

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

1.1. The name of this organization is the South Texas Youth Soccer Association, Inc. which is also referred to as "STYSA". STYSA is incorporated in the State of Texas and is subject to the laws of the State of Texas and to its own Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Procedures.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

1.2. The purposes of STYSA are charitable, educational and athletic, as defined by the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act and include teaching of good sportsmanship; the educating of youth participants and adult sponsors in the fundamentals of soccer; promoting soccer through sponsorship of regularly scheduled youth soccer competitions; and conducting such other activities as STYSA shall deem appropriate.

ARTICLE III - AFFILIATION

1.3. STYSA shall be a State Association and comply with the authority of the United States Soccer Federation, also referred to as USSF, and United States Youth Soccer, also referred to as USYS. However, the authority of USSF shall take precedent over and supercede USYSA and STYSA. As a State Association of USSF, STYSA shall also comply with the following:

1.3.1. The membership of STYSA and its Member Associations will be open to any soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials not subject to suspension under Section 4 of USSF By-Law 241, and to any amateur soccer organization in STYSA's territory;

1.3.2. It will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex or national origin;

1.3.3. It will not join any organization that has requirements that conflict with USSF's articles, by-laws, policies and requirements;

1.3.4. It will register all of its players, coaches, teams, referees and administrators with USSF at least once a year and timely pay all dues and fees of USSF;

1.3.5. It will abide by USSF's articles, bylaws, policies and requirements on interplay;

1.3.6. It will have an Executive Committee that is selected through an open and democratic election process;

1.3.7. The actions and policies adopted by the Executive Committee will be reported to the membership, or their authorized representatives, at least once each year at a meeting of STYSA's membership, with notice and agenda at least 30 days in advance of the meeting;

1.3.8. It will provide the Secretary General of USSF an annual report of the activities of STYSA and most current annual financial statements within ninety (90) days after the start of the USSF's seasonal year;

1.3.9. It will:

1.3.9.1. provide annually to USSF copies of STYSA's Constitution, By-Laws and other governing documents;

1.3.9.2. submit changes to those documents to USSF for approval not later than ninety (90) days after adoption; and

1.3.9.3. make copies of those documents available to its members.

1.3.10. It will provide equitable and prompt hearing and appeal procedures to guarantee the rights of individuals to participate and compete. Those procedures shall include that all grievances involving the right to participate and compete in activities sponsored by the Federation and the State Association and its members may be appealed to the Federation's Appeals Committee that shall have jurisdiction to approve, modify or reverse a decision.

1.3.11. It will maintain its tax exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

1.3.12. It will adopt policies prohibiting sexual and physical abuse that meet certain minimum criteria as established by USSF (subject to any contrary requirements contained in state or local laws applicable to STYSA); and

1.3.13. It will allow USSF to review the documents and procedures of STYSA, on the request of USSF, not less than once every four (4) years to determine compliance with USSF's By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV - BOUNDARIES

1.4. **STYSA BOUNDARIES.** STYSA's geographical boundaries shall be as follows: The Association shall control and represent all members falling within the South Texas area which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Reeves, Loving, Ward, Crane, Upton, Reagan, Irion, Tom Green, Concho, McCulloch, San Saba, Mills, Lampasas, Coryell, Bell, Falls, Robertson, Leon, Houston, Angelina, Jasper, Sabine and all Texas counties to the south of these counties.

1.5. **MEMBER BOUNDARIES.** Any properly constituted youth association that falls within STYSA's geographical boundaries may apply for membership with STYSA in accordance with Article VI, paragraph 1.9 of this Constitution, and upon acceptance as a full member, shall have voting rights on any given issue as provided in the STYSA By-Laws. An association applying for membership in STYSA may not infringe on territory within the boundaries of a previously admitted member association without written permission of the affected member association or by a vote of the Governing Board as provided in Article IX of this Constitution.

1.6. **AMENDING BOUNDARIES.** Amendments to a member association's territory may be made at any meeting of the STYSA Governing Board by 2/3 majority vote of the voting power of Governing Board members in good standing, present and voting. Each governing board member shall be given 30 days notice in writing of the purpose of amendments. Any proposals or motions to amend a member association's territory must be made in writing to the STYSA Secretary at least forty-five (45) days before any regular meeting.

ARTICLE V - STYSA JURISDICTION

1.7. STYSA shall have jurisdiction over all member associations, their leagues, clubs, teams, administrators, referees, coaches, players and supporters.

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP

1.8. **ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.** The association membership of STYSA shall consist of properly constituted youth soccer associations within STYSA's territory.

1.8.1. **ASSOCIATE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.** Any youth soccer association within the geographic boundaries of STYSA with twelve (12) or fewer member teams (with minimum team size determined by the STYSA Playing Rules in effect at the time of application for membership) shall receive full member status, but shall, if approved, have associate member status. An associate member: i) may participate in STYSA

member meetings but shall not have the right to vote and ii) may not send teams to participate in STYSA competitions.

1.8.2. FULL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP. Full membership may be applied for by an association having more than twelve (12) member teams (with minimum team size determined by the STYSA Playing Rules in effect at the time of application for membership).

1.9. APPLICATION AND APPROVAL FOR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP. Each youth soccer association applying for membership in STYSA shall be furnished a copy of the STYSA Constitution, By-Laws and Rules and a copy of the By-Laws and Rules of USYS. An association applying for membership must submit to the STYSA President and to the STYSA Secretary an application for membership, which shall include copies of i) the applicant's Constitution, By-Laws and Rules, ii) the applicant's annual budget for the first year of operation as a member demonstrating that funds are appropriated to attend STYSA Governing Board meetings, and iii) evidence of payment to the STYSA State Office of any application fee then prescribed. The application must be reviewed by the STYSA Executive Committee. Approval for membership in STYSA shall be by the STYSA Governing Board.

1.10. REQUIREMENTS OF ASSOCIATION MEMBERS. Each member association shall retain its own autonomy, but will adhere to the Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules, Regulations and Procedures of STYSA, USYS and USSF in all matters pertaining to intra-state competition, or in other competitions sponsored by STYSA.

1.11. CONSTITUENCY OF ASSOCIATION MEMBERS. A member association shall, subject to the approval of STYSA, admit to membership properly constituted youth soccer organizations located within its boundaries and provide to its member associations management assistance when requested.

1.12. GOOD STANDING. Any member association that: i) fails to cast all votes to which it is entitled for two (2) consecutive STYSA Governing Board Meetings; or ii) is delinquent in the payment to STYSA of any registration fees, fines or other fees; or iii) fails or refuses to comply with the authority of STYSA, shall be considered to lose good standing and shall have its voting rights automatically suspended until such rights are reinstated by a simple majority vote of the Governing Board. Such business shall be the second item on the agenda. No club, team or individual registered with a member association not in good standing as a result of ii) or iii) above shall be allowed to participate in any competition sponsored by STYSA.

ARTICLE VII - INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

1.13. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP. An individual who is a player, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official, not subject to suspension under Section 4 of USSF By-law 241, is a member of STYSA:

- a. through that individual's membership or association with a Member Association;
- b. as an elected officer;
- c. as a committee member of STYSA;
- d. as a Life Member; and
- e. when the individual, whether coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official, is duly registered with STYSA as per the current registration procedures.

A Life Member may be bestowed on any individual by a majority vote of the STYSA Governing Board, if that individual is nominated by a Member Association not later than 60 days in advance of a STYSA Governing Board meeting, in writing to the Secretary. The proposed nomination shall be submitted in writing to each Member Association at least 30 days before the STYSA Governing Board meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - SEASONAL AND FISCAL YEAR

1.14. SEASONAL YEAR. The seasonal year of STYSA shall be the same as the seasonal year of the United States Youth Soccer Association.

1.15. **FISCAL YEAR.** The fiscal year of STYSA shall begin on September 1 and end on August 31 of the following year.

ARTICLE IX - GOVERNING BOARD

1.16. **GOVERNING BOARD.** STYSA shall be governed by a Governing Board. Each member association of the South Texas Youth Soccer Association shall elect or appoint one or more persons to represent said member association on the Governing Board each year.

1.17. **GENERAL POWERS.** The Governing Board shall transact all business of STYSA and shall have the power to enforce the laws of the game, the rules of the United States Youth Soccer Association and the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Procedures of STYSA. It shall have the power to settle all disputes not pertaining to the Discipline, Protest and Grievance Procedures.

ARTICLE X - MEETINGS

1.18. **REGULAR MEETINGS.** The regular meetings of the STYSA Governing Board shall be held twice yearly in accordance with the STYSA Perpetual Calendar.

1.19. **SPECIAL MEETINGS.** Special meetings of the Governing Board may be held at the discretion of the President at the time and place designated by the President or may be called by a written request to the secretary signed by the Governing Board members representing a majority of the voting power.

1.20. **ORDER OF BUSINESS.** The order of business for regular meetings shall be as follows:

1. Roll call and vote accreditation
2. Motions to Reinstate
3. Approve minutes of last meeting
4. Unfinished business
5. Financial and budget review and approval
6. Amendments to Constitution, if any
7. Amendments to By-Laws, if any
8. Amendments to Rules and Procedures, if any
9. Reports from Standing Committees
10. Reports from Officers
11. Election of officers at first meeting of calendar year
12. New Business
13. Adjournment

1.21. **ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER.** All other aspects of the meetings of STYSA shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition.

1.22. **FUNDS TO ATTEND USYSA GENERAL MEETING.** The STYSA President shall include in the annual budget sufficient funds to provide for the reasonable expenses for the attendance of the STYSA officers as defined in the By-Laws of STYSA to attend the Annual General Meetings of the United States Soccer Federation / United States Youth Soccer.

ARTICLE XI - OFFICERS

1.23. **LIST OF OFFICERS.** The members of the Governing Board shall elect the following officers:

- President
- Executive Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Registrar

The Governing Board members from the Eastern District shall elect the Administrative Vice-President / Eastern District and the Governing Board members from the Western District shall elect the Administrative Vice-President / Western District. All voting requirements, according to the STYSA By-Laws shall be applied on a District basis for the election of these two officers.

1.24. **TERMS.** The term of office for each officer shall be for two years. The following officers shall be elected in even numbered years:

- President
- Secretary
- Administrative Vice-President / Eastern District
- Administrative Vice-President / Western District

The following officers shall be elected in odd numbered years:

- Executive Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Registrar

An officer shall take office on April 1 of the calendar year in which he / she is elected and remain in office until the end of his / her term of two years or until a successor has been duly elected, whichever event occurs later, unless said officer is recalled by the Governing Board as described in this Constitution.

1.25. **VACANCY OF AN OFFICE.** In the event any office becomes vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by a simple majority vote of the officers who remain on the STYSA Executive Committee. The person who fills the vacancy shall serve until the next regularly scheduled Governing Board meeting or for District Vice-Presidents, any regularly scheduled District meeting, when an election will be held to fill the office.

1.26. **RECALL OF AN OFFICER.** The Governing Board shall have the power to recall any officer of STYSA. This power may be exercised at any regular or properly called special meeting of the STYSA Governing Board. A recall motion must be adopted by at least 2/3 of the voting power of member associations in good standing.

ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

1.27. Any proposals or motions to amend the Constitution must be made in writing to the Secretary, Chairman of the Standing Rules Committee, and the STYSA State Office no later than the date specified and advertised on the STYSA website. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any regular Governing Board meeting by 2/3 majority of the voting power of member associations. Each Governing Board member shall be given at least 30 days notice in writing of the amendments and their purpose. Amendments to the Constitution shall include an effective date.

ARTICLE XIII - DISSOLUTION

1.28. In the event that STYSA shall be dissolved or cease to function, the Governing Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Association, dispose of all of the assets of STYSA exclusively for the purposes of STYSA in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Governing Board shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the District Court of the County in which the principal office of STYSA is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Adopted 2/25/89

Last Amended 7/22/06