BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business at all regular meetings shall be as follows:

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
3. **Communications**
4. **Reports of Officers and Commissioners**
5. **Committee Reports**
6. **Financial Reports**
7. **Office Reports**
8. **Unfinished Business**
9. **New Business**
10. **Miscellaneous Items**
11. **Adjournment**

ARTICLE II

HEARINGS

Every case which arises under the jurisdiction of this Association and requires a hearing, shall be tried in the presence of all parties in interest who appear. The Council or its authorized agent has the power to call for the production of any documents and evidence, and summon anyone under its jurisdiction to appear at any meeting relative to any matter, which comes to this Association for determination or investigation.

Section 1: Hearings to this Association – District Level

Each district shall form its own Hearing and Appeal Committee, as needed, to hear all charges of breach of United States Soccer Federation (USSF), United States Youth Soccer (US Youth Soccer) and this Association's rules, within its district, brought forth by a properly registered member (player, coach, organization, or official). The District Hearing and Appeal Committee shall hold hearings on all matters within its jurisdiction not herein specified for hearing by the State Hearing and Appeal Committee. Said District Hearing and Appeal Committee shall consist of not less than three (3) members plus the chair. The Alternate District Commissioner shall chair said district hearings. Should the Alternate District Commissioner have a conflict of interest, or be otherwise unable to chair a district hearing, the President of the Association shall have the power to appoint a chairperson. Said district hearings shall be tried in the presence of all parties in interest who appear. The District Hearing and Appeal Committee or its authorized agent has the power to call for the

production of any documents and evidence, and to summon anyone under its jurisdiction to appear at any meeting relative to any matter, which comes to this Association's district for determination or investigation.

The request for a district hearing shall be made in written form and shall be filed with the Alternate District Commissioner in the district wherein charges arise. A fee, as stipulated by the Board of Directors and listed in the Fee Schedule of this Association's handbook, shall accompany all requests for a district hearing. If the decision of the District Hearing and Appeal Committee is in favor of the one filing the charges, the fee shall be returned. The Alternate District Commissioner shall promptly provide a copy of the written charges to all parties in interest and shall set a date for a hearing which is as soon as practicable. The district hearing shall be confined to those charges contained in the written request for a hearing. If new charges are raised or discovered at said district hearing, the defendant(s) may exercise the right to have a separate hearing on those new charges.

The hearing shall take place no earlier than twenty (20) days after receipt of notice by the person charged and not later than sixty (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 District Hearing and Appeal Committee in order to expedite a hearing, as practicable, to resolve a matter relating to a scheduled competition.

Hearing requests submitted to the District Hearing and Appeal Committee may be assigned to the State Hearing and Appeal Committee if the District Hearing and Appeal Committee finds said charges are not an appropriate issue for a district-level hearing.

The District Hearing and Appeal Chairperson shall prepare a written summary of the district hearing, detailing the charges, findings, and decisions taken in the case. The summary shall be distributed to all parties in interest.

Section 2: Hearings to this Association – State Level

The State Hearing and Appeal Committee shall adjudicate in the form of a tribunal and shall be appointed by the President of the Association, as needed. Said committee shall consist of not less than three (3) members plus the chair. Unless there is a conflict of interest, a District Commissioner shall chair the appeal. Said state hearings shall be held in the district of the appointed chairperson, whenever practicable, on behalf of the Association.

State hearings shall be tried in the presence of all parties in interest who appear. The State Hearing and Appeal Committee or its authorized agent has the power to call for the production of any documents and evidence, and to summon anyone under its jurisdiction to appear at any meeting relative to any matter, which comes to this Association for determination or investigation.

A fee, as stipulated by the Board of Directors and listed in the Fee Schedule of this Association's handbook, shall accompany all requests for a state hearing with the exception of any hearing involving misconduct toward or misconduct by game officials, as hereinafter provided. If the decision of the State Hearing and Appeal Committee is in favor of the one filing the charges, the fee shall be returned.

The hearing shall take place no earlier than twenty (20) days after receipt of notice by the person charged and not later than sixty (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 State Hearing and Appeal Committee in order to expedite a hearing, as practicable, to resolve a matter relating to a scheduled competition.

The State Hearing and Appeal Committee holds the jurisdiction for all original hearings under USSF Policy 531-9: Misconduct Toward Game Officials and USSF Policy 531-10: Misconduct of Game Officials of the United States Soccer Federation. When hearing a case of misconduct toward game officials or misconduct of game officials, the State Hearing and Appeal Committee shall adhere to procedures provided under the aforementioned USSF policies.

The request for a state hearing shall be made in written form and shall be filed with the Association's primary office. The State Hearing and Appeal Chairperson shall promptly provide a copy of the written charges to all parties in interest and shall set a date for a hearing which is as soon as practicable. The state hearing shall be confined to those charges contained in the written request for a hearing. If new charges are raised or discovered at said state hearing, the defendant(s) may exercise the right to have a separate hearing on those new charges.

Hearing requests submitted to the State Hearing and Appeal Committee may be assigned to the District Hearing and Appeal Committee in the district wherein charges arise, if the State Hearing and Appeal Committee finds said charges are not an appropriate issue for a state-level hearing.

The State Hearing and Appeal Chairperson shall prepare a written summary of the state hearing, detailing the charges, findings, and decisions taken in the case. The summary shall be distributed to all parties in interest.

ARTICLE III

APPEALS

Plaintiffs and defendants in every case that has been heard under the jurisdiction of this Association, shall have the right to appeal the decision of said hearing as provided herein. The Council or its authorized agent has the power to call for the production of any documents and evidence and to summon anyone under its jurisdiction to appear at any meeting relative to any matter, which comes to this Association for determination or investigation.

Section 1 Appeals to this Association - District Level

Each district shall form its own District Hearing and Appeal Committee, as needed, to hear all appeals within its jurisdiction not herein specified for hearing by the State Hearing and Appeal Committee. The District Hearing and Appeal Committee shall hear all

appeals of decisions rendered by this Association's affiliated members on charges of breach of USSF, US Youth Soccer and this Association's rules as brought forth by a properly registered member (player, coach, organization, league, club or official).

The District Hearing and Appeal Committee shall have jurisdiction to approve, modify or reverse a decision rendered by this Association's affiliated leagues.

The District Hearing and Appeal Committee shall consist of not less than three (3) members plus the chairperson. The Alternate District Commissioner shall chair said district appeals. Should the Alternate District Commissioner have a conflict of interest, or be otherwise unable to chair a district appeal, the President of the Association shall have the power to appoint a chairperson. The District Hearing and Appeal Committee or its authorized agent has the power to call for the production of any documents and evidence, and to summon anyone under its jurisdiction to appear at any meeting relative to any matter, which comes to this Association's district for determination or investigation.

A fee, as stipulated by the Board of Directors and listed in the Fee Schedule of this Association's handbook, shall accompany all requests for an appeal submitted to the District Hearing and Appeal Committee. If the decision of the District Hearing and Appeal Committee is in favor of the one filing the appeal, said fee shall be returned.

The request for a district appeal shall be made in written form, shall state clearly all the facts, procedures and decisions pertaining to the appeal and shall be filed with the Alternate District Commissioner in the district wherein appeal arises. A district appeal shall be filed within ten (10) days of the decision rendered by said affiliate. The Alternate District Commissioner shall promptly provide a copy of the written appeal to all parties in interest and shall set a date for the appeal which is as soon as practicable. The district appeal shall be confined to those charges contained in the written request for appeal.

A district appeal shall take place no earlier than twenty (20) days after receipt of notice by the opposing party and not later than sixty (60) days from such receipt so as to ensure that the opposing party has sufficient time to prepare a response. In emergency situations, these time periods may be shortened by the District Hearing and Appeal Committee in order to expedite an appeal, as practicable, to resolve a matter relating to a scheduled competition.

The effect of a decision against an appellant shall not be suspended during the process of the appeal to the District Hearing and Appeal Committee, unless so ordered by the Board of Directors.

A request for appeal submitted to the District Hearing and Appeal Committee may be assigned to the State Hearing and Appeal Committee, if the District Hearing And Appeal Committee finds said request is not an appropriate issue for a district-level appeal.

The District Hearing and Appeal Chairperson shall prepare a written summary of the appeal, detailing the charges, findings and decisions taken in the case. The summary shall be distributed to all parties in interest.

Section 2 **Appeals to this Association - State Level**

The State Hearing and Appeal Committee, which shall adjudicate in the form of a tribunal, shall be appointed by the President of the Association, as needed. Said committee shall consist of not less than three (3) members plus the chairperson. Unless there is a conflict of interest, a District Commissioner shall chair the appeal. Appointment of said committee shall be made in conjunction with the chairperson, and shall be approved by the Board of Directors. Appeals shall be held in the district of the appointed chairperson, whenever practicable, on behalf of the Association.

The State Hearing and Appeal Committee shall have jurisdiction to approve, modify or reverse a decision rendered by the District Hearing and Appeal Committee.

A fee, as stipulated by the Board of Directors and listed in the Fee Schedule of this Association's handbook, shall accompany all requests for an appeal submitted to the State Hearing and Appeal Committee. If the decision of the State Hearing and Appeal Committee is in favor of the one filing the appeal, said fee shall be returned.

An appeal of any decision rendered by the District Hearing and Appeal Committee shall be heard by the State Hearing and Appeal Committee, provided that the appeal is filed within ten (10*)* days of the decision rendered by the District Hearing and Appeal Committee. All appeals shall be made in written form, shall be filed with the Association's primary office and shall state clearly all the facts, procedures and decisions pertaining to the appeal. After receipt of written request for appeal, copies of said written appeal shall be forwarded to all parties in interest within ten (10*)* days by the chairperson of the State Hearing and Appeal Committee. The chairperson shall promptly set a date for the appeal which is as soon as practicable. Said appeal shall be confined to those charges contained in the written request for appeal.

The State Hearing and Appeal Committee or its authorized agent has the power to call for the production of any documents and evidence, and to summon anyone under its jurisdiction to appear at any meeting relative to any matter, which comes to this Association for determination or investigation.

A state appeal shall take place no earlier than twenty (20) days after receipt of notice by the opposing party and not later than sixty (60) days from such receipt so as to ensure that the opposing party has sufficient time to prepare a response. In emergency situations, these time periods may be shortened by the State Hearing and Appeal Committee in order to expedite an appeal, as practicable, to resolve a matter relating to a scheduled competition.

The effect of a decision against an appellant shall not be suspended during the process of the appeal to the State Hearing and Appeal Committee, unless so ordered by the Board of Directors.

A request for appeal submitted to the State Hearing And Appeal Committee may be assigned to the District Hearing and Appeal Committee in the district wherein appeal arises, if the State Hearing And Appeal Committee finds said request is not an appropriate issue for a state-level appeal.

The State Hearing and Appeal Chairperson shall prepare a written summary of the appeal, detailing the charges, findings and decisions taken in the case. The summary shall be distributed to all parties in interest.

Section 3 Appeals to the United States Soccer Federation

Any appellant not wholly satisfied with any decision rendered by this Association has the right of appeal to the USSF by following the procedures laid down by the USSF Bylaw 705.

Appeals shall include all grievances involving the right to participate and compete in activities sponsored by the USSF or this Association and its members. Decisions rendered by this Association may be appealed to the Appeals Committee of the USSF that shall have jurisdiction to approve, modify or reverse said decisions.

Section 4 Exhaustion of Remedies

No member of this Association, directors, officials, organizations, leagues, clubs, teams, players, coaches, administrators, trainers, or referees may invoke the aid of the courts in the United States or of a state without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organization, and as provided within this Association.

For a violation of this Article III Section 4, the offending party shall be subject to suspension and fines, and shall be liable to this Association for all expenses incurred by this Association and its officers and members of the Board of Directors in defending each court action, including but not limited to the following:

- **(a) court costs;**
- **(b) attorney's fees;**
- **(c) reasonable compensation for time spent by this Association's officials and employees in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances;**
- **(d) travel expenses; and**
- ***(e)* expenses for holding special Council meetings necessitated by court action.**

ARTICLE IV

RULES AND REVISIONS COMMITTEE

The President shall appoint a Rules and Revisions chairperson. The Board of Directors shall approve appointment of said Rules and Revisions chairperson. Said chairperson shall appoint a committee consisting of not less than one (1) representative from each district. Each district shall have one vote in this committee. The duty of the Rules and Revisions Committee shall be to examine all proposed rule changes and make recommendations to the Council. Said committee shall determine if the proposals are in order and do not conflict with the rules of the USSF, US Youth Soccer and this Association.

The Rules and Revisions Committee shall also be responsible for examining the Constitution and Bylaws of any new league, club, or organization applying for membership to this Association

The chairperson of this Association's Rules and Revisions Committee shall:

(a) provide, as directed, to the USSF and US Youth Soccer copies of this Association's Constitution, Bylaws, and other governing documents;
(b) submit changes of the aforementioned documents to the USSF and US Youth Soccer for approval not later than ninety (90) days after adoption;
(c) make copies of the aforementioned documents available to its members.

ARTICLE V

PENALTIES, DEBTS, AND ASSESSMENTS

Section 1 Responsibility of Players and Officials

Every properly registered member and official of a league, club or organization that is directly affiliated with this Association is a member thereof. Every member shall be held responsible for any breach of USSF, US Youth Soccer and this Association's rules committed by the league, club or organization with which said member is associated, provided that it can be shown that said member is connected with perpetration of the offense.

Section 2 Payment of Debts

A debt of any member league, club, organization, or individual which is owed to this Association shall be payable no later than seven (7) calendar days after the date that the sum is declared payable. After said seven (7) calendar days and upon written demand for payment, if a debt remains unpaid, the member league, club, organization or individual shall be in default of payment. When in default of payment, the debtor shall be suspended without further action. Upon full payment of debt, the debtor shall be reinstated.

Section 3 Assessment of Members

Upon recommendation of the Council or the Board of Directors, the Council, after a simple majority vote, shall have the power to assess each member league, club, or organization equally a sum not to exceed one hundred dollars ($100.00) per year. Said assessment shall be for one year.

ARTICLE VI

BENEFIT GAMES

This Association may participate in benefit games with affiliated teams within the state and/or with teams from other state associations and/or with visiting foreign teams, providing that the correct procedures are observed as directed by the USSF and US Youth Soccer. The Board of Directors of this Association shall have the power to set the dates in every season to stage matches for the benefit of this Association and/or for a worthwhile cause selected by the Board of Directors. On said dates of benefit games, all leagues, clubs, organizations and players under this Association's jurisdiction shall be permitted to maintain their regular schedules, unless expressly prohibited by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII

MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1 Courtesy of Meetings

Visitors may be granted the privilege to attend and/or speak at meetings at the discretion of the President.

Section 2 Review of Financial Records

The Treasurer shall review this Association's policies and procedures at the beginning of his/her term of office. The Treasurer shall also review the financial records of the Association, assisted by the Association's retained financial firm, at the beginning of his/her term of office. The Treasurer shall report findings of said reviews to the Board of Directors and, if necessary, the Council.

Section 3 Comity

This Association shall recognize suspensions and rulings of all organizations under the jurisdiction of the USSF and US Youth Soccer, when notified thereof.

Section 4 Players, Officials, and Spectators

Players, officials and spectators are permitted to take part in or to attend matches provided they observe the rules and policies of the USSF, US Youth Soccer, this Association, and its subordinate and affiliated organizations. Every league, club and organization is responsible to this Association for the conduct of its players, officials and spectators and

shall exercise every reasonable precaution against disturbance or disorderly conduct before, during and after every match.

Section 5 Jurisdiction of Members

Every league, club and organization shall have jurisdiction over its internal affairs, except as herein prescribed and as prescribed in this Association's Constitution and policies. When any league, club or organization suspends or lifts the suspension of any club, team or individual affiliated with it, notice thereof shall be sent to the District Commissioner of the district wherein league, club or organization abides, within forty-eight (48) hours of said action.

Section 6 Presentment of Claim

No manner of dispute or claim shall be recognized by this Association unless it is brought forward by a properly registered member of the league, club, organization or team with a viable interest in said dispute or claim.

Section 7 Extra-Territorial Cup Competitions

No member league, club or organization shall enter or take part in any cup competition outside the jurisdiction of this Association, without the express written approval of this Association's Board of Directors.

Section 8 Gambling

Gambling in any form on any US Youth Soccer or Missouri Youth Soccer game or any part thereof, at any place, is forbidden. Any MYSA member who violates this rule shall be suspended permanently. Any member of this Association who permits a violation of this Article VII Section 8 on or near its grounds, may have said grounds barred from further use.

Section 9 Referees

In all competitions under the jurisdiction of this Association, all referees must be registered with and be in good standing with the USSF.

Section 10 Dissolution

If this Association dissolves for any reason, its property and assets shall be held in abeyance, in the custody of one or several of the member leagues, clubs, and/or organizations as determined by the Council, for a period not to exceed one (1) year.

If during the aforementioned one (1) year time period, the leagues, clubs and/or organizations entrusted with custody of said property and assets form a new association, the

property and assets of this dissolved Association shall become the property and assets of the newly formed association.

If after one (1) year a new association has not been established, the property and assets held in abeyance shall become the holdings of the aforementioned leagues, clubs, and/or organizations unto which said property and assets have been entrusted. Said property and assets shall then be subdivided as a committee composed of delegates and/or alternate delegates from the concerned leagues, clubs, and/or organizations shall determine. Said committee shall be composed of a duly elected or appointed delegate and/or alternate delegate from each full member as so provided in Article VIII, Section 1 through Section 4 of this Association's Constitution.

Section 11 Code of Conduct

All participants, including players, spectators, coaches, and officials, in this Association's events, matches, practices, and meetings shall not involve themselves in conduct detrimental to youth or the sport of soccer. Such detrimental behavior may be the basis for suspension or revocation of membership and participation rights.

Section 12 Risk Management

This Association shall adopt policies prohibiting sexual and physical abuse. Said policies shall not be contrary to the Child Abuse and Neglect Law, Chapter 210, R.S.Mo. 1978 and its subsequent supplements or the Adult Abuse and Neglect Regulations covering the disabled of the Missouri Division of Aging.

ARTICLE VIII

REGISTRATION

Section 1 Seasonal Year

The seasonal year shall be from September 1st to August 31 of the following year.

Section 2 Applicability

All youth players, as defined by the USSF, and all persons who are the official coaches of record or acting coaches during competition, and all administrators and trainers shall be properly registered members of this Association. All registration forms used to register players, coaches, administrators and trainers shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 3 **Registration Rules and Procedures**

The rules and procedures for the registering of members with this Association and the construction of team rosters shall be provided in the registration section of this Association's handbook. Said rules and procedures for registration and construction of rosters shall be approved by this Association's Board of Directors and shall be in compliance with USSF and US Youth Soccer rules and policies.

Section 4 **State Registration Closing Date**

Each league, club, or organization that is a member of this Association shall submit their registrations to this Association as prescribed in the registration section of this Association's handbook. Final yearly registrations shall be submitted at the end of the current seasonal year, in order for said league, club or organization to have voting privileges at the following Annual General Meeting. Member leagues, clubs, or organizations may set a date in their season prior to the end of the aforementioned seasonal year when they shall cease to register players. Said date shall be provided in their Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 5 **Multiple Registration**

Youth players, as defined by the USSF, are allowed to play on more than one recreational team and on no more than two (2) competitive teams, as prescribed in the registration section of this Association's handbook.

ARTICLE IX

RULES OF PLAY

Except as herein provided, Federation International Football Association (FIFA) "Laws of the Game", USSF, US Youth Soccer and this Association's rules and policies shall apply to each competition played within the jurisdiction of this Association.

Section 1 **Modifications**

Member organizations may make modifications of the USSF, US Youth Soccer and this Association's playing rules, providing said modifications are confined to competition within that member organization's leagues and/or clubs and are in the interest of further promoting the game of soccer.

When a team enters into competition outside its league, club or organization, this Association's rules of play and USSF and US Youth Soccer rules and policies shall apply.

This Association's Hearing and Appeal Committees shall not hear protests or appeals arising from modification of this Association's rules of play and/or USSF and/or US

Youth Soccer rules and policies.

All leagues, clubs or organizations under this Association's jurisdiction shall play small-sided games up to and including Under 10 boys and girls, as prescribed in the registration section of this Association's handbook.

Section 2 Line-up Cards for Competitive Play

Each competitive team shall present the referee with a line up card prior to the start of each game. Said line-up cards shall be signed and dated by the manager and/or coach of record of said competitive team.

Line-up cards shall be the official records of players who have participated in a given game. Line-up cards shall list the starting line-up and the reserve players.

All players listed on the line-up card for a given game shall be considered to have played in said given game regardless of whether they actually played or not.

If the line-up card of a team is not filled out properly, a forfeit by said team may result as follows:

- **(a) If no shirt or player number is recorded on the line-up card, a forfeit may be called at the discretion of the league;**
- **(b) If a player is actually playing in a game and his/her name is not listed on the line-up card, the result shall be a forfeit;**
- **(c) If an ineligible player is listed on the line-up card (regardless of whether he/she actually played or not) the result shall be a forfeit.**

Section 3 Special Competitions

Certain modifications of the playing rules may be made for tournaments and exhibition matches played within the jurisdiction of this Association. Said modifications may be made without formal procedures of approval, providing:

- **(a) said modifications do not conflict with the approved Host Tournament Agreement and approved Tournament Playing Rules for said tournament or exhibition, and**
- **(b) said modifications do not affect the spirit and intent of the game, and**
- **(c) said modifications do not endanger the safety and well-being of the participants.**

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

Section 1 Vote Required

The Bylaws of this Association may be amended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting power of full members in good standing who are present at the Annual General Meeting. Votes of said members shall be cast by the properly registered delegate or alternate delegate, as set forth in this Association's Constitution.

Section 2 Who Can Make Amendments

Any proposals or motions to amend the Bylaws of this Association shall be made by full members of the Association who are in good standing, or by members of the Board of Directors of the Association.

Section 3 Advance Notice

Any proposals or motions to amend the Bylaws of this Association shall be made in writing and submitted to the Secretary of the Association sixty (60) days in advance of the Annual General Meeting. Said proposals or motions shall be sent in writing to each full and provisional member and to each member of the Board of Directors thirty (30) days in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

ARTICLE XI

STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing committees shall include but are not limited to the following:

Cup Committee	**MYSA Classic Committee**
Recreational Committee	**TOPSoccer Committee**
AGM Committee	**Rules and Revisions Committee**
Risk Management Committee	**Referee Committee**

Appointment of chairpersons for all standing committees shall be made by the President of the Association and approved by the Board of Directors.

No individual shall serve as chairperson for more than two (2) committees. The President of the Association may serve as an ex-officio member on all committees without the approval of the Board of Directors.