

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 SecretaryModified vote calculation algorithm
01/31/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Added definitionsModified 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 Association 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).

The Association 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" [Amended 01/31/09]
- Laws of the Game
- Robert's Rules of Order: Except as noted otherwise provided in these Bylaws, all meetings of the Association shall be conducted in accordance with the latest authorized edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

I. Membership

A. Any organization desiring to become member of this Association 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 this Association, United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA) and the Federation.

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 this Association, USASA, and the Federation.

[Amended 01/07/06 to remove Executive Secretary]

II. General Responsibilities

A. State Association

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

1. The membership of the State Association and the members of the State Association shall be open to any soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials not subject to suspension under section 4 of the Federation Bylaw 241, and to any amateur soccer organization in its territory.
2. The State Association will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin.
3. Federation articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, and requirements take precedence over and supersede the governing documents and decisions of the State Association and its members to the extent applicable under state law, and the State Association and its members will abide by those articles, bylaws, policies, and requirements.

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

B. Council

1. The Council shall be the administrative unit of the Association and will have responsibilities specified by these Bylaws, MDCVSA Constitution, and by the Executive Committee.
2. The Council shall meet annually, and such meeting shall be open to all members of the Association. 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 this Association, USASA and the Federation, to the extent applicable to that classification of Organizational Member.
2. Submit to this Association 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 this Association by the established deadlines.
4. Comply with the Amateur Sports Act, to the extent applicable.
5. Membership in the Association shall be by organization. The following shall be but not limited to deemed members:

- a. Affiliated soccer leagues
- b. Individual soccer teams that are permitted to affiliate directly with the Association

6. 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 Association procedures, shall be eligible to become an Organizational Member with all the rights and privileges thereof.

7. The Association shall ensure that the USASA provides, upon written request, all Organizational Members, properly registered teams within an Organizational Member, and directly affiliated teams in good standing with liability insurance coverage certificates and medical insurance coverage (if mandated by USASA).

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

9. Every member organization 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.

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

[Amended 01/07/06]

11. Each affiliated league and directly affiliated team shall submit the names, addresses, and communication method of league officers and of its designated representatives to the Council at the beginning of each seasonal year and shall notify it of any subsequent changes.

12. Any league, club, or team with headquarters in the District of Columbia or Commonwealth of Virginia but not affiliating with either this Association or a neighboring State Association shall be deemed to be unaffiliated. Neither the Association 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 Sustaining Member of the Association. The Executive

Committee shall prescribe procedures for becoming an Individual Sustaining Member and the dues and benefits of membership.

2. An Individual Sustaining Member shall have no voting or other representational rights in the Association.

III. Seasonal Year

The seasonal and fiscal year of the Association begins on January 1 and ends on December 31. [amended on 1/20/2016]

IV. Definitions

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

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.
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]

IV. Definitions

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

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.

V. Annual Affiliation Fees

A. Each Organizational Member shall pay to the Association 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. [Amended September 18, 2004]

B. A league 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 and/or notification of loss of liability and participant accident insurance coverage may be imposed, subject to the notification of the league(s) and majority vote by the Executive Committee. Punitive actions will not be imposed on delinquent league(s) without a one week notification period by the Executive Committee. [amended January 11, 2014]

C. Leagues must report their seasons and start dates for each season to the MDCVSA Registrar by September 15 of each calendar year, along with payment of the annual league affiliation fee. Online registration is available for all leagues to use and allows individual players to register for themselves directly with the Association. All new leagues affiliating with the Association after September 1, 2013 and all guest player registrations are required to use online registration. For those leagues 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. [Amended September 18, 2004]

D. All players that play in a league must be registered with the Association (and all fees paid) not later than thirty days after the player first plays a match with the league.

VI. Standing Committees

A. The Executive Committee: shall be composed of the officers of the Association; shall constitute the leadership and conduct the affairs of the Association between meetings of the Council; 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 Annual General Meeting; shall serve as the initial review board for activities by member leagues and teams that may be detrimental to the objectives and activities of the Association, and may levy fines and other penalties in accordance with USSF Bylaws and Bylaws of the Association concerning abuse or assaults on referees; shall initiate and/or support activities designed to benefit members of the Association, including, but not limited to, coaching clinics, cup competitions, referee clinics, select teams, and other soccer events.

B. 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.

C. 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 the Association's records may be book reviewed by a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) of an accounting firm.

D. 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.

VII. 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 annual general meeting (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. [Amended 01/07/06 to change quorum requirements]

VIII. Regular Meetings

A. Meetings may be held via telephone or video conference at the discretion of the Executive Board as long as such a meeting is conducted by a technology that allows all persons participating to hear each other simultaneously. [Added 03/10/2013]

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 general council by means of a telephone or video conference or by

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. [Amended 01/07/06 to reduce number of meetings from 4 to 3; Amended 03/10/2012 to reduce from 3 to 2]

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

D. Members of this Association 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 Association'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 the Association's website. [Amended 01/07/06]

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.

IX. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Association 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.

X. Amendments and Rules of the Council

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

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 the Constitution or Bylaws of this Association.

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.

XI. Order of Business

The customary order of business 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 and,

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.

XII. Channel of Communication

A. The principal channel of communication is the President or as the President delegates to Association Administrative Staff. Other officers may conduct the correspondence related to their specific duties. The President may engage in correspondence on any matter. [Amended 01/07/06 to remove Executive Secretary]

B. Communications shall normally be in writing, transmitted by mail or electronically, or posted on the state association 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 he is present at said meeting. An organization shall be deemed to have been notified if its President, Secretary or other person who regularly corresponds for and on behalf of it receives a written communication.

XIII. Indemnification and Insurance

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

XIV. The Authority of the Association

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 the Association or the Executive Committee. [Amended 01/07/06]

A. The Rights and Duties of Leagues

1. All leagues 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 a league, but the Council may, by majority vote, negate such changes.

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

the appropriate fees not later than thirty (30) days after the start of each season. For those leagues using MDCVSA online registration, the State Association Administrator will reconcile the player data collected by the Association with that information submitted by the League. [Amended 01/07/06, 01/31/09, 03/21/09, 8/28/2013]

3. All leagues shall be empowered and required to deal with misconduct on the part of member teams and individual players and team and club officers and supporters, except for verbal abuse and or assault of officials.
4. All leagues 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 the Association and may subject it to punitive action, including fines.
5. All leagues shall be responsible for payment of officiating fees they may not evade this responsibility by citing the behavior of teams, no shows or indebtedness to the league, or officiating ability.
6. All leagues shall have effective and efficient appeal and protest procedures for member teams and individuals.
7. All leagues shall have criteria for determining if a team is or is not the continuation of a team playing in a previous season.

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 the Association or by its league, including punitive action.
4. All teams shall be responsible for payment of officiating fees according to the schedule established by their league or the Association.
5. All teams shall have the right of appeal to the league, to the Association, and to USSF seriatim.
6. All teams shall have at least eleven registered players when game scheduling occurs.
7. In absence of a league 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.
8. In the absence of a league 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. The league shall be allowed to examine a claim and make a determination whether such circumstances exist. Any league determination on such a matter is subject to appeal to the Association and to Association revision on Association initiative. Association initiative may be exercised even if a league rule exists.

9. In the absence of a league rule serving the same purpose, the Association 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.

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

11. All teams shall submit to their league a list, electronically, with the names and addresses of club officers and players registration data (as defined in Section IV.M of this document.) [Amended 03/21/09]

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). [Amended on 1/20/2016]

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 the Association and consented to play but fail to appear without adequate notice shall be dealt with as the Association deems appropriate.

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

D. The Rights and Duties of Officers of the Association

1. Officers shall keep leagues informed of USSF activities which may affect a member league or team.

2. Officers shall report on their activities at Council and other Association meetings. They must inform member organizations when their activities may affect them.

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 the Association is involved, the member league or the Association, as appropriate, shall arrange for the admission of the officers free of charge or shall bear the cost of their admission.

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 the Association.

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

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. [Amended 01/07/06]

F. Permission to Host a Tournament

Teams must be in compliance with the Hosting Policy.

G. Suspensions and Other Penalties

1. The Association 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 the Association 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.

H. Appeals and Protests

1. All appeals to the Association 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. [Amended 01/07/06]
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 the Association 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 the Association 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 the Association, legal proceedings shall not be undertaken without its consent. However, it shall at all times consent to the institution of criminal

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.

XV. Game Officials

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

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

XVI. State Competitions

A. The Association shall organize (annually), as feasible, State Competitions for men and women entitled as follows:

1. Men's State Cup
2. Women's State Cup
3. Coed State Cup
4. Veteran's Cup [Amended 01/31/09]

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. [Amended 01/07/06]

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.