident in question is deemed to be assault, the SRA shall forward this information immediately to the FSSA for action. The person is automatically suspended until the hearing of the assault. FSSA will then hold a hearing within 30 days of the assault. FSSA is the first line of action in cases of referee assault.
- h. Failure by the referee to submit a timely, clear, concise report in accordance with existing policy may result in no action toward the alleged offender or action against the referee.

1105. Residence Registration - Competition Participation

- a. A team must register in the state in which it is domiciled.
- b. All teams wishing to register in another state and compete in a League in that state must receive permission from both states involved, i.e.
  1. the state association where they are domiciled: and
  2. the state association where they wish to play.

NOTE: Written permission shall be issued annually or for a longer term as mutually agreed upon.

- c. Any properly registered team has the right to enter any competition sponsored by this Association provided it is eligible under the rules of the competition and is in good standing. All teams entering such competition must enter in the state in which such teams are registered.
- d. Any team, League, or state association denied the right to participate in any competition under the jurisdiction of the USSF has the right of appeal through the prescribed procedure.

**12. PLAYER REGISTRATION**

1201. Number of Players On A Team or Game Roster

- a. Maximum Number: No team shall be permitted to have more than twenty-two (22) registered playing members at any one time. The maximum players allowed on the game roster for a team shall not exceed eighteen (18).

- b. Minimum Number: No league may affiliate a club, or organization that does not operate a team in a league under its jurisdiction unless it is geographically impractical to do so. Such team shall consist of not less than eleven (11) registered players in actual competition.

1202. Registration of Professional Players

- a. Registration Required.

Every player shall be registered on a USSF professional player registration form. The fee for registration, release, transfer, or notice of loan of a professional player under this rule shall be determined by the USSF. A professional player is not a member of a club and may not play for a club or team until he or she had been registered with the USSF according to USSF rules.

- b. Teams Eligible to Register Professional Players

Any team which is a member of FSSA or a member of a league affiliated with this Association may register a professional player, except, no professional player may be registered to compete on a team which is a member of a youth association affiliated to USSF.

- c. Registration Procedures

Professional Players shall be registered in accordance with the rules of USSF.

- d. Period of Registration

A professional player shall be registered for the period of the contract.

- e. Transfer and Releases

1. A player registered on a USSF professional form may be transferred to another club or may be released by his or her club.
2. A properly completed USSF transfer or release form together with the applicable fee shall be forwarded to the USSF within five (5) days after being signed by the club and after proper approval of the club's professional league or this Association.
3. A transfer of release under this rule is not effective until it is acknowledged by the USSF.

1203. Professional Player Contracts

A club may enter into a contract with a Professional player for any length of time mutually agreeable between the player and the club. The player must be registered in accordance with the rules of the USSF. Upon the expiration of a contract between a club and a player, a professional player release form shall be executed by the club and

the player and submitted to the USSF in accordance with its rules if requested by the player.

1204. Professional Player on Loan

A professional player currently under contract may be loaned to an adult amateur club. The appropriate USSF player loan forms and contract must be completed.

1205. Professional to Adult Amateur Reinstatement

- a. A professional player may be reinstated as an amateur as provided by this bylaw.
- b. A professional player who is currently registered as a professional player with any club can be reinstated as an amateur only with the permission of that club and the FSSA or Professional League with which that club is affiliated.
- c. An application for reinstatement as an amateur must be made on the USSF reinstatement form and both, the completed form and the applicable fee must be filed with the Secretary General of USSF.
- d. The USSF registrar shall issue approval of the reinstatement to amateur status within fourteen (14) days after receipt of the request, appropriate fees and compliance with these rules. However, the player's reinstatement to amateur status is not effective until the day after 30 days have elapsed from the day that player competed in his/her last match with his/her club as a professional player.
- e. A professional player may be reinstated as an amateur player not more than one time in a two year period.
- f. A USSF registered professional player not under contract for the previous 12 month period is automatically reinstated to adult amateur status. A professional player not currently under contract may be reinstated to amateur status as any time.
- g. An updated list of professional status players is published by USSF on a bi-weekly basis.
- h. Copies of all transactions dealing with reinstatement shall be sent to the FSSA Registrar.

1206. Registration of Adult Amateur Players

- a. All players must be registered each seasonal year using the current year's FSSA issued player registration forms. No other passes or identification cards or documents are acceptable. Player passes may not be updated by using stickers of any kind and may not be altered in any way.
- b. Registrations are valid for one seasonal year which is established to be from September 1<sup>st</sup> of one calendar year to August 31<sup>st</sup> of the following calendar year.

This means that all player registrations and their player passes expire on 31 August every year. There are no exceptions to this rule.

- c. FSSA issues a different color player pass for each seasonal year.
- d. The registration form/player pass issued by FSSA must be completed in its entirety including the player's residence address (not the team manager or other person's address), photos on the pass and the registration portion and signatures of the player, team manager and league registrar.
- e. Player registration data must be sent to the FSSA office on a monthly basis for any months in which a league registers players. Failure to report this information on a monthly basis may result in fines and/or probation for the violating league.
- f. The fee for registration, release or transfer of an adult amateur player under the provisions of these bylaws shall be determined by this Association.
- g. The properly completed form together with the applicable fee shall be forwarded to this Association or professional league having jurisdiction within five (5) days after being signed by the player.
- h. A player registered on a form may be released at anytime by the team for which he is registered and shall be released by such team upon request of the player if the player is in good standing.
- i. When released, a properly completed release form together with the applicable fee shall be forwarded to this Association or professional league having jurisdiction within five (5) days after the player has been released by the team.
- j. A transfer or release under this rule is not effective until it is acknowledged by the registrar of this Association.
- k. An amateur player registered with a club 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 the loan, the player may play only for the club to which he has been loaned. The player may only be loaned once during the season.

1207. Player Pass Identification Numbers and Game Use

- a. Each player registered will be issued a unique identification number pre-printed on the registration form and pass. This number will be used for and by that player only.
- b. A player's pass shall be handed to the referee prior to the commencement of any game, or at such time as the player comes in to the game as a substitute in a game under the jurisdiction of this Association.

1208. Registration Process

- a. Leagues will send requests for registration forms along with payment for a specific number of players and coach to the FSSA office.
- b. Each month each league will send to the FSSA office:
  - 1. Completed registration forms for any and all players registered that month.
  - 2. Electronic file with the registered player's information (or applicable fee per player if data is not sent electronically. Electronic format can be sent in Microsoft Access or Excel. It may be sent as a compressed e-mail attachment or on a CD or diskette. (If league registrars have Microsoft Access, FSSA registration software is available at no cost.
  - 3. A 1 ¼ x 1 ¼ “ photograph must be attached to each registration form. The registrar of the League will issue a player pass with photograph affixed. This player pass shall be the only bona fide player pass recognized by this Association and its affiliates.

1209. Restrictions and Allowances

- a. A player who is residing out of the state of Florida for the purpose of attending school or is in the armed forces may consider him/her a resident of that state and register there.
- b. The registrar of this Association shall notify the secretary of the interested adult amateur state association or professional league of any registration, transfer, release or notice of loan of a player under the above rule, within seven (7) days after the filing of the properly completed form and applicable fee by forwarding a copy of such form to the state's secretary.
- c. No player can be registered with this Association unless he or she is signed on a proper form which shall be supplied to the league in which he or she is competing by the FSSA office. Member teams of leagues registered with this Association will receive registration forms from their league office.
- d. It is the responsibility of the club filing the registration that the form is legible and is completely executed.
- e. Upon request, inspection of registration records shall be granted by FSSA.

1210. Multiple Registrations

- a. Players may play for more than one team in seasonal year.
- b. If a player plays for more than one team, that player must have a separate player pass for each team and be multiple registered for each team for which he or she plays. The player's ID number is the same for all player passes. That number is taken from the player's original registration form.

- c. Additional player passes for multiple registrations can be purchased from FSSA's office. There is also a fee to multiple register a player.
- d. Upon registering and playing for a second team, the player shall designate a primary team. Additional registrations shall be secondary if required.
- e. No player shall play for more than one team in the same competition, such as league cup, state cup, regional or national cups or any other affiliated tournament.
- f. In the event of a conflict, a player must play for his or her primary team. If the conflict is between secondary teams, the player may choose the game in which she or he wishes to play.
- g. Any league suspension of a player shall be served only in that league.
- h. Any FSSA or higher suspension will apply to all leagues and teams for which the player is registered for the duration of the suspension.
- i. The 23 and Under program may not be the primary team unless they are the first to register that player. In such event, it shall still be the sole decision of the player to choose a primary team.
- j. A player may change his or her designation of primary team once during a seasonal year. All teams for which the player is registered shall be notified in writing ten (10) days in advance and a copy of the transaction forwarded to the FSSA registrar.
- k. All Star tournaments and select teams which have been allowed in the past, shall be allowed and will not be considered multiple registrations.

1211. Foreign and Out of State Players

- a. All players coming from a youth or adult amateur state association, a professional league outside of the State of Florida, or foreign country must have clearance papers or a release signed by the official registration chairman or secretary of such other association, professional league or foreign association, except players in the armed forces.
- b. Temporary permission to register and play pending proper release may be granted by this Association upon payment of the applicable fees. This Association will inform the affected parties of permissions and they shall also receive a copy of the request.

1212. Youth Amateur Players (See Definitions elsewhere in this document)

a. Youth Senior Relationship

A youth player will be permitted to play an unlimited number of adult amateur games without losing his/her youth eligibility. The youth player must obtain

permission from his/her youth coach or other authorized team official. The youth coach or other authorized team official shall, in writing or by form, request eligibility clearance from the Florida Youth Soccer Association. When the above clearance and permissions have been granted, this Association has sole discretion in permitting a youth player to play adult amateur games and will be responsible for establishing the procedure under which this will be implemented.

b. Youth Player Registration

1. Youth players must register using the “Youth Playing in Senior (or Adult Amateur) Games” Form. Copies and passes are available of the FSSA office.
2. Youth players must already be registered with the youth league and use their youth player pass number on their FSSA player pass.
3. Once a player is 18 he/she may sign on the regular registration form. However, if a player is still playing youth soccer and registers using the regular adult amateur player registration form, he or she will lose eligibility for a period of twelve (12) months.
4. The youth form must be signed by the player’s parents, youth coach and the district commissioner before the form is turned to an adult amateur league.
5. There is a fee for registering youth players with FSSA. This fee includes USASA insurance for the player.

1213. Affiliated Leagues Powers and Responsibilities

- a. Leagues shall have full powers in the matter of registration or release of all adult amateur players within their respective jurisdiction in the manner and conditions outlined by these bylaws.
- b. Affiliated leagues shall furnish to the registrar of this Association within thirty (30) days after the registration of players, a list of such registrations giving the names and addresses of the players and the clubs for which they are registered.
- c. The affiliates are responsible and accountable to this Association for revenues from player registration.

**13. FEES AND AFFILIATES FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

1301. New Members

New leagues or clubs applying for membership to this Association must pay all membership dues and fees for all player registration passes prior to being voted on for acceptance by the General Council.

1302. All Members

Each league, organization or club affiliated to this Association shall pay to FSSA the appropriate annual membership FSSA fee as recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by the General Council by a majority vote. These fees include the annual membership fees and team and player registration and player transfer fees.

1303. Payment Schedule – General Debts

All fees due to this Association must be paid up prior to the close of business of the Annual General Council Meeting.

1304. Payment Schedule – Player Registration

- a. All affiliated members shall pay a registration fee to FSSA for each of its affiliated players not later than 30 days after such players have registered with them. Failure to meet this deadline may result in a per player fine up to \$1.00 as determined by the Executive Board. Further delays may result in additional fines or other administrative action as indicated below.
- b. All affiliated members in need to register players shall request the necessary forms from this Association's office. Payment for these forms must be made in advance. In certain cases, a 30 day grace period may be granted by the FSSA registrar with the approval of the treasurer.
- c. Payments must be accompanied by an electronic data base. Failure to register via electronic data base will result in an additional .50 per player to be included in the registration form.

1305. Suspensions, Fines and Terminations

- a. An organization member failing to pay any fee due to FSSA shall be provided notice of the delinquency by FSSA. If those fees are not paid within 30 days after the date specified in the notice of delinquency, the delinquent organization member shall be declared not in good standing, may be fined and suspended from membership.
- b. Not in good standing status or suspension means that insurance is rescinded, referees will not be provided and other proper action deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.
- c. If the delinquent fees are paid in full within 90 days after the date specified in the notice of delinquency, the delinquent organization member will be automatically reinstated. FSSA will notify the organization in question as to the specific date in which the status of the organization changes.
- d. A league must register a minimum of 44 players within 90 days of receiving a certificate of insurance or at the end of the 90 day period the certificate will be rescinded.

**14. REFEREES**

1401. FSSA Referee Committee

Subject to the overall authority of the General Council and the Board of Directors the FSSA Referee Committee shall act in an advisory capacity to the State Referee Administrator concerning the USSF Referee Development Program and report all activities to the FSSA General Council at each meeting, or more often if necessary.

1402. State Referee Administrator

The State Referee Administrator shall be appointed jointly by FSSA and FYSA. (A mutually accepted nominee will be selected by the National Referee Committee and the National Board of Directors when the FSSA and FYSA cannot agree) The SRA shall work in cooperation with the FSSA Referee Committee, and shall administer the USSF referees within this Association. The State Referee Administrator may be a member of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee of this Association but shall not be the President of this Association.

1403. Referee Registration Required

- a. All referees will be registered on a USSF Referee Registration form through this Association.
- b. No person shall officiate as a referee or neutral referee assistant in any match under the sanction or jurisdiction (direct or indirect) of the FSSA who is not registered with this Association.

1404. Referee Registration Fee

The registration fee for referees shall be set by the USSF Referees Committee and approved by the National Board of Directors. From the registration fee fifty percent (50%) shall be paid to the treasury of the USSF and the balance (50%) shall be retained by the Adult state association in which the referee is registered.

1405. Referee Registration Cards

All referee registration cards shall be issued by the USSF.

1406. Referee Uniform

The official uniform for referees shall be set forth by the USSF Referees Committee.

1407. Referee Authority

The referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches.

1408. Restriction on Referee as Player

A referee, when registered as such, shall not be eligible as a player in any competition in which he is a game official.

1409. Unregistered Referee in Emergency

If, because of unforeseen circumstances a registered referee is unable to officiate, clubs or combinations may agree upon some other person to act in the emergency.

1410. Referee of the Year

- a. Each year, this association shall select a Referee of the Year (ROY), male or female.
- b. Nominations may be made by anyone in the FSSA or FSR chain.
- c. They must be made on the format shown on the FSR website. No variations from that format will be accepted. The form must be sent to the Area Referee Administrator who will check for eligibility. She or he will forward the nominations to the FSR's office. The FSR's office will send copies to the selecting committee, FSSA and others as needed. The final selection will be made by the FSSA president in coordination with the SRA.
- d. Criteria: Must have worked adult/amateur games during the period September 1 to August 31 of the preceding year. Referee performance must be in a commendable manner bringing credit to the Florida State Referees. Other considerations: participation in FSSA tournaments, helped and gave guidance to others, recognized for "off the field" activities such as involvement in civic actions, other reasons.
- e. The person selected as the FSSA's ROY shall be recommended to Region III for the Regional award.