

Metropolitan DC-Virginia Soccer Association

BYLAWS

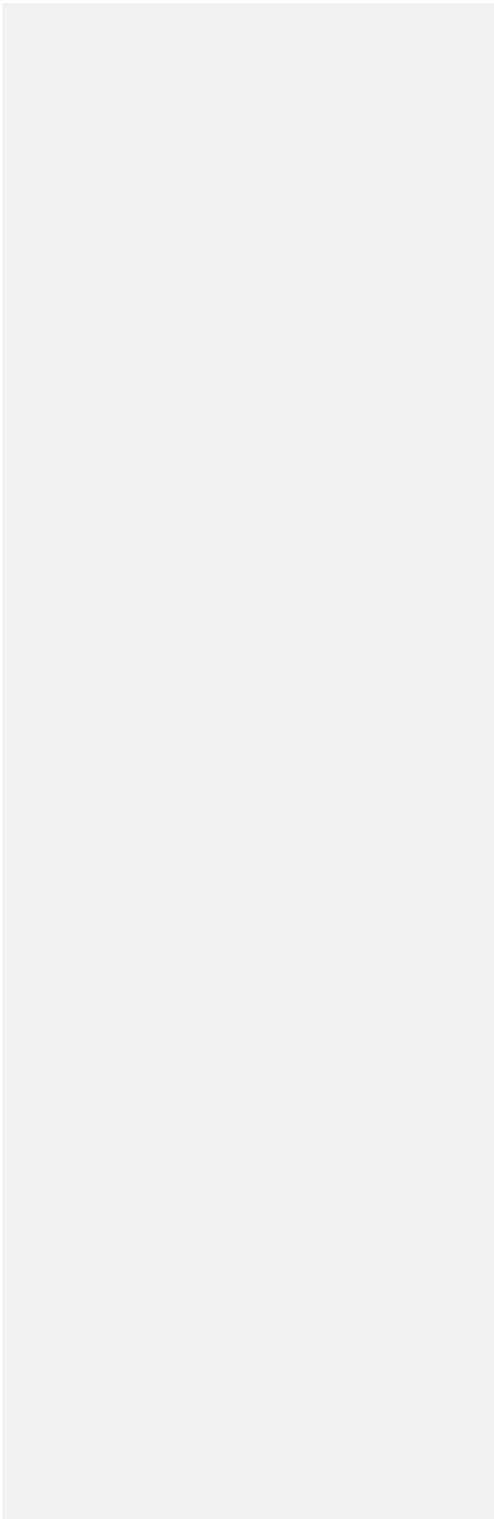


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Revision History

Date of Change	Summary of Change
09/18/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modified language regarding 'Annual Affiliation Fees'
01/07/06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed Executive Secretary Modified vote calculation algorithm
01/31/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added definitions Modified player pass requirement
01/31/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All modifications approved/accepted by the Council
03/05/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modifications proposed to ensure compliance with USASA (registration data)
03/21/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All modifications identified on 03/05/09 approved/accepted by the Council
3/10/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added conference calls and reduced the number of meetings to two
8/28/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modifications identified on 08/28/13 approved/accepted by the Council
1/11/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modified language regarding 'Annual Affiliation Fees'
1/20/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modified identified on 1/20/2016 approved/accepted by Council

The Metropolitan DC-Virginia Soccer Association (MDCVSA) shall be affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation, Incorporated (USSF) from which it shall derive its authority as the governing body for soccer in its defined territory, and shall at all times recognize the authority and rulings of said body. Affiliation with USSF will confer affiliation with the Fédération de Football Association (FIFA).

MDCVSA may be a member of other organizations, provided such membership is approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Council.

- Official colors: red, white, blue.
- Official slogan: "Soccer... Your Game for Life"
- Laws of the Game
- Robert's Rules of Order: Except as noted otherwise provided in these Bylaws, all MDCVSA meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the latest authorized edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

I. Membership

A. Any organization desiring to become a member of MDCVSA shall submit a written application for membership to the President. The applicant shall include with the application copies of its charter or articles of incorporation, bylaws, rules, regulations, any rules of play, and other governing documents appropriate to understanding the structure and activities of the organization.

B. The President shall refer an application for an Organizational Member to the Executive Committee for consideration. The Executive Committee may reject the application until the application and accompanying documents are changed to comply with the requirements of MDCVSA and USSF.

C. An applicant may be admitted as an Organizational Member by majority vote of the Council.

D. The Executive Committee may provisionally recognize an applicant as an Organizational Member pending a report from the President that the organization's application and accompanying documents comply with the requirements of MDCVSA and USSF.

II. General Responsibilities

A. MDCVSA

The following provisions take precedence over and supersede any provisions entered herein to the contrary.

- MDCVSA and its Organizational Members will abide by the USSF Federation's articles.

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1. MDCVSA and its Organizational Members, shall be open to any soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials not subject to suspension under section 4 of the USSF, Bylaw 241, and to any amateur soccer organization in its territory.
2. MDCVSA, will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender identity, or national origin.
3. USSF, articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, and requirements take precedence over and supersede MDCVSA's and its Organizational Members', governing documents and decisions to the extent applicable under state laws.

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4. MDCVSA will not join any organization that has requirements that conflict with USSF's articles, bylaws, policies and requirements.
5. MDCVSA shall register all of its players, coaches, teams, referees, and administrators with USSF, at least once each year and timely pay all USSF dues and fees.
6. MDCVSA shall have an Executive Committee selected through an open and democratic election process.
7. Actions and policies adopted by the Executive Committee or MDCVSA officers shall be reported to its membership, or their authorized representatives, at least once each year at a MDCVSA membership meeting, with notice and agenda of the meeting at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the meeting.
8. MDCVSA shall provide to the USSF Secretary General an annual report on MDCVSA's activities and most current annual financial statements within 90 days after the start of the USSF 's seasonal year.
9. MDCVSA will:
 - A. provide annually to USSF copies of MDCVSA's constitution, bylaws, and other governing documents,
 - B. submit changes to those documents to USSF for approval not later than 90 days after adoption, and
 - C. makes copies of those documents available to its members.
10. MDCVSA will provide equitable and prompt hearing and appeal procedures to guarantee the rights of individuals to participate and compete. procedures shall include all grievances involving the right to participate and compete in activities sponsored by USSF and MDCVSA and its Organizational members may be appealed to USSF's Appeals Committee that shall have jurisdiction to approve, modify, or reverse a decision.
11. MDCVSA shall maintain its tax -exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code.
12. MDCVSA shall adopt policies prohibiting sexual and physical abuse that meet certain minimum criteria established by USSF, (subject to any contrary requirements contained in state or local law applicable to the MDCVSA).
13. MDCVSA will allow USSF to review MDCVSA's documents and procedures on request of USSF, not less than once every 4 years, to determine compliance with these bylaws.

B. Council

1. The Council shall be MDCVSA's administrative unit and will have responsibilities specified by these Bylaws, MDCVSA Constitution, and Executive Committee.
2. The Council shall meet annually, and such meeting shall be open to all MDCVSA Organizational Members. All Organizational Members in good standing have a right to speak but only the Organizational Members, designated Executive Committee members, and Delegates-at-Large may vote at the meeting.

C. Organizational Member

Each Organizational Member must do the following:

1. Comply with all bylaws, policies, and requirements of MDCVSA and USSF, to the extent applicable to that classification of Organizational Member.
2. Submit to MDCVSA any amendment to its charter or articles of incorporation, bylaws, rules, and regulations not later than ninety (90) days after adoption of that amendment.
3. Pay fees and provide registration information to MDCVSA by the established deadlines.

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4. Comply with the Amateur Sports Act, to the extent applicable.

1. MDCVSA Organizational Membership may consist of:

- a. Affiliated soccer leagues; or
- b. Individual soccer teams that are permitted to affiliate directly with MDCVSA.

5. Any soccer league composed of four or more soccer teams properly constituted and playing soccer according to the Laws of the Game as promulgated by FIFA and USSF, having its headquarters in the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Virginia, and registering its players according to USSF and MDCVSA procedures, shall be eligible to become an Organizational Member with all the rights and privileges thereof.

6. Any club or team fulfilling the conditions enumerated in (1), above, may apply to affiliate directly with MDCVSA. The Council shall decide whether the Organizational Member or team has adequate reason to do so, and shall, if it admits it to affiliation, establish bylaws and procedures to deal with it.

7. Every Organizational Member, promulgating a governing document to establish the manner in which it performs its functions and regulates the behavior of components and individuals shall submit said document to the Executive Committee for its approval, rejection, or approval subject to modification. The provisions of said document must not be in conflict with the Laws of the Game or other governing documents of superior bodies.

8. The application of a soccer league for Organizational Membership, must be accompanied by, annual fee, registration fees for all leagues' players, registration data for every player in an electronic format, and names, addresses, and communication method of the officers of the league, location of the headquarters, and rationale for consideration of the league for affiliation.

9. Each Organizational Member, shall submit names, addresses, and communication method of its officers and of its designated representatives to the Council at the beginning of each seasonal year and shall notify MDCVSA of any subsequent changes.

10. Any league, club, or team with headquarters in the District of Columbia or Commonwealth of Virginia but not affiliating with either MDCVSA or a neighboring State Association shall be deemed to be unaffiliated. Neither MDCVSA nor any of its components shall be obliged to bestow on such unaffiliated entities the benefits and courtesies that accompany affiliation.

D. Individual Members

- 1. Any individual including any athlete, trainer, manager, administrator, and official active in soccer in the United States may become an Individual Member of MDCVSA. The Executive Committee shall prescribe procedures for becoming an Individual Member and the dues and benefits of membership.
- 2. an Individual Member shall have no voting or other representational rights in MDCVSA.

III. Seasonal Year

MDCVSA's seasonal and fiscal year begins on January 1 and ends on December 31.

IV. Definitions

Except as otherwise provided, the following definitions apply to these *Bylaws* and all policies of MDCVSA:

A. Amateur Sports Act	The Ted Stevens Olympic and Am Act (chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code).
B. Club	An organization of one or more soccer teams usually playing within a geographic area.

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C. Council	The Council of MDCVSA as provided under <i>Bylaws</i> .
D. Executive Committee	The Executive Committee of the Association established under these <i>Bylaws</i> .
E. Federation	The United States Soccer Federation, Inc.
F. FIFA	The Fédération Internationale de Football Association of which the Federation is the national association member for the United States.
G. Foreign Game	Any games between a United States and a non-United States team (or 2 or more non-United States teams when the game is played in the United States) that is not an international game.
H. In Good Standing	An Organizational Member who has submitted all registration data and paid all fees in a timely manner. [Amended 01/31/09]
I. Individual Sustaining Member	An individual who is a member as provided under <i>Bylaws</i> .
J. International Game	A game arranged between the teams of the Federation and another FIFA national association or a team composed of players of more than one FIFA national association.
K. National Cups	Those Cups provided for under the USASA policy on National Cups competitions.
L. Player	An individual playing on a team that is an Organizational Member of the Association. [Amended 01/31/09]
M. Registration Data [added 03/21/09; amended 8/28/2013]	Last Name First Name and Middle Initial (if commonly used). For players using their middle name, provide first name <u>and</u> middle name Street Address (including apartment numbers, suites, etc.) City State Code Zip: 5 digit zip code is sufficient Date of Birth (DOB): in mm/dd/yy format Sex: F(emale) or M(ale) Email Address Any other information required by USASA
N. State Association	The administrative body within a territory determined by the National Council to carry out USASA's programs for adult players.
O. Team	A group of soccer players playing on the same side in soccer games.
P. USASA	The United States Adult Soccer Association, Incorporated.
Q. USOC	The United States Olympic Committee that is the corporation established under the Amateur Sports Act to oversee all amateur athletic activity in the United States.
R. Youth Player	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 season year, and b. August of one seasonal year is allowed to complete all of that seasonal year.

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Definitions¶
Except as otherwise provided, the following definitions apply to these *Bylaws* and all policies of this Association:¶
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IV. Annual Affiliation Fees

A. Each Organizational Member shall pay MDCVSA annual fees recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by the Council by majority vote. These fees may include annual membership fees, team fees, player registration fees, and any other fees the Council deems necessary.

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A. A Organizational Member, that has not paid its fees or provided registration data by established deadlines shall be considered delinquent and will have no voice or vote at any Council meetings and may lose all benefits. The Executive Committee may establish a registration fee structure that encourages the use of online registration and the early submission of registration data. The registration fee structure may provide for different fees for online registration, early bird registration, regular registration, and late registration. Punitive actions, such as fines or notification of loss of liability and participant accident insurance coverage may be imposed, subject to the notification of the Organizational Member(s) and majority vote by the Executive Committee. Punitive actions will not be imposed on delinquent Organizational Members(s) without a one-week notification period by the Executive Committee.

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B. Organizational Members must report their seasons and start dates for each season to the MDCVSA **Administrator**, by September 15 of each calendar year, along with payment of the annual affiliation fee. Online registration is available for all **Organizational Members**, to use and allows individual players to register for themselves directly with **MDCVSA**. All new **Organizational Members** affiliating with **MDCVSA**, after September 1, 2013 and all guest player registrations are required to use online registration. For **Organizational Members** not using online registration, general registrations, payments, and submission of electronic data must be sent within one month of each season start date, unless registrations are needed earlier because a player or team is competing in a USSF/USASA affiliated tournament or cup.

C. All Organizational Member's players must be registered with **MDCVSA** (and all fees paid) not later than thirty days after the player first plays in a match with the **Organizational Member**.

V. Standing Committees

A. The Executive Committee: shall be composed of **MDCVSA** officers; shall constitute the leadership and conduct the affairs of **MDCVSA** between **Council** meetings; shall submit to the Council a complete and faithful account of all activities, decisions, and plans since the previous meeting; shall be guided by the sentiment of the Council as expressed by votes or other written communications; shall prepare a budget to be presented at the **AGM**; shall serve as the initial review board for activities by member leagues and teams that may be detrimental to the objectives and activities of **MDCVSA**, and may levy fines and other penalties in accordance with USSF Bylaws and **MDCVSA** Bylaws concerning abuse or assaults on referees; shall initiate or support activities designed to benefit members of **MDCVSA**, including, but not limited to, coaching clinics, cup competitions, referee clinics, select teams, and other soccer events.

B. The Audit Committee: shall be composed of the Chairperson and an even number of other persons appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Council; shall conduct a book review of the Treasurer's records once a seasonal year from original documents; and, shall submit a written report of its findings to the Council once a seasonal year. In lieu of an Audit Committee, the Council may decide that **MDCVSA's** records may be book reviewed by a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) of an accounting firm.

C. In the event that it is not feasible to form any of the above committees, the duties of said committees may be assumed by the Executive Committee or by any other committee or individual the President may designate with the approval of the Council.

VI. Quorum

A quorum of the Council is more than 50% of the total number of votes to be cast and present or their proxies for the **AGM** in August of each year. For all other meetings, the quorum of the Council is 40% of more of the total number of votes to be cast and present or their proxies.

VII. Regular Meetings

A. Meetings may be held via telephone or video conference at the discretion of the Executive **Committee**, as long as such a meeting is conducted by a technology that allows all persons participating to hear each other simultaneously.

B. The Council shall meet at least two (2) times a seasonal year. Executive Council and Board members may participate in a meeting of the **council** by means of a telephone or video conference or by

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The Registration Committee: shall be composed of the Registrar, who shall be Chairperson, any league appointed or elected registrars, and other persons appointed by the President who shall assist the Registrar in duties of the office.¶
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any means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting are able to communicate with one another and such participation shall constitute presence at the meeting.

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C. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held in August of each year.

D. MDCVSA Members shall be given at least thirty (30) days notice of all regular meetings by electronic communication followed by and posting of a notice on the MDCVSA's website. Minutes of the previous meeting will be sent by electronic communication at least fifteen (15) days prior to the next scheduled meeting, and then posted on MDCVSA's website.

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E. A majority of all votes cast shall decide all questions except amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and the removal of officers. In computing what constitutes a majority, the total number of votes by voting and present members or their proxy cast.

F. The courtesy of the floor may be extended to any interested party at the discretion of the President with the approval of the Council.

VIII. Special Meetings

MDCVSA Special meetings may be called at the request of the President or at the written request of a majority of the members of the Council no earlier than forty-eight (48) hours nor later than fourteen (14) days after receipt of such request.

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IX. Amendments and Rules of the Council

A. Proposal amendments to MDCVSA's Constitution or Bylaws may be made only by MDCVSA members in good standing or by an officer of the Executive Committee.

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B. Proposed amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws shall be made at the AGM or at a special meeting of the Council called for that purpose. A two-thirds majority vote shall be required for passage of an amendment to MDCVSA's Constitution or Bylaws.

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C. The Recording Secretary shall call for any such proposed changes at least thirty days prior to the meeting at which they are to be considered. The Recording Secretary shall circulate any proposed amendments or revisions by electronic communication at least fifteen (15) days before any such meeting.

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X. Order of Business

The customary order of business for Council meetings shall be:

A. Roll Call

B. Credentials

C. Minutes of the previous meeting

D. Election of Officers (except at AGM)

E. Treasurer's report/Financial matters

F. Referee report/Officiating matters

G. Communications

H. Committee reports

I. Delegates reports

J. Unfinished business

K. New business

L. Good of the game

M. Adjournment

The election of officers at the AGM shall occur towards the end of the meeting.

In order to facilitate the conduct of business, the President, shall permit business to be taken up by topic if strict adherence to the order of business would, lead to inefficient, ineffective, or time-consuming consideration of a topic.

XI. Channel of Communication

A. The principal channel of communication is the President or as the President delegates to MDCVSA's Administrative Staff. Other officers may conduct the correspondence related to their specific duties. The President may engage in correspondence on any matter.

B. Communications shall normally be in writing, transmitted by mail or electronically, or posted on MDCVSA's website in a conspicuous location. Concise announcements may be made at Council meetings. Written confirmation should follow significant verbal communication.

C. An individual shall be deemed to have been notified on receipt of mailed copy of a written communication, or, in case of a concise verbal announcement at a meeting, if the individual is present at said meeting. An Organizational Member shall be deemed to have been notified if its President, Secretary, or other person who regularly corresponds for and on behalf of the Organizational Member, receives a written communication.

XII. Indemnification and Insurance

All organizational members, leagues and officers shall be covered by liability and player medical insurance as determined by MDCVSA.

XIII. The Authority of MDCVSA

In situations where the provisions of various governing documents are in conflict, the Executive Committee shall have the power and the responsibility to interpret how rules should be applied, or, when no preexisting rules appear to be applicable, to establish ad hoc rules. In situations where it is unclear who has the authority to act on behalf of the Association or the Executive Committee, the President will have the power and the responsibility to act on behalf of MDCVSA or the Executive Committee.

A. The Rights and Duties of Organizational Members

1. All Organizational Members shall be empowered and required to enforce the Constitution and Bylaws of USSF, this Constitution and Bylaws, and all other rules, regulations, procedures, and directives promulgated by the aforementioned soccer bodies and their components. Variations in playing rules cited above may be approved by an Organizational Member, but the Council may, by majority vote, negate such changes.

2. All Organizational Members shall submit to MDCVSA electronically the required registration data (as defined in Section IV.M of this document) for Organizational Members, officers, captains, representatives, and players, and

1. the appropriate fees not later than thirty (30) days after the start of each season.

For those Organizational Members using MDCVSA online registration, the MDCVSA Administrator will reconcile the player data collected by MDCVSA with that information submitted by the Organizational Member.

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3. All Organizational Members shall be empowered and required to deal with misconduct on the part of member teams, individual players, team, club officers, and supporters, except for verbal abuse and or assault of officials.

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4. All Organizational Members shall have an affirmative responsibility to take precautions to prevent abuse or assaults on or threats of abuse and assault of officials, members of opposing clubs, and bystanders. The fact of a violation being clearly the responsibility of an individual team shall not relieve the league from liability to administrative action by MDCVSA and may subject it to punitive action, including fines.

5. All Organizational Members shall be responsible for payment of officiating fees. they may not evade this responsibility by citing the behavior of teams, no shows, indebtedness to the league, or officiating ability.

6. All Organizational Members shall have effective and efficient appeal and protest procedures for member teams and individuals.

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7. All Organizational Members shall have criteria for determining if a team is or is not the continuation of a team playing in a previous season.

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B. The Rights and Duties of Teams

1. All affiliated teams shall be required to conform to the Constitution and Bylaws of the USSF, these Bylaws, and the governing documents of the league to which they belong and to the rules, regulations, procedures, and directives promulgated by the aforementioned soccer bodies and their components.

2. Each affiliated team must participate in at least one championship competition each seasonal year.

3. All teams have an affirmative responsibility to protect referees, opposing teams, and bystanders from abuse or assaults, threats of attack, and harassment. The fact of a violation's being clearly the responsibility of an individual rather than of a team or club as a whole shall not relieve the team from liability to administrative action by MDCVSA or by its league, including punitive action.

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4. All teams shall be responsible for payment of officiating fees according to the schedule established by their Organizational Member or MDCVSA.

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5. All teams shall have the right of appeal to the Organizational Member, to MDCVSA, and to USSF.

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6. All teams shall have at least eleven registered players when game scheduling occurs.

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7. In absence of an Organizational Member rule serving the same purpose, a team that does not appear for three consecutive scheduled games shall be considered to have disbanded, and the players of said team shall have the right to reregister with another team immediately, subject to the eligibility.

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8. In the absence of an Organizational Member rule serving the same purpose, a team that has eight or more of the same players at the beginning of a season as it had the previous season, or which has essentially the same management as in the previous season, or whose management has changed in the normal manner, shall be considered to be the continuation of that previous season's team and shall be the recipient of that team's divisional position and of whatever penalties that team may have incurred.

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The Organizational Member shall be allowed to examine a claim and make a determination whether such circumstances exist. Any determination on such a matter is subject to appeal to MDCVSA.

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9. In the absence of a ~~Organizational Member~~, rule serving the same purpose, ~~MDCVSA~~ shall require that all teams keep on file at all times the names, addresses, and communicating methods of at least three persons who are able to communicate for the team. Failure to do so shall vitiate a team's protest or appeal about any situation it encounters because of lack of notice.

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10. Each team must register at least one manager, captain, team representative, or coach.

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All teams shall submit to their ~~Organizational Member~~, a list, electronically, with the names and addresses of club officers and players registration data.

C. The Rights and Duties of Players

1. Players shall be in conformance with USSF rules.

2. In order to participate in an affiliated match, each player must possess a current and valid MDCVSA Player Pass in accordance with standards set by the Executive Committee and approved by the Council or be able to provide both proof of registration (such as an approved roster) and proof of identification (such as a government issued photo ID).

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3. Players subject to disciplinary action shall have the right of appeal, the right of effective notice of that right, and adequate time to file such an appeal.

4. Players who have been nominated to play on a representative team of ~~MDCVSA and consented~~ to play but fail to appear without adequate notice shall be dealt with as ~~MDCVSA~~ deems appropriate.

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5. No player registered as an amateur shall be subject to a fine.

D. The Rights and Duties of ~~MDCVSA~~ Officers

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1. Officers shall keep ~~Organizational Members~~, informed of USSF activities which may affect a member league or team.

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2. Officers shall report on their activities at Council and other ~~MDCVSA~~ meetings. They must inform ~~Organizational Members~~ when their activities may affect them.

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3. The Executive Committee may draw up forms to facilitate the conduct of their duties, or an officer's duties, and may require members to complete them when applicable.

4. Officers shall be admitted free of charge to any match involving at least one member team. If such admission has not been arranged by the member team, it shall bear the expense of their admission. If a representative team of ~~MDCVSA~~ is involved, the ~~Organizational Member~~ or ~~MDCVSA~~, as appropriate, shall arrange for the admission of the officers free of charge or shall bear the cost of their admission.

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5. Any physical attack, harassment, or verbal abuse of officers in the pursuit of their duties shall be considered to be an offense to be dealt with by ~~MDCVSA~~.

6. Officers shall arrange to be freely available for the transaction of business and the exchange of information about ~~MDCVSA~~ matters with its other officers; officers of USSF, its ~~Organizational Members~~, and teams; the SRA; and any other officials whose decisions and actions are important to ~~MDCVSA's~~ functioning.

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E. Permission to Travel

Applications must be made by an Organizational Member in good standing and Tournaments must be in compliance with the Tournament Hosting Policy.

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F. Permission to Host a Tournament

Teams must be in compliance with the Hosting Policy.

G. Suspensions and Other Penalties

1. MDCVSA shall recognize suspensions, probations, and like penalties applied by bodies properly empowered to levy them of which it has official notice and will apply them in its jurisdiction.
2. In the event of suspension of a member organization or an individual by MDCVSA or a subordinate member organization, the suspended member shall not be eligible for membership in any other soccer body affiliated with FIFA. For a suspension to be accepted as valid, there must be written notification of suspension to the higher body of soccer to which the suspending organization belongs, the suspended individual or organization must be given written notice of suspension and of the penalties, subject to appeal, and the period of time in which the suspension is in effect must bear a reasonable relationship to the circumstances causing the suspension.

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H. Appeals and Protests

1. All appeals to MDCVSA from a decision of a member organization or any of its component committees must be submitted in writing within two weeks after receipt by the appellant of notice of the decision being appealed and accompanied by a fee set by a fee schedule. The appeal fee may be forfeited if the appeal is not sustained.
2. The protest and appeal fee schedule shall be set by the Executive Committee.
3. Copies of appeals and protests shall be sent to all parties at interest. Failure to do so shall vitiate the appeal or protest.
4. All appeals and protests to MDCVSA shall be sent to the President and shall be considered by the Council at a regular or special meeting. However, the Executive Committee may devote further consideration to the matter if significant new information is developed.
5. Parties whose appeals or protests are not upheld wholly may be required to pay all or part of the expenses thereof, at the discretion of the Executive Committee. The expense of all appeals or protests which are upheld shall be borne by MDCVSA or by the member organization appealed or protested against at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
6. The standard of proof and procedural safeguards shall not be as stringent as in courts of law, but decisions shall be based on evidence which the accused may scrutinize.
7. When a decision is appealed, the terms of the decision prompting the appeal shall nevertheless be operative until the committee hearing the appeal directs that other conditions apply, even if the terms of the original decision are disadvantageous to the appellant. The fact that an appeal or protest is launched shall not relieve a member of the duty to abide by the original decision until competent authority directs otherwise.
8. Any party against whom an adverse decision has been rendered shall have the right of appeal to the USSF.
9. In the event of a dispute between members or a member and MDCVSA, legal proceedings shall not be undertaken without its consent. However, it shall at all times consent to the institution of criminal 1. and civil proceedings by officials who have been abused or assaulted, and ordinarily shall give consent when abuse or assaults have been made on any person

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A. Litigation

Every Organizational Member, Team, Player, and any other MDCVSA member and representative, is subject to USSF Bylaw 706, which provides in part that: No Organization Member, member of an Organization Member, official, league, club, team, player, coach, administrator or referee may invoke the aid of the courts in the United States or of any State if any potential remedy is or was available through any hearing, appeal, or grievances process of any Organization Member or the Federation. This Bylaw does not apply to the commencement of an arbitration proceeding under these Bylaws, the USOC bylaws or court action taken to enforce a decision of the Federation, USOC, CAS, or FIFA.

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XIV. Game Officials

A. All official matches played within the jurisdiction of **MDCVSA** shall be officiated by a referee or a referee and two assistant referees affiliated with the USSF through the State Referee Program.

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B. Only USSF certified officials shall be used in the normal course of events.

XV. State Competitions

A. **MDCVSA** shall organize (annually), as feasible, State Competitions, entitled as follows:

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1. Men's State Cup

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2. Women's State Cup

3. Coed State Cup

4. Veteran's Cup

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B. Each State Cups Competition shall be operated directly by the appointed State Cup Coordinator, who shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, with the approval of the Council.

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C. If an insignificant number of teams enter in any competition(s), the competition(s) will be cancelled at the discretion of the State Cup Coordinator, subject to approval of the Executive Committee.

Metropolitan DC-Virginia Soccer Association

CONSTITUTION

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Revision History

Date of Change	Summary of Change
01/07/06	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Removed Executive SecretaryModified vote calculation algorithm
01/31/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Clarified who/how check amount requiring 2 signatures will be addressed (under 'Treasurer Responsibilities')
01/31/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Modifications approved / accepted by Council
03/05/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Modifications proposed to ensure compliance with USASA (registration data)
03/21/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All modifications identified on 03/05/09 approved/accepted by the Council
8/28/2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Modifications identified on 08/28/2013 approved/accepted by the Council
1/20/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Modifications identified on 1/20/2016 approved/accepted by the Council
<u>8/11/2019</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Clarified terminology; added duties for Delegates; replaced Registrar with Social Media and Marketing Coordinator; removed all references to sexes and replaced with gender identity; removed duplicate provision on Removal of Officers

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I. Name

The name of the organization, the conduct of which shall be governed by this *Constitution* and the accompanying Bylaws, shall be the Metropolitan DC - Virginia Soccer Association, Incorporated, (MDCVSA).

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II. Purposes and Status

The purposes of MDCVSA shall be the encouragement and promotion of the sport of soccer and the proper administration and regulation of the game within its jurisdictional area. Purposes of MDCVSA:

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A. To develop, promote, and administer the game of soccer among players within its jurisdictional area.

Deleted: Purposes of the *Association*¶

B. To provide for competitive competitions.

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C. To foster national and international amateur sports competition and develop amateur athletes for national and international competition in soccer.

D. To promote soccer and physical fitness for adults through instructional and educational programs.

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E. To support the training and licensing of coaches and referees for soccer.

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F. To organize and provide the necessary support for the activities to encourage more public support of soccer and physical fitness.

G. To do any other thing consistent with the purposes stated herein.

III. Affiliations

MDCVSA shall be affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation Incorporated (USSF) from which it shall derive its authority as the governing body for soccer in its defined territory, and shall at all times recognize the authority and rulings of said body. Affiliation with USSF will confer affiliation with the Fédération de Football Association (FIFA).

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IV. Eligibility, Autonomy, and Equal Opportunity

A. In accordance with the Amateur Sports Act and the requirements of FIFA and the United States Olympic Committee, USSF shall be autonomous in its governance of the sport of soccer in the United States and may not delegate its governance responsibilities.

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B. MDCVSA shall provide an equal opportunity to athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in amateur soccer competitions without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender identity, or national origin.

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C. Individuals serving on MDCVSA's Executive Committee or any Council or committees of MDCVSA shall be elected without regard to the individual's race, color, religion, age, gender identity, or national origin.

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D. MDCVSA may not have eligibility criteria relating to amateur status more restrictive than those of USSF.

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V. The Council Composition and General Authority

A. The Council shall be the governing body of MDCVSA and shall have all powers granted to MDCVSA. It may delegate such powers to Officers or committees of MDCVSA via the Constitution and Bylaws it may adopt.

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B. The Council shall be composed of league representatives, MDCVSA Officers, past presidents, and five Delegates-at-Large.

C. Each Organizational Member shall be entitled to cast votes based on the number of properly registered players. Organizational Members shall have the following number of votes:

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1. Each Organizational Member with at least 40 registered players shall be entitled to one (1) vote.
2. Each Organizational Member with at least 80 registered players shall be entitled to two (2) votes.
3. Each Organizational Member with greater than 120 registered players shall be entitled to one additional vote for each added increment of 120 registered players that it has:

# Registered Players	# Votes
40 – 79	1
80 – 120	2
121 – 240	3
241 – 360	4
361 – 480	5
481 – 600	6
601 – 720	7
721 – 840	8
841 – 960	9
...	

4. Votes may be cast by the highest league officer of record, or by an alternate person that has been designated in writing as the proxy by the highest league officer. No one person may cast a vote for more than two (2) entities. The proxy designation may be made by writing (including, without limitation, as signed fax, a signed letter, or an unsigned email message sent by that person).

Deleted: [Amended 01/07/06 to change the vote determination algorithm]¶

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D. MDCVSA Officers shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and a Social Media and Marketing Coordinator. Each shall have one vote in a Council meeting except the presiding Officer, normally the President, who shall vote only in case of a tie. Each Delegate-at-Large shall have one vote in a Council meeting.

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E. The Council shall promulgate Bylaws which shall be directed toward filling MDCVSA's responsibilities to USSF and MDCVSA members, the promotion of soccer as a sport, and the protection and strengthening of resources used by members of MDCVSA.

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F. The Council shall assert its authority in the following conditions under which teams under its jurisdiction may compete outside the jurisdictional area and under which teams from outside that area may compete within it.

G. The Council shall be the arbiter of policy for MDCVSA. It shall have the power to:

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1. Enforce the rulings of JSSF, its own rulings, the rulings of its Committees, and the Laws of the Game.
2. Elect Officers and Delegates-at-Large for the following seasonal years.
3. Affirm, reject, or modify administrative decisions and practices of committees.
4. Settle all disputes between, affirm or reject appeals from the decisions of, and (upon appeal) mitigate penalties imposed by member leagues and other subordinate organizations.
5. Affirm or reject the President's appointment of any member of the Council or other individual to an office normally filled by election, except if the office of the President becomes vacant it shall automatically be filled by the Vice President's succeeding to the office of President.
6. Represent MDCVSA and act for it in all situations involving other state associations and the national federation.
7. Declare vacant the office of any Officer or Delegate-at-Large who, without cause is absent from three consecutive meetings.
8. Penalize by expulsion, suspension for a set period, fine, or other means any member proven guilty of violating any of its rules or those of a superior body, or for other misconduct.
9. Deal as it deems appropriate with any member competing with any entity expelled or under suspension.

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VI. Responsibilities of Officers

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A. President

- Shall be the Chief Executive Officer of MDCVSA,
- Shall preside at all meetings
- Shall supervise any employees and support staff
- Shall appoint all committees subject to the approval of the Council
- Shall be a member of all committees ex-officio
- Shall appoint the State Referee Administrator (SRA), with the agreement of the Executive Committee, and jointly with the Virginia Youth State Association (VYSA) within the State
- Shall appoint any other member of the State Referee Committee appointed by MDCVSA,
- shall cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie vote at any meeting of the Council or any of its committees
- Shall lead the delegation of MDCVSA to USSF Meetings
- Shall represent MDCVSA at all official functions
- Shall appoint a person to fill the unexpired term of any other office ordinarily elected by the Council with the agreement of the Executive Committee.

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B. Vice President

- Shall assist the President in the performance of their duties
- Shall exercise all the powers of the President in their absence
-

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1. Shall be a member of the Council entitled to vote

C. Treasurer

- Shall be bonded

Shall have charge of and receive MDCVSA monies,

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- Shall keep a detailed account of income and expenditure
- Shall submit a complete written report showing all MDCVSA financial transactions at every Council meeting, accompanied by a statement of the balance on hand
- Shall open new MDCVSA bank accounts only with a resolution by the Executive Committee
- Shall provide that all accounts be paid by check, electronic transfer, or MDCVSA credit card; checks of significant amounts (as documented in Executive Committee policy) must bear two (2) manual signatures.
- Shall be a member of the Council entitled to vote
- Shall be responsible for filing MDCVSA's tax returns.

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Registrar: [Amended 01/07/06]¶

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<#>Shall

Deleted: <#>procure registration materials from the USSF¶

<#>Shall distribute them to all members entitled to them, assuring the collection of requisite fees and keeping financial records thereby entailed¶

<#>Shall conduct or supervise the registration of all players¶

<#>Shall maintain a file for the current seasonal year and the preceding two seasonal years of all adult player registration in the Association¶

<#>Shall procure the required registration information from Organizational Members such as player names, addresses, and dates of birth, in a timely manner¶

<#>Shall register coaches in similar manner if required¶

<#>Shall be a member of the Council entitled to vote.¶

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D. Recording Secretary

- Shall record and prepare all meeting minutes for publication
- Shall give written notice of meetings to all members, stating whether the meeting is regular or special, and, if the latter, the nature of the business
- Shall be a member of the Council entitled to vote.

A. Social Media and Marketing Coordinator

1. Shall employ social media to advance MDCVSA's mission
2. Shall develop and maintain MDCVA's social media accounts
3. Shall monitor those who participate in MDCVSA's social media and remove inappropriate comments
4. Shall promote affiliated leagues

Shall be a member of the Council entitled to vote

E. If the office of President should become vacant, the Vice President shall succeed to office for the remainder of the term. If the office of any other Officer should become vacant, the President shall appoint an individual to fill the office, subject to the approval of the Council, for the remainder of its term. Provision shall be made for an Officer who will be unable for an extended time to fulfill the duties of an office to have a leave of absence. During said leave of absence the President shall appoint an interim office holder subject to the approval of the Council.

F. Officers shall exercise their powers and carry out their duties with the advice of and in cooperation with other members of the Executive Committee. Assignment of a particular task to a given office shall not preclude its performance, if necessary, by any other Officer.

G. Any Officer is subject to removal from office if proper charges are brought against that Officer and proven. Charges shall be made in writing and a copy given to the accused Officer, who shall be allowed adequate time to prepare a defense. Removal shall be by a vote of at least two-thirds of the Council present at a special council meeting called for such purpose.

H. One person may not simultaneously hold two offices, except in a temporary capacity until a successor is appointed.

VII. Responsibilities of Delegates

A. Should assist with referee assault and abuse hearings if requested by the Executive Committee.

B. Should participate in committees if requested by the Council, the President, or the Executive Committee;

C. Should attend Council meetings; and

Shall be a member of the Council entitled to vote.

VIII. Headquarters and Regional Administrations

For purposes of administration, the territory of MDCVSA may be divided into districts. When there is sufficient soccer activity to warrant activating a district administration the representatives of such a proposed district shall provide a document specifying an organizational structure and *modus operandi*. It shall include, but not be limited to, a delineation of the area to be administered; procedures for considering appeals and protests and handling other disciplinary matters; supervision of referees; financial management; registration of players; and supervision of leagues. District administrations shall conform MDCVSA's policies and procedures. Their records shall be subject to periodic audit. The governing document shall be considered by the Committee and subject to ratification by the Council.

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IX. Elections

- A. Officers and Delegates-at-Large shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) by majority vote of the Council members present and empowered to cast votes in the election of Officers.
- B. Officers shall be elected for terms of office for two (2) years duration. The President and Treasurer shall be elected in even numbered years, and the Vice President, Recording Secretary, Social Media and Marketing Coordinator, shall be elected in odd numbered years. All Delegates-at-Large shall be elected for a one (1) year term.
- C. In the event that no candidate received a majority on the first or any subsequent ballots, the candidate with the smallest number of votes shall be eliminated and another ballot cast. This procedure shall continue until a candidate receives a majority of votes cast. An abstention is not a vote cast.
- D. Only persons who consent to serve prior to balloting shall be elected. Votes cast for persons whose consent has not been ascertained shall not be counted. The fact that a person is not present at the meeting shall not preclude that person from being elected to office, provided written consent is received.
- E. Voting for Officers and Delegates-at-Large shall be by secret ballot.
- F. Nominations may be made by any member of the Council in good standing.
- G. For delegate positions, Council members in good standing may make nominations at the meeting.
- H. For Executive Officer positions, Council members in good standing may make nominations. Nominations for candidates for Executive Office must be made in writing at least fifteen days in advance of the AGM using the nomination form provided on the MDCVSA website. The names of the candidates will be included in the meeting agenda and distributed to the Council.
- I. An Officer shall commence a term of office after the conclusion of the meeting in which elected or appointed, or immediately after a vacancy has occurred.

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Nonprofit Board Term Limits



IRS Guidance

No Federal or state law mandates term limits for nonprofits

BUT

IRS recommends term limits because they believe that static board membership leads to unhealthy attitudes, which can cause boards to govern out of self-interest rather than community interest.

Good Governance

70% of nonprofits have a limit
on the number of consecutive
terms

- Boardsource Nonprofit Governance Index 2010

Best Practice

1. Fresh ideas and perspective
2. In order to improve operations and grow, new skills are sometimes needed
3. Encourages diversity
4. Avoids waning passion

Harms of Term Limits

- ◆ Loss of knowledge and expertise
- ◆ Lack of capable volunteers to take over

Zero term limit problems...

1. Staleness
2. Unproductivity
3. Poor attendance or absenteeism
4. Adversarial
5. Intimidation of candidates and new members
6. Nepotism

Option 1: USSF Bylaw 401, Section 4:

No person may be elected to more than three (3) terms as President or more than three (3) terms as Vice-President. No person may serve more than sixteen (16) years in total as an elected officer. A person is not eligible to run for elected office if the person has served more than twelve (12) years as an elected officer.

Option 2:

Officers shall be eligible for reelection but may not hold any position for longer than six (6) years. Effective August 11, 2019, any officer or delegate that has held a position for more than six (6) years may complete their term but cannot run for the same position unless no individual is nominated to replace the incumbent. No person may serve more than twenty (20) years in total as an elected officer.

Zero term limit problems...

1. Staleness
2. Unproductivity
3. Poor attendance or absenteeism
4. Adversarial
5. Intimidation of candidates and new members
6. Nepotism