

**BYLAWS of the  
GANANDA BANDITS SOCCER CLUB**



***PART I — GENERAL***

**Bylaw 101. NAME**

This organization shall be known as the “Gananda Bandits Soccer Club”

**Bylaw 102. PURPOSES AND STATUS**

- (1) To foster, teach, and advance the game of soccer by developing, promoting and administering the game of soccer among youth boys and girls up to and including the age of 18.
- (2) To foster and encourage sportsmanship and leadership by all players and persons involved in the game of soccer.
- (3) To support the maximum participation of youth in our communities in the sport of soccer whether recreational, travel, premier or scholastic.

**Bylaw 103. DEFINITIONS**

- (1) “**GBSC**” or “**Club**” means the Gananda Bandits Soccer Club
- (2) “**Board**” or “**Board of Directors**” means the Board of Directors of GBSC established under Bylaw 302.
- (3) “**Federation**” or “**USSF**” means the United States Soccer Federation, Inc.
- (4) “**FIFA**” means the Federation Internationale de Football Association of which the Federation is the national association member for the United States.
- (5) “**Member**” or “**Individual Member**” means an individual who is a member of GBSC as provided under Bylaw 201.

(6) “**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 seasonal year is allowed to complete that seasonal year.

(7) “**NYSWYSA**” means the New York State West Youth Soccer Association.

(8) “**WFLYSL**” means the Wayne Finger Lakes Youth Soccer League, Inc.

#### **Bylaw 104. LAWS OF THE GAME**

The “Laws of the Game” as authorized by FIFA, and modified for youth play, apply to all youth soccer games.

#### **Bylaw 105. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

GBSC shall provide an equal opportunity to athletes, coaches, managers, administrators and officials to participate in youth soccer competitions as well as to those serving on the Board of Directors or any committee of GBSC without regard to that individual’s race, color, religion, national origin or sex.

#### **Bylaw 106. SEASONAL AND FISCAL YEARS**

The seasonal year and fiscal year of GBSC each begin on September 1<sup>st</sup> of one calendar year and end on August 31<sup>st</sup> of the following calendar year.

#### **Bylaw 107. USE OF NAME AND LOGO AND COLORS**

The Board of Directors may adopt insignia, uniform styles, colors, emblems and flags for the GBSC as it deems suitable.

#### **Bylaw 108. SCHOLARSHIPS**

On a first-come-first serve basis, and as agreed upon by the Board, one scholarship per team per season may be awarded. The scholarship will result in the waiving of the registration fee for that season. The player or player’s parent / guardian will be required to volunteer their time towards the GBSC, as determined by the Board.

## ***PART II — MEMBERSHIP***

#### **Bylaw 201. ELIGIBILITY**

A member is defined as a parent or guardian of a player currently playing for a GBSC team. A coach or manager is a member also, if not already by nature of being a parent or guardian of a player. All members of the GBSC must be at least 21 years of age as of the date of registration. Membership in GBSC is not transferable or assignable. Membership terminates when GBSC dissolves, upon the Member’s death, or as provided under these bylaws.

#### **Bylaw 202. TERMINATIONS**

The membership of any member shall be terminated upon death, or the member’s written request for termination delivered to the president or secretary of the association, or upon the member’s expulsion by the Board. On termination of membership, any right, title, or interest of the member in or to the property and assets of the association shall cease.

### **Bylaw 203. SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS**

**Section 1.** Any member may be suspended or expelled from the GBSC for willful infractions of the GBSC rules or of any bylaw, or for acts of conduct that the Board may deem disorderly, injurious, or hostile to the interests or objectives of the GBSC. The Board must give notice to such offending member of the proceedings against him or her and he or she is provided an opportunity to be heard in their own defense. No person who has been expelled from the Club may have a new membership considered for a period of less than two (2) years. Reinstatement must go before the Executive Board.

**Section 2.** Proceedings under this section shall be initiated by resolution of the Board or on complaint against any member signed by ten (10) other members and filed with the Secretary. On adoption of the resolution or receipt of the complaint, as the case may be, the Board shall schedule the matter to be heard at the first regular, or a special, meeting of the Board. The secretary shall deliver to the accused member, at least five (5) days prior to the date of the hearing, a copy of the time and place of hearing.

**Section 3.** The President shall preside at such hearing and shall read the charges against the accused member. Such member shall be allowed to make a statement in his or her own behalf, question opposing witnesses, and call witnesses on his or her own behalf.

**Section 4.** The Board may, by the affirmative vote of a majority of its members, request the offending member to resign or may suspend or expel the member. Should he or she decline to resign following such request, the Board shall strike the member's name from the rolls.

### **Bylaw 204. REINSTATEMENT**

A suspended member of GBSC may submit a written request for reinstatement. The Board of Directors may reinstate the membership of a suspended member on reasonable terms that the Board considers appropriate.

## ***PART III —BOARD OF DIRECTOR POSITIONS***

### **Bylaw 301. COMPOSITION AND GENERAL AUTHORITY**

**Section 1.** (a) GBSC has a Board of Directors. The Board is composed of the President, Immediate Past President (as provided by section 3 of this bylaw), Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and no more than seven (7) additional delegates-at-large, each of whom shall be at least 21 years of age. Each member of the Board of Directors has one vote.

**Section 2.** Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, the Board of Directors shall—

(1) manage the affairs of GBSC.

(2) enforce the bylaws, rules, policies, and procedures of GBSC.

**Section 3.** The Immediate Past President of GBSC, at their option, shall serve a 1-year term on the Board of Directors on the expiration of the individual's term as President. An individual removed as President or Immediate Past President under Bylaw 304 is not a member of the Board of Directors, and the position of Immediate Past President remains vacant on the Board.

### **Bylaw 302. ELECTIONS**

**Section 1.** The term of all Board members shall be two years, with the term commencing on January 1 and ending on December 31. The President and Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years, and the Vice President, Secretary and any delegates-at-large shall be elected in odd-numbered years, during the Annual Meeting.

**Section 2.** There shall be no limit on the number of terms which any Member may serve.

**Section 3.** The Vice President, or in his/her absence, such person as designated by the President, shall supervise the election of the Board held at the Annual Meeting. All votes are to be cast on an official ballot prepared by the Vice President. A plurality of votes cast by present Members will be required to elect. Vacancies occurring on the Board will be filled until the next annual election by vote of the remaining members of the Board.

### **Bylaw 303. ANNUAL MEETINGS**

The Annual Meeting of the GBSC for the election of the members of the Board and the transaction of the general business of the Club shall be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of September at a time and place to be determined by the current Board of Directors. Notice of the Annual Meeting, including starting time, location and agenda shall be communicated to the membership no less than ten days in advance thereof.

### **Bylaw 304. REGULAR MEETINGS**

**Section 1.** The Board of Directors shall hold monthly meetings during the year. The Board shall establish the time, place, and location of the meetings. Written notice of a regular meeting must be given at least seven days before the date of the meeting. The President shall set the agenda for all regular meetings.

**Section 2.** (a) The Board of Directors may hold special meetings called at the request of the President of GBSC or by a majority of the Board of Directors. The request shall state the business items to be considered at the special meeting. No other items may be considered.

(b) Notice of a special meeting shall be provided to all members of the Board of Directors not less than seven nor more than 20 days before the date of the meeting.

**Section 3.** Proxies are not permitted at meetings of the Board of Directors.

**Section 4.** Any member of the Board who is absent from three consecutive meetings without justifiable excuse may be removed from the Board and any office held by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board.

### **Bylaw 305. SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**Section 1.** Subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, the President of GBSC may establish special committees, appoint the members and chairman of each of those committees, and prescribe the responsibilities of each.

**Section 2.** No member of a committee may receive compensation (except reimbursement for expenses) for services performed as a committee member.

### **Bylaw 306. DESIGNATION OF COACHES**

The Board shall have the authority by simple majority vote to select Coaches based upon their demonstrated skills, abilities and compatibility with the objectives of GBSC. Coaches may also be removed by majority vote as the result of a violation of the GBSC rules or of any bylaw, or for acts of conduct that the Board may deem disorderly, injurious or hostile to the interests or objectives of the GBSC. The Board must give notice to such offending Coach of the proceedings against him/her so that he/she is provided an opportunity to be heard in their own defense.

### **Bylaw 307. SELECTION OF TEAMS**

The Board shall have the authority by simple majority vote to determine each year, how many teams the club will field.

### **Bylaw 308. QUORUM**

A simple majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business or of any specified item of business.

## ***PART IV — OFFICER POSITIONS***

### **Bylaw 401. OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The officers of GBSC are the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

### **Bylaw 402. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The President of GBSC shall—

- (1) be the chief executive officer of GBSC;
- (2) administer the affairs of GBSC with the concurrence of the Board of Directors;
- (3) establish GBSC committees and make committee appointments as provided by Bylaw 305; and
- (4) perform other responsibilities assigned by the Board of Directors.

**Section 2.** The Vice President of GBSC shall—

- (1) assist the President of GBSC;
- (2) assume the responsibilities of the President when the President is absent, cannot act, or refuses to act; and
- (3) perform other responsibilities assigned by the Board of Directors or the President.

**Section 3.** The Secretary of GBSC shall—

- (1) give proper notice of all GBSC meetings;
- (2) record the minutes of all meetings, keep records of those present and supervise correspondence;
- (3) be responsible for past minutes and submitting copies of the minutes to the Board before the next meeting (Board minutes will be made available to Members of GBSC after being accepted by the Board);
- (4) ensure the proper custody of the records of GBSC and maintain a copy of current Bylaws at all meetings;
- (5) ensure that a record is kept of the name and address and other information of each Member, Director and Officer of GBSC; and
- (6) perform other responsibilities assigned by the Board of Directors or the President.

**Section 4.** The Treasurer of GBSC shall—

- (1) collect all dues and registration fees and be responsible for the deposits of all monies of the Club in a bank account authorized by the Board;
- (2) keep detailed accounts of the income and expenditures of the Club;
- (3) oversee the preparation of financial statements on an annual basis and send them to all State Associations after the end of the reporting period, with additional statements being prepared as directed by the Board of Directors;
- (4) assist the Board of Directors in reviewing a proposed annual budget for GBSC;
- (5) prepare papers regarding the tax exempt status of GBSC, if applicable;
- (6) be bonded unless this requirement is waived by the Club;
- (7) be responsible for insurance coverage; and
- (8) perform other responsibilities assigned by the Board of Directors or the President.

### **Bylaw 403. REMOVAL**

Any officer referred to in Bylaw 401, or the Immediate Past President when serving as a member of the Board of Directors, may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the members entitled to vote for that office.

### **Bylaw 404. VACANCIES**

**Section 1.** If the office of President of GBSC becomes vacant for any reason, the Vice President shall become the President of GBSC for the balance of the term.

**Section 2.** If the office of Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer of GBSC becomes vacant for any reason, the remaining members of the Board of Directors shall elect an individual to the office or position to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting.

### **Bylaw 405. RESTRICTIONS**

No officer referred to in Bylaw 301 may receive compensation (except for reimbursement for expenses) for services as an officer.

## ***PART V — ADMINISTRATIVE***

### **Bylaw 501. FISCAL YEAR BUDGET**

The Board of Directors shall prepare a proposed budget for GBSC for the next fiscal year.

### **Bylaw 502. ACCOUNTS, BOOKS, AND RECORDS**

**Section 1.** GBSC shall maintain adequate and correct accounts, books, and records of its business and properties. All of those accounts, books, and records shall be kept by the Treasurer.

**Section 2.** All accounts, books, and records of GBSC are open for inspection by members of the Board of Directors and members of GBSC.

**Section 3.** Contracts and formal documents will be signed by two Officers of the Club, or by two members whom the Board shall designate.

### **Bylaw 503. MANAGEMENT OF GBSC PROPERTY**

Property of the Club may be used in accordance with the directions of the Board. The Board shall not incur any debt or liability, or any combination of debts or liabilities, exceeding the net assets of the association. All disbursements of Club funds shall be by check which shall be signed by the Treasurer or either the President, or the Vice-President. Any check exceeding \$1,000 shall require a signed check request by the Club President.

### **Bylaw 504. INDEMNIFICATION**

**Section 1.** GBSC shall indemnify each of its present or former directors, officers, employees, or official representatives, or any person who is or was serving another entity in any capacity at the request of GBSC, against all expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the person (including judgments, costs, and counsel fees) in connection with the defense of any pending or threatened litigation to which that person is, or is threatened to be made, a party because that person is or was serving in such a capacity. This right of indemnification may also apply to expenses of litigation which is compromised or settled, including amounts paid in settlement, if GBSC approves the settlement as provided in section 2 of this bylaw. Such a person shall be indemnified if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of GBSC. The termination of any litigation by judgment, order,

settlement, conviction, or plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith or in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of GBSC.

**Section 2.** Any amount payable as indemnification under this bylaw may be paid by GBSC on a determination by the Board of Directors, not including those members who have incurred expenses in connection with the litigation for which indemnification is sought, that the person in question met the standard of conduct provided for under section 1 of this bylaw.

**Section 3.** Any expenses incurred by a qualified person in connection with the defense of any litigation may be paid by GBSC in advance of a final disposition of the litigation on receipt of a written commitment by that person to repay the amount advanced if it is determined under section 2 of this bylaw that that person is not entitled to indemnification under this bylaw.

**Section 4.** The Board of Directors may authorize the purchase of insurance on behalf of any person that may potentially be indemnified under this bylaw. That insurance may include indemnification for those persons for expenses of a kind not subject to indemnification under this bylaw.

### **Bylaw 505. AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.** The Bylaws shall be reviewed on a regular basis at least every 2 years. The committee shall be chaired by a person appointed by the President and shall additionally consist of a minimum of two other members, but limited to a total maximum of five members.

**Section 2.** The Bylaws may be amended, repealed or altered in whole or in part by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at any board meeting. A notice of at least one week must be given prior to the board meeting at which the amendment(s) will be voted on. Unless otherwise provided, any amendment to the bylaws of GBSC is effective immediately after the amendment is adopted.

### **Bylaw 506. DISSOLUTION**

This Club may be dissolved by the vote of a simple majority of its members. In the event of dissolution, transfer to the New York State West Youth Soccer Association shall distribute the property of the association, or to other such non-profit organizations as the Board shall determine by resolution.

## ***PART VI — GRIEVANCES, DISPUTES AND APPEALS***

### **Bylaw 601. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

**Section 1.** Each Member shall have grievances, disputes and appeals provisions in its bylaws, rules, or other document that clearly states the procedures under which adjudication of appeals and other disciplinary matters shall occur.

**Section 2.** If a Member does not have those procedures required by section 1 of this bylaw, the following procedures apply:

- (1) All parties are entitled to a hearing with proper notification.
- (2) Once a grievance, dispute, or appeal has been properly filed, the chairman of the appropriate entity of the Organization Member shall notify all involved parties within five days of receipt of the grievance, dispute, or appeal, the nature of the grievance, dispute, or appeal, the names of all parties, a copy of the grievance, dispute, or appeal, and the date, time, and place of the hearing.
- (3) The conduct of the hearing shall be as determined by the rules of the Organization Member.
- (4) A written record (called the official record) shall be kept of the proceedings.

- (5) A written notification of the decision shall be sent to all involved parties within seven days of the hearing. This notice shall be sent by certified mail.
- (6) All hearings shall be scheduled to be held within 30 days.

### **Bylaw 602. RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES**

**Section 1.** A dispute between or among Organization Members shall be resolved by a special commission of the Board of Directors as follows:

- (1) Any Organization Member involved in a dispute between or among Organization Members shall submit a written petition to the Board of Directors for the resolution of the dispute.
- (2) Within 30 days of receiving the petition, the President of GBSC, in consultation with the Board of Directors, shall appoint a special commission composed of 3 or 5 members.
- (3) Each special commission may prescribe appropriate procedures for resolving the dispute, except that a hearing shall be conducted within 90 days of receipt of the petition, and a written decision or resolution shall be issued within 120 days of receipt of the petition.
- (4) The decision of the special commission is final and binding on all parties.
- (5) The President may require the disputing parties to participate in mediation before the appointment of the special commission, in which case the deadlines provided in paragraph (3) are extended by not more than 30 days.

**Section 2.** With respect to all other disputes, GBSC—

- (1) favors the resolution of disputes through mediation whenever possible;
- (2) shall provide for the prompt resolution of disputes; and
- (3) shall prescribe policies to carry out this section.

### **Bylaw 603. EXHAUSTION OF REMEDIES**

**Section 1.** No Member of GBSC, official, league, club, team, player, coach, administrator or referee may invoke the aid of the courts of the United States or of a state without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organizations, and as provided within GBSC.

**Section 2.** For a violation of this bylaw, the offending party shall be subject to suspension and fines, and shall be liable to GBSC for all expenses incurred by GBSC and its officers and members of the Board of Directors in defending each court action, including the following:

- (1) court costs;
- (2) attorney's fees;
- (3) reasonable compensation for time spent by GBSC officials and employees in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances;
- (4) travel expenses; and
- (5) expenses for holding special National Council meetings necessitated by court action.