

North Coast Soccer League, Inc.

Articles of Incorporation

By-Laws

Playing Rules

Issue A

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The League President or his designee is responsible for the administration, control, review and distribution of this manual. Revisions are identified by numbers 0, 1, 2, 3... Issues are identified by alphabetical letters A, B, C... The issue and revision status are listed on each page. The front page of the manual shows the issue status, revision status, approval and reasons for revision. Revisions to the content of the manual shall be recorded on the front page and identified by *italics* until new issue. Manual shall receive new issue letter when more than half of the sections are affected by revision or at the direction of the League President and General Assembly.

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ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the North Coast Soccer League, Inc. (NCSL).

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose and objectives of the North Coast Soccer League shall be to provide its member clubs the opportunity to play competitive soccer among themselves and with other member clubs of the United States Soccer Federation, within which the standards of sportsmanship and fair play are adhered to.

ARTICLE III

HEADQUARTERS AND TERRITORY

The league shall maintain a headquarters in its territory. The territory of the league shall be Northeast Ohio, including, without limitation, the City of Cleveland and its surrounding counties.

ARTICLE IV

AFFILIATION

The league shall endeavor to maintain affiliation with the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and shall promote the affiliation of its member clubs with the USSF, the United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA) & Ohio-North (OH-N).

ARTICLE V

LEAGUE COLORS

The official league colors of the North Coast Soccer League shall be royal blue, grey and white.

ARTICLE VI

MEMBERSHIP

Every senior men's soccer club located within the territory of the league that complies with the league's By-Laws, regarding membership, shall be eligible for membership.

ARTICLE VII

LEGISLATIVE DUTIES

1. All legislative duties of the league shall be vested in the General Assembly of the league. The General Assembly shall consist of the Executive Committee and the Representatives of the league's constituent clubs. Each member club shall send one duly chosen Representative to each and every General Assembly meeting.
2. Each member of the General Assembly shall have the power to propose legislation for the league and to nominate candidates for league offices. Each member of the General Assembly shall have one vote to cast for or against any proposed legislation, including elections, except the league President who, in the case of a tie vote, shall have the power to vote a second time to break the tie. A member of the Executive Committee may also serve as a club representative, but he shall have only one vote despite his dual role.
3. Each club's representative shall be a member in good standing of the league according to the By-Laws of the league.
4. The General Assembly shall meet at least three times in every calendar year, before, during and after the season. The General Assembly may also meet at the direction of the league President. Meetings shall be scheduled with at least 7 days notice of meeting date.
5. The General Assembly shall have the power to amend the Articles of Incorporation of the league with a 3/4 vote of the entire General Assembly.
6. The General Assembly shall have the power to make and/or amend By-Laws and Playing Rules for the league by a 2/3 vote, provided a quorum is present.
7. A quorum shall consist of more than 50% of the members of the General Assembly.
8. The General Assembly shall have the power to remove any Executive Committee officer by a 3/4 vote of the entire General Assembly.
9. The General Assembly shall have the power to conduct general league business by a majority vote; a quorum need not be present.
10. Meetings of the General Assembly shall be conducted by the league President in accordance with generally accepted rules of order, e.g., Robert's Rules of Order. The Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar, in that order, shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President.
11. Meetings of the General Assembly shall be open to all league players. Non-board members may participate in deliberations only at the invitation of a board member.

ARTICLE VIII

EXECUTIVE DUTIES

1. The representation and administration of the league shall be vested in the members of an Executive Committee which shall include the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar and Past President. If the duties of the Treasurer are carried out by one of the other members of the Executive Committee, there need not be a separate office of the Treasurer.
2. Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly in accordance with the By-Laws of the league. Members of the Executive Committee shall hold office for a two-year term and until their successor is elected. Members of the Executive Committee may serve an unlimited number of consecutive terms in any one office or combination of offices. However, no member of the executive committee shall hold two or more executive offices simultaneously, except as per Section 1 (Treasurer) of this Article.

3. Members of the Executive Committee must be members in good standing of the league in accordance with the By-Laws of the league.

ARTICLE IX

JUDICIAL DUTIES

1. The judicial duties of the league shall be vested in the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall make judicial decisions only upon appeal from a decision by the Executive Committee which shall be the arbiter of first resort.

2. The Executive Committee shall have the power to render judicial decisions by a majority vote. In the event of a tie vote, the President may vote again to break the tie. The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint from among its members or from the membership or member clubs a judicial officer or committee to make preliminary judicial decisions which can be appealed to the Executive Committee.

3. The right to appeal a judicial decision of the Executive Committee to the General Assembly shall exist only for offenses carrying a penalty of 10 match's suspension or more.

4. There shall be no right of appeal on offenses carrying a penalty of less than 10 matches; however, a "Petition For Rehearing" by the Executive Committee may be submitted to the league President in accordance with Section 5 of this Article. Said petition must state the grounds for a rehearing and the remedy sought. The Executive Committee shall have the absolute power to grant or deny petitions for rehearing with or without explanation. Failure of the Executive Committee to explicitly grant a petition for rehearing within 5 days of its receipt constitutes a denial of the petition. The Executive Committee may submit petitions for rehearing to the General Assembly should it deem such necessary or proper.

5. Parties to judicial actions shall be given written, telephone or electronic notice of a decision adverse to them and parties shall have 5 days thereafter to file a petition for appeal or rehearing with the league President. Failure to file a written petition within 5 days of notice of a decision shall bar any appeal or rehearing. Notice of judicial decisions shall be adequate, if published, on the league website regardless of whether a party penalized actually sees the publication. The date of notice or petitioning for purposes of this Section shall be the date of date stamping on the website.

ARTICLE X

FINANCES

1. The league shall be a non-profit organization.

2. The Treasurer of the league, in accordance with his duties, shall collect and maintain such funds and accounts as authorized by the General Assembly.

3. The Executive Committee shall determine and communicate to member clubs, before the start of each new season of play, the amounts of club dues and player registration fees. A fee schedule shall be determined at the January meeting. Any unpaid fees may result in a club receiving a one point deduction in the standings for each match played until the fee is paid unless an agreement has been reached with the Treasurer. At the direction of the Executive Committee, games may be cancelled if it is determined that a club has become a financial burden to the league by failing to meet payment schedule.

4. League players and club managers shall receive no compensation that would remove them from amateur status.

5. Member clubs shall not be prohibited or discouraged from obtaining sponsors to pay all or part of dues, fees or expenses.
6. Club dues and player registration fees, including fees for insurance, are paid as a condition precedent to membership in the league and are not refundable without a resolution of the Executive Board.
7. A club will need Executive Committee approval to be readmitted into the league if they have not paid prior years dues before the following season.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1

ADMINISTRATION

1. The power to administer the everyday affairs of the league shall be vested in the Executive Committee.
2. The administration of the internal affairs of each member club shall be vested in each member club's manager.
3. Each club shall choose a representative to the General Assembly, and said representative shall serve the interests of his constituents in league affairs; as well as the general interests of the league. A club representative should be involved and knowledgeable of the internal affairs of the club he is representing. A club representative need not be its manager.

ARTICLE II

DUTIES

1. President. The President shall formulate meeting agendas and preside at all meetings of the General Assembly; serve as Chairman of the Executive Committee; appoint committees; appoint non-executive officers; enforce the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Playing Rules, and any other rules of the league; call meetings of the General Assembly and of committees; supervise and administrate the affairs of the league; sign all contracts or documents necessary for the general administration of the league or authorized by the General Assembly; sign checks; authorize routine purchases; serve at his discretion as an ex-officio member of any committees; serve as the representative of the league to any associations or organizations (Ohio-North), unless otherwise provided; retain custody of the corporate records; provide for the good and welfare of the league.
2. Vice President. The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in the President's absence or incapacity, and shall succeed to the office of President for the remainder of any term in which the President cannot fulfill his duties. Such succession shall not bar him from subsequent election to a full term in any office. He shall serve on the Executive Committee. He shall perform any administrative duties assigned to him by the President and/or General Assembly.
3. Secretary. The Secretary shall make and keep written records of the league membership, all meetings of the General Assembly, and any other meetings as directed by the President. He shall make and keep any changes to the league Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, and Playing Rules as authorized by the General Assembly and directed by the President. He shall be in charge of league communications, including without limitation, the league website, newsletters, statistical reports, judicial notices, game reports, and media relations. He shall sign any contracts or documents as authorized by the General Assembly or directed by the President and maintain league records, including without limitation, game reports, league standings, and records of disciplinary actions. He shall notify the post-season clubs representative of their games, times, and locations. He shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee and perform any administrative duties as assigned by the President and/or General Assembly.
4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall keep books and records of league finances, including without limitation, member dues, bank accounts, bank records, donations, advertisements and sponsorship; collect all dues, registration fees and/or other monies owed to the league; prepare and sign any necessary local, state, or federal tax returns; maintain such bank accounts as authorized and directed by the President and/or General Assembly, either in the name of the league, or as joint and survivorship accounts with the President; sign any contracts, documents, or checks as authorized and directed by the President and/or General Assembly; make such routine purchases as authorized by the President and/or General Assembly; prepare and present financial reports to the President and/or General Assembly upon request; serve as a member of the Executive Committee; and perform any administrative duties as assigned by the President and/or General Assembly.

5. Registrar. The Registrar shall be a member of the Executive Committee and shall collect and maintain all club rosters and registration forms, as well as being responsible for the proper registration of all players on those rosters. It will also be the responsibility of the registrar to collect club and player registration fees and turn those fees over to the league treasurer, and perform any administrative duties as assigned by the President and/or General Assembly.
6. Past President. The Past President is invited to remain on the Executive Committee for an additional term. He shall perform duties assigned to him by the President and/or General Assembly.
7. Club Representative. The club representative shall represent his club at all General Assembly meetings; communicate the proceedings and results of all General Assembly meetings to his club manager and members; have the power to propose legislation for the league; have the power and duty to vote on any matters brought before the General Assembly for vote; shall be responsible for any re-scheduling of matches with their opponents; shall update the league secretary of any club contact information changes. The club representative may also be the club manager.
8. Club Manager. The club manager shall be responsible for his club acting in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, and Playing Rules of the league; administer the internal affairs of his club, including the collection and timely payment of dues and fees and the timely registration of member players; prepare and timely submit any and all club rosters, match reports, statistical reports, or other documents required or requested by the league or its officers; maintain an appropriate relationship between his club members and match officials; carry out any directives of the President and/or General Assembly.
9. Referee Assignor. The referee assignor shall schedule match officials in a timely and fair fashion on a weekly basis; monitor the attendance of the match officials; strive to ensure that each match is fully covered with three officials; make arrangements for assessment or evaluation of referee's; assist in the re-scheduling of match times and places and perform any administrative duties as assigned by the President and/or General Assembly.

ARTICLE III

ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly at the annual January meeting every second year such that said members shall serve two year terms or until their successors are duly elected. Members of the Executive Committee are to be voted for separately by either secret ballot or a "show of hands" vote. A nominee for executive office must receive a majority of all votes cast to be elected, and there must be a quorum present.
2. Elected positions shall include: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar.
3. When the General Assembly elects new executive officers, the new executive officers shall take office upon the adjournment of the meeting at which they are elected.
4. Candidates for Executive Offices must be nominated by members of the General Assembly, and the nominations must be seconded. Nominees must be members of clubs who are members of the league and nominees must be members in good standing; however, nominees need not be members of the General Assembly. Additionally, nominees do not need to be a club manager or club representative; however, it is preferred.
5. A special election may be called by the league President to fill any vacancy in any executive office.

ARTICLE IV

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

1. Clubs eligible for membership under the Articles of Incorporation shall only be admitted to the league upon receiving a majority affirmative vote of the General Assembly at the February meeting.
2. In order to gain admittance as a member of the league, a club must demonstrate the intent and apparent ability to comply with the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and Playing Rules of the league.
3. Admittance of a club to league membership is contingent upon payment of any and all dues and registration fees specified herein or by legislation or administrative ruling. All new clubs must post a \$300.00 refundable bond for entering the league. This bond will be credited to the next year's dues if said club adheres to all By-Laws.
4. All clubs desiring admission of membership to the league are required to have a General Assembly approved home field that meets the following minimum requirements per FIFA's laws of the game; rubber pylons may be used in place of corner flags; burnt strips may be used in place of painted lines, if the former are indistinct, they must be augmented with paint or, if on account of wetness, with pylons to the satisfaction of the referee.
5. All clubs transferring into the North Coast Soccer League must be in good standing with their former league. This includes all dues paid in full.

ARTICLE V

CONDITION FOR TERMINATION OF CLUB MEMBERSHIP

1. Club affiliation and membership may be terminated by violation of any of the conditions set forth by the Articles of Incorporation and any blatant disregard for the league By-Laws or Playing Rules. Membership is suspended or terminated if a club is not in good financial standing with the league. All clubs and their representatives must adhere to the North Coast Soccer League code of conduct as defined in the league Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1. Clubs may apply to the Executive Committee for a one year leave of absence prior to the annual January General Assembly meeting. Club representatives may remain active in the league with no voting power.

ARTICLE VII

DISBANDING OF A CLUB

1. In the event a club, by disbanding or for any other reason, withdraws from the league without finishing its scheduled matches the following regulations will take effect:
 - (a) All games played will stand. This includes all goals for and against, all cards (yellow or red), and any other statistic recorded by the league.
 - (b) Any disbanded club will have to re-apply at the February meeting the following season for re-entry and will be charged a \$300.00 bond same as a new club entry would.

ARTICLE VIII

PLAYER MEMBERSHIP / ELIGIBILITY

1. Only amateur players shall be eligible to participate in the league competitions. An amateur player is one who is not registered as a professional player by the USSF, who does not receive a salary or wages to play soccer, and who is not under contract to receive a salary or wages from a soccer organization to play soccer.
2. A player must be at least 18 years of age to be registered as a member of a club participating in league or to compete in league competitions.
3. Players suspended, for any reason, by the league shall not be allowed to participate in league competitions until their suspension has been served.
4. A member in good standing of a club is one who is a duly registered player, manager or a club representative who is not under a suspension of 10 matches or more.
5. Without prior approval, a maximum of two players per existing league club are eligible to transfer and play for a newly formed club.
6. Players, as a club, may receive equipment or fee remittals from sponsors.

ARTICLE IX

PLAYER REGISTRATION

1. Member clubs shall be required to register players in accordance with USSF and Ohio North rules and procedures.
2. Each member club shall register all of its players and its manager by submitting a roster, an individual player registration form with picture as well as a player pass with valid signature and picture to the league registrar prior to the start of every season for an official stamp of approval. Each club roster will include the following:
 - (a) correct full name of each player
 - (b) current home address of each player
 - (c) player I.D. number (assigned by the league)
 - (d) player birth dates
3. Club rosters may contain an unlimited number of players and must be submitted to the league Registrar before the first match of each season. Players may be added to each club's roster until the signing period has closed. The final day to sign players will be determined before the start of each new season.
4. Clubs must pay an additional fee, as determined by OH-North, for any players on the roster over the standard number of 18. Registration fees are due as players are added to the roster.

Ineligibility

4. A player who is not duly registered is not eligible to participate in league competitions. Any club using an unregistered player or player registered to another club shall forfeit any and all matches in which the offending player appears or appeared by a score of 3-0.

Player Transfers

5. A player may transfer from one league club to another during a season if the following conditions are met:

- (a) the club manager to which the player wishes to transfer submits a petition to the league registrar giving notice of the transfer and obtains a new registration of the player; and
- (b) the club manager which the player seeks to leave does not object to the transfer on the ground that the transferring player has not met his financial obligations; and
- (c) the player has not transferred previously during the same season; and
- (d) the transfer does not occur after the signing period has ended.

5.1. A player may transfer from one league club to another between seasons by being registered to the new club and included on its roster for a new season and by meeting condition 5(b).

5.2. Any and all transfer disputes shall be settled by majority vote of the Executive Committee and such settlement shall not be appealable.

Eligibility Challenges

6. Prior to the completion of a match, any club manager who suspects that a player on an opposing club is unregistered or registered to another club may challenge the suspect player by requesting the referee to require the suspect player to produce a USSF pass, or, if appropriate, other picture identification (i.e. a valid driver's license) that proves the suspect player is duly registered to the club for which he plays. If a suspect player cannot prove he is properly registered to participate to the club for which he has appeared, that club may be subject to forfeiture of the match (es) in which the ineligible player has appeared. Additionally, the ineligible player will be subject to a suspension equivalent to the number of matches in which he ineligibly appeared and will be reported to OH-North.

ARTICLE X

CLUB AND PLAYER DISCIPLINE

1. The league, through its judicial duties, shall adjudicate all violations of the league Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and Playing Rules committed by any officer, club manager, club representative, referee, player, or spectator at any time.

2. The league, through its judicial duties, shall settle any and all controversies, including without limitation, match protests, between one or more member club by a majority vote of the Executive Committee and such settlement shall be appealable by the filing of a Petition for Appeal with the President.

3. The league, through its judicial duties, may impose suspensions on member clubs for the following reasons and periods of time:

- (a) Failure to pay league fees -- one full season.
- (b) Encouraging violent conduct -- one full season to an unlimited time.
- (c) Failure of the club manager to consistently maintain club discipline and high standards of sportsmanship and fair play -- one full season to an unlimited time.
- (d) Any other activity which the Executive Committee and/or General Assembly deems detrimental to the league or the good of the game -- one full season to an unlimited time.
- (e) Any club trying to deceive the league with illegal players by using double passes, falsified player passes... etc. shall, at minimum, forfeit three points within the league standings.

4. The league, through its judicial duty, may impose suspensions upon persons registered to, or affiliated with, member clubs for any of the following reasons and periods of time, whether infractions occur during a match, meeting, or any other time:

4.1. Battery upon a referee, linesman, or spectator - a battery shall consist of one intentionally acting without justification to touch or cause injury to a person; there must be an unjustified offensive touching, i.e., from an act of punching, pushing, kicking, throwing or kicking any object, or spitting;

- (a) First offense – minimum one calendar year.
- (b) Second offense – life.

4.2. Assault upon a referee, linesman, or spectator -- an assault shall consist of one's intentionally placing a reasonable person in fear of immediate bodily harm where there is apparent intent to commit a battery or other serious crime;

- (a) First offense – minimum 10 matches.
- (b) Second offense – minimum one calendar year.
- (c) Third offense -- life.

4.3. Red Card Ejection -- shall consist of a club member being shown a red card for any of the following reasons and said member shall be suspended for the duration of the match. A suspension not served during regular season play will be carried forward into tournament play. Any player ejected in his last match of the season, regular or cup competition, will serve his suspension at the beginning of the next season. The final decision on additional suspension is determined by the Executive Committee:

- (a) Unsportsmanlike conduct -- one match minimum.
- (b) Foul language towards a match official -- one match minimum.
- (c) Violent abuse of a match official -- two match minimum.
- (d) Fighting -- two match minimum.
- (e) Retaliation – two match minimum.
- (f) Defense of others (gang fighting) -- two match minimum.
- (g) Battery or assault -- in accordance with 4.1 or 4.2 above.
- (h) Mayhem (battery by one player upon another with the malicious intent to cause permanent injury) - five match minimum.
- (i) Abusive racial comments – two match minimum.

4.4. Double Yellow Card Ejection -- shall consist of a club member being shown two yellow cards during the same match and shall result in the offender being barred from the field of play for the remainder of the match from which he is ejected, however, this ejection may or may not carry additional suspension(s) which will be up to the Executive Committee. Two yellow cards may be issued for one act of wrongdoing.

4.5. Yellow Card Accumulation Suspension -- shall consist of an individual player collecting four or more yellow cards in the same season. The following suspensions will be imposed for multiple cautions received by players:

- (a) Four cautions: One match suspension
- (b) Six cautions: Two match suspension
- (c) Eight cautions: Three match suspension

5. The Executive Committee will be the final arbiter on any issues related to club and/or player discipline. A disciplinary decision by the Executive Committee is appealable in accordance with Article IX (3) of the Articles of Incorporation.

6. A second red card ejection during any one season may subject the offending player to double the usual penalty for the offense committed with the possibility of a season long suspension. Three red card ejections within any

one season may subject the offending player to a suspension of 10 matches or more with the possibility of a season long suspension.

7. The Executive Committee shall have the power to authorize match officials to enforce the rules and regulations of the league, and it may provide for evaluation (assessment) of match officials.

8. The league through its officers and agents shall have the power to eject any player, manager, official or spectator from the site of league functions and to suspend any player, manager or official for violations of Sections 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5 or 6 hereof (i.e. meetings, banquets, etc.).

9. Evidence considered in making decisions relative to this Article shall come primarily from the reports of match officials; however, relevant and unbiased testimony of witnesses with personal knowledge may also be considered. Additionally, the Executive Committee shall attempt to elicit information from the managers of the clubs involved in order to evaluate the incident before rendering his final disciplinary decision.

10. Any club representative who makes misrepresentations of the facts before the board may be barred from further representing his club. The board may also suspend or remove a member who fails to respect rules of order in meetings.

11. Any club forfeiting twice in the same season may result in termination of said club for the remainder of the season; any deliberate forfeit will result in a fine equivalent to that of the referee's game fees.

ARTICLE XI

COMPETITION

1. The Executive Committee shall arrange the league's match schedule for each season as it deems appropriate to offer good competition for member clubs.

2. The Executive Committee shall arrange the league schedules as it deems appropriate to make good and beneficial use of available playing fields (and daylight) and to promote the growth of soccer.

3. The league standings shall be computed as follows:

- (a) Win = 3 points
- (b) Tie = 1 point
- (c) Loss = no points
- (d) Red Card = minus 1 point per (minus 2 points maximum in any one match)
- (e) Forfeit = no points
- (f) Unexcused forfeit or walk off = minus 3 points

4. The league champion shall be the club with the highest point total(s) at the end of a season. In the event of ties in point totals for all positions in the league, the ties shall be broken in favor of:

- (a) Head to head: The club with the best regular season record against the club(s) with which it is tied;
- (b) Goal Differential: The club with the highest goal differential for the entire regular season;
- (c) Goals For: The club with the highest number of goals scored during the entire regular season;
- (d) Goals Against: The club with the lowest number of goals scored against during the regular season;
- (e) Sportsmanship Points – The club with the least amount of points during the regular season.
- (f) Coin Flip: The club managers shall meet with the Executive Committee in which the league Executive Committee will flip a coin to determine the winner.

Note: Goal differential shall be measured by total goals scored less the total goals scored against.

5. The league shall offer competition during the Spring, Summer and Fall calendar year.
6. The league shall offer a cup competition for the top eight finishers, or as determined prior to the start of each new season. There will be only one playoff tier or format. In each round, the top seed shall play the lowest remaining seed; the second seed will play the next lowest remaining seed, etc.
7. In tournament play, the club with the higher final standing or higher initial seeding will be designated as the home club.
8. All post-season clubs are to be notified by the Secretary, in writing (e-mail) of their schedule.
9. The Championship Match may be moved to a site deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XII

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

1. General Assembly meetings shall be attended by Executive Officers, Club Representatives as well as any other elected or appointed officials, including a referee association representative. Meetings shall be open to any member of any club that is a member of the league and to any person invited to attend.
2. General Assembly meetings shall be presided over by the President in accordance with generally accepted rules of order, e.g., Robert's Rules of Order.
3. General Assembly meetings shall be conducted in the following form:
 - (a) Roll call
 - (b) Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting
 - (c) Executive officers reports
 - (d) Other officers reports
 - (e) Committee reports
 - (f) Old business
 - (g) New business
 - (h) Miscellaneous
 - (i) Adjournment

PLAYING RULES

ARTICLE I

GENERAL RULES

The general playing rules of the North Coast Soccer League shall be in accordance with Federation Internationale De Football Association (FIFA) rules as amended herein.

ARTICLE II

ROSTERS

1. The manager of each member club shall submit a club roster, player passes, and individual player registration forms in accordance with the By-Laws, Article IV, to the league Registrar before each new season begins.

2. The manager of each club participating in league competitions shall submit to the referee, before each match, the clubs player passes, a match report on a form designated by the league which shall contain the following elements:

- (a) Full name of each player to appear;
- (b) Jersey number and pass number of each player to appear;

No names may be added to a match report after half time of any match. The match report must be signed by the club manager or representative.

3. Any club manager who suspects that a player on an opposing club is unregistered or registered to another club or under suspension or not on the match report as of the start of the second half may challenge the suspect player to produce a USSF pass, or, if appropriate, other identification that proves the suspect player is duly registered to the club for which he plays and is eligible to play. If a suspect player can produce no such identification, he will be considered potentially ineligible. A club that uses a player who is unregistered or registered to another club or is under suspension or not on the match report may forfeit, by the score of 3-0, any and all matches in which such player(s) appear. Additionally, said player(s) may be subject to match suspensions equal to the number of matches in which he ineligibly appeared and may be subject to sanctions from OH-North.

ARTICLE III

REFEREES

1. Referees and linesmen shall be assigned to matches and paid by the league at the direction of the league assignor, and said match officials shall comply with any administrative directive of the league President and/or Executive Committee.

2. Referees, linesmen, and other match officials shall be authorized to enforce the rules and regulations of the league as expressed in the By-Laws and Playing rules.

3. Referees shall collect player passes and match rosters on a form prescribed by the league from club managers before match play begins.

4. Referees shall have the power to stop matches at any time for the following reasons:

- (a) weather that threatens player safety;
- (b) continuing violent player behavior;

- (c) excessive, ongoing interference from managers or spectators;
- (d) failure of one or both clubs to have the minimum number of players in which that number is seven;
- (e) at the direction of the league President.

If a match is stopped due to weather (a) after the second half has begun, it will not be replayed and the final score shall be the score at the point of stoppage. If a match is stopped due to weather (a) during the first half, it will be the referee assignor's responsibility to attempt to reschedule that match. If a match is stopped due to (b)-(e), the Executive Committee shall decide the result of the game based on the referee's report. A right of appeal exists where a club contends a match has been wrongfully stopped hereunder.

5. In the event no referee is present to officiate a scheduled league match, opposing club managers can, and should, mutually agree upon match officials to be chosen from available players or league officers not playing in the match. The host club must reschedule a game when no referee's show and the managers do not agree upon a substitute.

6. A referee shall submit to the league Secretary a written match report on a form to be designated by the league for any and all matches he officiates. Such match report shall contain the following elements:

- (a) names of opposing clubs;
- (b) date, time, and place of the match;
- (c) final score of a match, the names and times of the scorers;
- (d) names of any penalized players and descriptions of the events leading to any penalties resulting in cards;
- (e) a general description of the match, including without limitation any reasons for stoppage.

ARTICLE IV

CLUB NO SHOWS, FORFEITS, AND WALK-OFFS

1. A no show is when a club willfully does not appear at a match without a specific agreement approved by the league Executive Committee. The penalties for a walk-off will be the same as a no show or forfeit. The penalties for a no show, forfeit and/or walk-off are as follows:

- (a) Loss of three points from their standings possible for unexcused forfeit or walk off.
- (b) Fine equivalent to referee's game fee. All fines must be paid within 7 days.
- (c) A club may be expelled from the league if it accumulates two no shows or forfeits within one season.
- (d) The score of the match will be recorded as a 0-3 loss for the club that forfeited or walked-off.

2. A forfeit is when a club fields fewer than seven players after fifteen minutes have passed beyond the established match time; as a home team, it fails to comply with its field obligations, defined in the By-Laws (Article IV Section 4).

ARTICLE V

RESCHEDULING GAMES

1. The following schedule change requirements must be met:

- (a) the club requesting a schedule change must notify the opposing club manager and the Executive Committee at least two weeks prior to the original schedule date;
- (b) The non-requesting club agrees with the change and notifies the requesting club and Executive Committee at least seven days prior to the original scheduled date;
- (c) The original home club is responsible for notifying the league seven days prior to the original schedule date;

- (d) It is the responsibility of the home club to reschedule any rained out match seven days afterward or the home club may forfeit the match.
- (e) All rescheduled matches are to be played within 21 days of the original match date or the home club may forfeit the match.
- (f) All rescheduled matches must be played prior to the last regularly scheduled match of the season.

ARTICLE VI

CLUB DUTIES

1. In every match one club will be designated as the home club.
2. All clubs and their personnel shall be required to maintain professional conduct on the field and the club bench. Abusive language and obscene body language or gestures will not be tolerated.
3. All clubs shall be responsible for maintaining and improving the league and its facilities, including without limitation, the following:
 - (a) parking only in designated areas and not on the fields;
 - (b) removing and disposing of any litter found on or around the fields or parking areas;
 - (c) checking field equipment and reporting any damage or loss to league officers;
 - (d) making any immediate repairs that will remedy a dangerous situation of which one has direct knowledge;
 - (e) not smoking or consuming alcoholic beverages during a match;
 - (f) informing visitors or spectators of league rules where necessary or proper to do so.
3. Home club obligations shall include without limitation the following:
 - (a) arriving to the field in a timely fashion;
 - (b) furnishing two suitable balls for match play;
 - (c) complying with the directives of any member of the Executive Committee;
 - (d) changing jerseys if there is a color conflict with the visiting club;
 - (e) responsible for notifying the league secretary of match results within 24 hours of the completion of the match.
4. Visiting club obligations shall include without limitation the following:
 - (a) arriving to the field in a timely fashion;
 - (b) complying with the directives of any member of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII

UNIFORMS

1. All players in league competitions shall wear matching uniforms which shall consist of shirts, with at least 8 inch numbers on the backs, shorts and socks which completely cover the player's shin guards. In cold weather, tights or sweat pants, and sweat shirts under jerseys may also be worn.
2. Goal keepers must wear colors which distinguish them from all other players on the field and from match officials.
3. Each player must have a jersey with a number on the back, and nobody may play without a jersey.
4. No jewelry of any kind may be worn during competitions unless sufficiently covered with tape.

5. No part of the uniform shall have any dangerous zippers, buckles, studs, buttons, etc. whether metal or otherwise.

6. No player shall wear any pads or equipment determined by the referee to be dangerous.

7. All players, including goal keepers, must wear shin guards at all times when on the playing field.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS TO FIFA RULES

LAW 1 (The Field of Play): None.

LAW 2 (The Ball): None.

LAW 3 (Number of Players): Section 2 and 3 -- are amended such that an unlimited number of substitutes may be used.

LAW 4 (Players Equipment): The law is amended so as to be consistent with Article VII herein.

LAW 5 (Referees): The law is amended so as to be consistent with Article III herein.

LAW 6 (Linesmen): None.

LAW 7 (Duration of Game): Shall be amended so as to provide for a 10 minute half-time break.

LAW 8 (The Start and Restart of Play):

Part (a) is amended such that each club must have seven (7) players on the field at all times. If a club does not have enough players, it will be allowed a fifteen (15) minute grace period from the scheduled starting time to produce the minimum number of players. At the expiration of the grace period, the referee shall call both clubs onto the field and count the number of players on both clubs. If either club has fewer than the minimum number of players, it shall forfeit the match by the score of 0-3. The Executive Committee has the right to make this an unexcused forfeit resulting in (-3 points).

Part (d) is added allowing substitutions when:

- (a) the ball has gone over the end line resulting in a goal kick;
- (b) on a club's own corner kick;
- (c) between halves;
- (d) a goal has been scored;
- (e) on either club's throw-in;
- (f) a player has received a yellow card (only for the player penalized, and at the direction of his manager or the referee);
- (g) when a player has been injured and leaves the match, either club, one player.

LAW 9 (Ball In And Out Of Play): None.

LAW 10 (Method of Scoring): None.

LAW 11 (Off-Side): None.

LAW 12 (Fouls and Misconduct): The law is amended so as to be consistent with By-Laws and Playing Rules.

LAW 13 (Free-Kick): None.

LAW 14 (Penalty Kick): None.

LAW 15 (Throw-In): None.

LAW 16 (Goal-Kick): None.

LAW 17 (Corner-Kick): None.