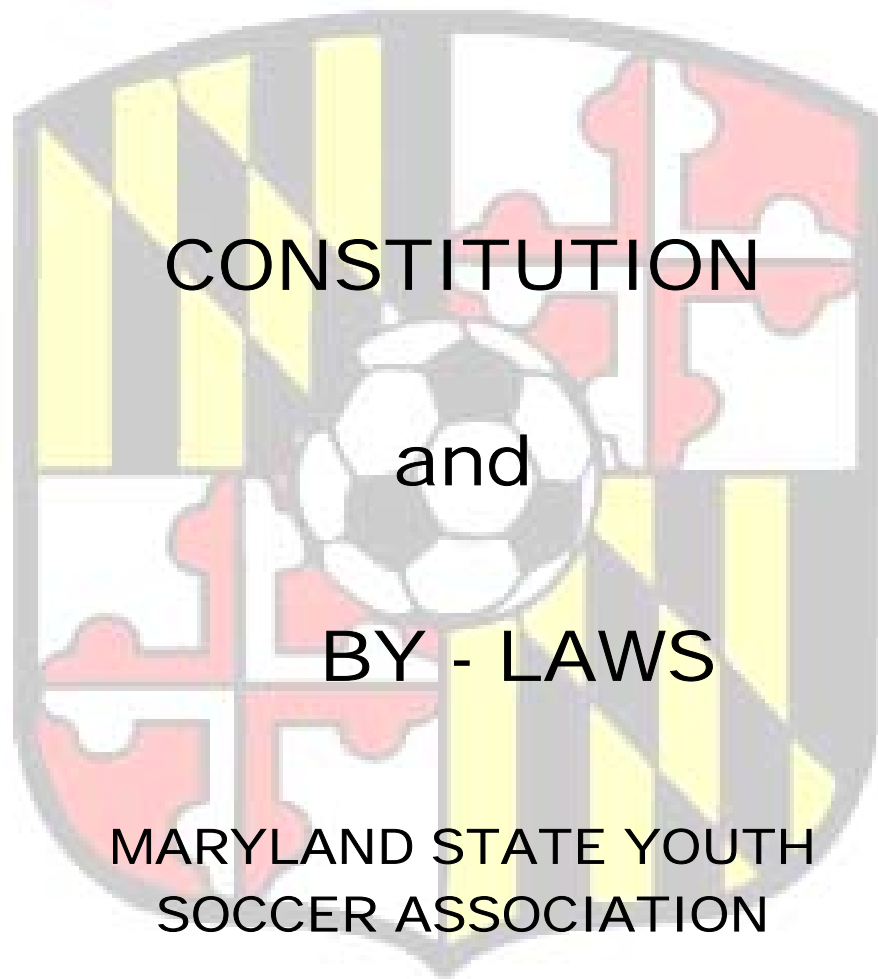


Maryland State Youth



Soccer Association

Approved April 3, 2005

CONSTITUTION

MARYLAND STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I - NAME

This Association shall be known as the Maryland State Youth Soccer Association (hereinafter referred to MSYSA or Association). The Association shall be a tax exempt organization under the laws of the United States and shall maintain its tax exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Section 1.

The purpose of the Association shall be to develop, promote and administer the game of soccer among youth under 19 years of age. The Association shall not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex or national origin.

Section 2.

The territory shall be the State of Maryland.

ARTICLE III - HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of the Association shall be considered the location of the State Office.

ARTICLE IV - COLORS

The representative colors of this Association shall be Black, Gold, Red, White or any combination thereof.

ARTICLE V - AFFILIATION

This Association shall be an affiliated branch of, and comply with the authority of the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), and the United States Soccer Federation (USSF). To the extent permissible under applicable law, the MSYSA Constitution and Bylaws shall be consistent with USSF and USYSA articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies and requirements. The USSF articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies and requirements take precedence over and supercede the governing documents and decisions of the Maryland State Youth Soccer Association and its members to the extent applicable under Maryland state law. To the extent permissible under applicable law, MSYSA and its members will abide by the articles, bylaws, policies and requirements of USSF. MSYSA will not join any organization that has requirements that conflict with the USSF articles, bylaws, policies or requirements.

ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE BOARD

The affairs of this Association shall be conducted by the Executive Board consisting of the following officers:

- President
- Executive Vice-President
- First Vice-President
- Second Vice-President
- Third Vice President
- Registrar
- Secretary
- Treasurer

The immediate Past President, the Region Commissioners (6), and four (4) At-Large Members shall be members of the Executive Board. The Region Commissioners (6) and the four (4) At-Large Members shall be voting members of the Board. The decisions of this Board shall be final and only subject to a vote of the General Membership.

ARTICLE VII - RULES OF ORDER

All meetings of this Association shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, except as modified herein.

The agenda of the Annual General Meeting will be:

- Call to Order
- Roll Call/Credentials
- Reading of the Minutes & Acceptance
- Reports of Committees
- Proposed Amendments to the Maryland Constitution and
By-Laws and/or Rules and Regulations
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Election of Officers
- Good of the Game
- Adjournment

ARTICLE VIII - ANNUAL MEETING

Section 1

The Annual Meeting of this Association shall be held before June 30th of each year. The primary business of the Annual meeting shall be the election of officers and the adoption of amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws. Notification of the meeting shall be made to all members with no less than thirty (30) days notice. Only member leagues, clubs, and organizations in good standing are eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2

All affiliated organizations, as an obligation of affiliation, shall have a qualified representative present at the Annual Meeting. Organizations who have such representation present at the Annual Meeting shall have their respective affiliation fee returned. The Executive Board shall retain the right to review requests for exception from attendance based upon extraordinary circumstances.

ARTICLE IX - FINANCIAL POLICY

The Financial Policy of this Association shall be established by the Executive Board. The Treasurer of the Association shall be the Chief Financial Officer and with the President of MSYSA, shall be responsible on a day-to-day basis for carrying out the financial policy and obligations of MSYSA for the year.

ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION

The Association may be dissolved at any time by written consent of no less than two-thirds (2/3) of the eligible voting members or upon a declaration by USYSA or USSF that the Association is not in good standing.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution and By-Laws of the Association may be submitted in writing at any time. All proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws shall be submitted to the General Membership of this Association at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting or Special Meeting of the Membership at which the proposed amendments are to be considered.. A proposed amendment will be adopted if it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the eligible voting members of the Association in attendance at the Annual Meeting or Special Meeting of the Membership.

BY - LAWS

ARTICLE 1 - Affiliation

The Maryland State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) shall be an affiliate of, and the National State Association recognized by the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and the United State Soccer Federation (USSF). MSYSA shall be subject to the authority of USYSA, the USSF (United States Soccer Federation), and the FIFA (The Federation International de Football Association). To the extent permissible under applicable law, the MSYSA Constitution and By-laws shall be consistent with USSF and USYSA articles of incorporation, by-laws, policies and requirements. The USSF articles of incorporation, by-laws, policies and requirements take precedence over and supercede the governing documents and decisions of the Maryland State Youth Soccer Association and its members to the extent applicable under Maryland state law. To the extent permissible under applicable law, MSYSA and its members will abide by the articles, bylaws, policies and requirements of USSF. MSYSA will not join any organization that has requirements that conflict with the USSF articles, by-laws, policies or requirements.

The MSYSA shall exercise through its Executive Board all such powers as may be required in the furtherance of its state purpose, as not inconsistent with the Constitution, By-laws and Regulations of the USYSA, the USSF, FIFA and/or the laws of relevant jurisdiction.

This Association shall operate under the auspices of the Official Administrative Rule Book as published by USSF - Youth Division, current edition, or such successor publication as shall from time to time be published by USSF as its Official Rule Book.

All players, coaches, teams, and administrators will be registered annually with USYSA and USSF. MSYSA will pay all dues and fees to USYSA and USSF on a timely basis.

The Association shall provide annually to the Secretary General of USSF: (1) copies of its constitution, by-laws and governing documents; (2) any changes made to its constitution, by-laws and governing documents within ninety (90) days of their adoption; (3) a report on the activities of the Association for the previous seasonal year; and, (4) its most recently completed financial statement no later than ninety (90) days after the end of USSF's seasonal year. The Association shall make copies of the aforesaid documents and reports available to its members.

The Association will allow USSF to review the documents and procedures of the Association on request of USSF not less than once every four (4) years, to determine compliance with USSF By-laws.

The Association and its members will abide by USSF's articles, by-laws, policies and requirements pertaining to interplay among USSF affiliated organizations. MSYSA member organizations are encouraged to allow teams affiliated with all other USSF affiliated

organizations to participate in tournaments sponsored by MSYSA member organizations and sanctioned by MSYSA when such teams otherwise comply with the tournament eligibility requirements. Neither MSYSA, nor its member organizations, shall discriminate against the participation of players and teams in their respective activities on the basis of that player or team's membership in, or affiliation with, another organization which is affiliated with USSF.

ARTICLE II - Membership

Section 1. Member Organizations

- a. Full voting membership in MSYSA shall be open to all clubs, leagues and recreational organization operating within the State of Maryland. Teams obtain membership in MSYSA through an affiliated club, league or recreational organization. Participation in the activities of MSYSA and its member organizations shall be open to any soccer player, coach, trainer, manager, administrator and official, provided such individual is not barred from participation by MSYSA, its member organizations, USSF or USYSA, and to any amateur youth soccer organization within Maryland which is affiliated with USSF.
- b. Associate membership in MSYSA, without voting rights, shall be available to other organizations in the state of Maryland who organize, sponsor or stage youth soccer activities or events in the state of Maryland. Personal individual membership may also be extended by the Executive Board as an honorary membership with no voting rights.
- c. Each member club, league, and recreational organization shall retain its own autonomy but will adhere to the Constitution, By-laws and Rules/Regulations of this Association, USYSA and USSF.

Section 2. Procedure for Obtaining Membership

Each application for membership shall be in a form approved by the Executive Board and shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the Constitution and By-laws of this Association and the articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies and procedures of USSF and USYSA. The application form shall be signed by the applicant's principal officer and shall include:

- a. the names of the officers of the applicant, their addresses and telephone numbers;
- b. a listing of all affiliated club teams by name and age group;
- c. the principal areas and seasons of play;
- d. sponsorship, if any, including that by municipalities;
- e. a statement that all players will be registered with MSYSA;
- f. a copy of the applicant's Constitution, By-laws and rules and regulations;

- g. the name, address and phone number of its duly designated representative to whom all meeting notices shall be addressed;
- h. such information as may be required by the Executive Board; and
- i. submission of appropriate fees for affiliation. The fees for affiliation are as follows: 1-15 Teams = \$55.00; 16-40 Teams = \$110.00; over 40 Teams = \$165.00. For purposes of this provision, the total number of an affiliate's recreational players shall be divided by 15 to determine the number of teams of such affiliate

All applications are to be filed with the Secretary of the Association, addressed to the Association's office. The Secretary shall immediately acknowledge receipt in writing. Each application is voted on at the next Executive Board meeting after it is received. Affirmative votes of a majority of the Board members present are required for approval for membership.

Section 3. Recommendation of Procedures, Rules and Fees

The Executive Board of MSYSA will annually recommend to the membership the procedures, rules and fees required for affiliation of leagues, clubs and recreational organizations, and their affiliated teams.

Section 4. Teams

A youth soccer team shall be deemed to be any group of not less than seven (7) persons/players under the age of 19 years as defined by the current USYSA age classification standards, all of whom shall be registered with MSYSA, or other National State Association in which they may register pursuant to USYSA rules, which is organized to compete as a team with a designated person responsible for its activities. A team shall be registered with MSYSA, rostered on the appropriate MSYSA forms, and be considered an MSYSA team, where at least fifty (50%) of the players on the team are registered through MSYSA.

There will be two (2) classifications of youth teams in Maryland, as follows:

- a. Travel Team - This is a team with not more than 18 players rostered to it at any one time on properly approved registration cards provided by MSYSA.
- b. Recreation Team - This is a team comprised of players registered through an MSYSA member club, league or recreational organization that are not considered "travel players" and who are not registered on MSYSA travel team registration cards. Recreation teams may use MSYSA approved recreational player registration cards for purposes of identifying players.

Within each of the above classifications, there shall be two types of teams. Teams with females only shall be identified as "Girls Teams". All other teams shall be identified as "Boys Teams."

A team's registration is complete only when its roster and/or cards are received by the Registrar.

Section 5. Leagues

There shall be two types of leagues for membership purposes:

- a. Travel Team League - This is a league comprised of teams of not more than 18 registered players, at any one time, who will register each team member on USSF/USYSA / MSYSA approved player passes and a certified USYSA/MSYSA roster prior to league play. Certification of rosters and player passes shall be made by the MSYSA Registrar or an Associate State Registrar.
- b. Recreation Team League - This is a league comprised of teams who will register each team member with MSYSA through their respective clubs or recreational organization.

Section 6. Clubs

Member "clubs" shall be private or public organizations comprised of youth soccer teams, either travel or recreation, all of whose players are duly registered with MSYSA. All organizations with more than three (30 travel teams or 50 recreational players are required to affiliate directly with MSYSA as a member "club," "league," or "recreational organization." All MSYSA member clubs, leagues and recreational organizations shall register annually all of their players, coaches, teams and administrators with MSYSA and pay all registration fees to MSYSA on a timely basis.

Section 7. Non-Discrimination Policy

No member organization of the Association shall discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex or national origin.

ARTICLE III - Executive Board/Officers

Section 1. Composition of Executive Board

The Executive Board shall be composed of the President, Executive Vice-President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Third Vice-President, Registrar, Secretary, Treasurer, the Region Commissioners, and four (4) at-large Directors. The immediate past President shall serve as a non-voting member of the Executive Board. Members of the Executive Board shall serve for a term of twenty-four (24) months or until their successors shall be elected. A term of office shall begin on August 1 and end on July 31, two years hence. The President, First Vice-President, Treasurer, Registrar, Region Commissioner-North, Region Commissioner-South, Region Commissioner-Central East, and two At-Large Members shall be elected in odd numbered years. The Executive Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Third Vice-President, Secretary, Region Commissioner East, Region Commissioner-West, Region Commissioner-Central West, and two At-Large members shall be elected in even numbered years. The President shall be limited to a maximum of three (3) consecutive full terms.

Section 2. Responsibilities of Executive Board:

The Executive Board shall be responsible for and have final authority, except as otherwise provided, for:

- a. enforcing and interpreting the Constitution and By-laws;
- b. the establishment and enforcement and the interpretation of regulations prescribing rules of play, play eligibility, conduct of players, teams, leagues, associations, and game officials for matches either conducted or sanctioned by this Association.
- c. approving all international youth games with a member's team or any team which includes a registered player of any member;
- d. approving any inter-district or inter-state competition.
- e. the establishment of rules or regulations for specific cases not provided for elsewhere, but which are deemed necessary by the Board;
- f. the conduct of the day-to-day affairs of the Association pursuant to the directives of the membership; and
- g. the ratification of appointments made by the President of the officers, committee chairs and agents of the Association.

Section 3. Duties of Executive Board Members

- a. President - the duties of the President shall be as follows:
 1. preside at all meetings;
 2. appoint (and relieve for cause) all committee chairs, with approval of Executive Board;
 3. vote only in the event of a tie or to effect a tie at Committee and Executive Board meetings;
 4. represent this Association at USYSA meetings, conventions and workshops;
 5. serve as an ex-officio member of all committees;

6. submit an annual report to the USYSA and to the General Membership of MSYSA.
- b. Executive Vice-President - The duties of the Executive Vice President shall be as follows:
 1. assist the President in performance of his/her duties;
 2. assume the duties of the President in his/her absence;
 3. serve as parliamentarian for the association.
 - c. First Vice-President – The duties of the First Vice-President shall be as follows:
 1. serve as permanent chair of the Maryland State Cup Committee and as Director of the State Cup competition, the State level of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series and,
 2. submit a written report to the Annual Meeting.
 - d. Second Vice-President - The duties of the Second Vice President shall be as follows:
 1. serve as liaison between the MSYSA Player Development Programs (formerly ODP & DDP) and the MSYSA Executive Board;
 2. work closely with the Director of Coaching and the Player Development Program Head Coaches to create activities and opportunities to enhance and better connect the various levels of the Program;
 3. assure the Program’s compliance with MSYSA policies, including its ODP Policy Manual;
 4. submit a written report to the Annual Meeting
 - e. Third Vice-President - The duties of the Third Vice President shall be as follows:
 - 1 To promote the game of soccer among recreational players;
 2. To coordinate the American Cup Tournament;
 2. To submit a written report to the Annual General Meeting
 - f. Registrar - The duties of the Registrar, or his/her designated deputy shall be as follows:
 1. keep a complete record of all teams and players for the purpose of player registration, team affiliation and fee assessment, by team and age group;
 2. appoint associate registrars within each region or league throughout the state;
 3. certify all rosters of State Teams entries into National Competition;
 4. work with the Treasurer in reporting all players to the National Association;
 5. have final approval for all player transfers;
 6. have final approval for all out of state travel.

- g. Secretary - The duties of the Secretary shall be as follows:
 - 1. record all business transactions of the Association;
 - 2. attend to the correspondence;
 - 3. take all minutes of regular, special and Executive Board meetings and publish minutes for the association's member leagues and organizations within two (2) weeks after each meeting;
 - 4. have responsibility for accountability for all properties of the Association to include but not limited to trophies, colors and other tangible property;
 - 5. maintain the official registrar or roll of members and officers and their attendance at regular meetings;
 - 6. conduct a roll call vote if necessary;
 - 7. publish the directory of Officers and Members;
 - 8. send out as may be necessary notification of all meetings, regular, annual and otherwise;
 - 9. issue to representatives of the Association, the authority to represent this Association when said authority is bestowed by the Executive Board.

- h. Treasurer - The duties of the Treasurer shall be as follows:
 - 1. oversee all financial affairs of the association including a detailed accounting of income and expenditures;
 - 2. submit a financial statement, in the form requested by the Executive Board and in accordance with generally acceptable accounting practice standards, at regular Executive Board meetings;
 - 3. be authorized to sign checks of the Association, with two (2) signatures needed for checks over an amount to be designated by the Executive Board.
 - 4. oversee the preparation of an annual accounting of the Association's financial records by an independent Certified Public Accounting firm;
 - 5. with advice from the Association's independent CPA, establish and maintain procedures to insure that all expenses of the Association are adequately substantiated with appropriate invoices, expense vouchers and/or other documentation in accordance with generally acceptable accounting practice standards.
 - 6. perform the additional responsibilities set forth in Article IX of these By-laws.

- i. At-Large Directors - Each At-Large member of the Board of Directors shall be assigned one of the following responsibilities:
 - 1. Chair the Annual MSYSA Workshop Committee;
 - 2. Coordinate MSYSA Coach of the Year selection process.
 - 3. Assist and coordinate coaches clinics and licensing programs;
 - 4. Public Relations;

5. Coordinate MSYSA Soccer Camps;
6. Liaison to Maryland High Schools, Colleges and Universities;
7. Liaison to Boys and Girls Olympic Development Programs;
8. Assist with the coordination of International Games and other special soccer events;
9. Coordinator of Volunteers;
10. Such other responsibility as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

Section 4. Removals and Vacancies

Any member of the Executive Board, any Officer or any agent of the association may be removed from office and relieved of his/her duties by two-third (2/3) vote of those members present and eligible to vote at a duly constituted meeting of the general membership provided that notice of the proposed action is given in the notice of the meeting. Any member of the Executive Board (except the Immediate Past President) may be removed as a member of the Board by a majority vote of the Board for missing two (2) consecutive regularly scheduled Board meetings or three (3) meetings in one year without a valid excuse, as determined by the Board. All vacancies on the Executive Board may be filled, for the remainder of the existing term, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Executive Board, even though the number of remaining members of the Executive Board may be less than a quorum.

Section 5. Reports to Membership

Actions and policies adopted by the Executive Board shall be reported to the Association's members after each meeting of the Executive Board by the distribution of Minutes of such meetings to the authorized representatives of each member organization of the Association.

ARTICLE IV - Voting Rights/Meetings

Section 1. Annual Meeting/Membership Meeting

There will be one (1) vote for each member league, club and recreation organization. Each member with five (5) or more teams will receive one (1) additional vote for every ten (10) teams or portion thereof. (Example: 1-4 teams = 1 vote; 5-14 teams = 2 votes;

15- 24 teams = 3 votes; 25-34 teams = 4 votes). For voting purposes only, the number of recreation teams in an organization will be determined by dividing the number of recreation players registered with the organization by 15. This number will be added to the number of "travel teams" registered with the member organization to determine the total number of teams in that organization for purposes of determining the number of votes to which the organization is entitled. For purposes of computing the number of votes for each member League, the number of teams in a member League shall be reduced by the number of teams which are affiliated with an MSYSA member Club. Each member in good standing shall be entitled to cast its votes at each membership meeting, provided that such member be present. Officers of MSYSA cannot act as voting representatives of a member. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. The representative eligible to cast a vote at the Annual Meeting must be affiliated with a Maryland league, team or club. No one person may represent more than (1) vote. For purposes of voting at the Annual Meeting, or any other meeting of the membership, the number of affiliated teams per member league, club, or recreation organization, computed as aforesaid, shall be certified by the Registrar. A member who enrolls additional teams subsequent to September 1 of such year shall certify the additional teams to the Registrar and the Registrar shall certify that the teams are eligible to receive any additional votes to which they may be entitled.

Section 2. Special Meetings.

Special meetings of the membership may be called by the President, with the concurrence of the majority of the members of the Executive Board, or by request made to the Secretary by members of the Association in good standing constituting at least fifty (50) percent of the votes eligible to be cast at any meeting of the membership.

Section 3. Notice.

With respect to a Special Meeting, the Secretary shall provide written notice of a meeting of the Association to all members at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting date and the notice shall specify an agenda for the meeting. With respect to the Annual Meeting, written notice must be given at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting date and include a recommended slate of candidates for elective office, any amendment proposed for the Constitution and By-laws, the agenda for the meeting and the number of votes which each member league or recreational organization is eligible to cast.

Section 4. Executive Board Meetings.

The Executive Board shall meet prior to each membership meeting and at other times upon the call of the President or a majority of the Board. The order of business and agenda shall be determined by the President. A majority of the membership of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business. Each member on the Board shall be entitled to cast one vote on any matter of business before the Board except as otherwise provided. The Executive Board may act on a matter without a

meeting with the consent of all Board Members. All meetings of the Executive Board shall be open to all member leagues and organizations.

Section 5. Conduct of Business

All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts' Rules of Order.

ARTICLE V - The Association Year and Elections

Section 1. Association Year

The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on September 1 and end on the following August 31.

Section 2. Nominations

No person may be a candidate in an Association election who has not been nominated. To be an eligible candidate for an Association elective office, or Executive Board position, an individual must be, or have been within the previous ten (10) years, associated with an MSYSA affiliated club, league, team or recreation organization. No later than 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of representatives of the Association for the purpose of nominating candidates for office who shall constitute the Executive Board.

- a. The Nominating Committee shall nominate one or more candidates for each office. After securing the consent of the persons nominated, the Committee shall immediately report their nominations to the Executive Board in writing, but in no case later than 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting.
- b. The names of individuals, other than those nominated by the Nominating Committee, may be placed in nomination for office of the Association by written notice addressed to the Secretary of the Association and delivered to the Association's office no later than ten (10) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting. The notice of nomination shall contain the name of the individual being nominated, their club or league affiliation, the office for which they are being nominated, evidence that the individual consents to be nominated, and a brief statement of the nominee's experience and qualifications. Individuals may nominate themselves by providing the above information.
- c. The Secretary of the Association shall, in the notice of the Annual Meeting, notify all members of the candidates for office nominated by the Nominating Committee. Seven days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting, the Secretary shall mail a Final Notice of the meeting to all members, listing all candidates nominated for offices of the Association, together with brief statements, provided by the candidates, of the candidate's experience and qualifications..

- d. No nominations may be made from the floor on the date of the Annual Meeting except for offices for which no one has been nominated in advance of the Annual Meeting.

Section 3. Elections

Elections shall take place each year at the Annual Meeting of the Association. The nominated candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. In the absence of any opposing candidates, the entire slate may be elected with one vote. Voting may, but need not be, by ballot.

ARTICLE VI - Committees

Section 1. Appointment and Removal

The President, with approval of a majority of the members of the Executive Board, shall each year appoint such standing and special committees as may be necessary to advance the work of the Association. The chair of each committee shall be designated by the President with approval of a majority of the members of the Executive Board. Any person appointed to a committee subject to this article may be removed for good cause by the vote of a majority of the members of the Executive Board.

Section 2. Responsibilities

The responsibilities of each committee established under this article shall be as determined by the Executive Board by resolution. All committee chairpersons shall upon request of the Executive Board prepare a proposed budget for the coming year and shall submit that budget to the Executive Board at such time as may be required. Committee chairpersons shall also prepare a written report for the annual meeting detailing the activities of the committee for the past year and projecting activities for the coming year.

ARTICLE VII - MSYSA Sponsored Competition

Section 1. Boy's Division

- Under 12 Vernon Reese Cup*
- Under 13 Chuck Tanner Cup*
- Under 14 John "Buck" Davidson Cup* (also representative for National Youth Soccer National Cup Competition)
- Under 15 Dan Dobry Cup* (also representative for National adidas Cup Competition)
- Under 16 William Stubbins Cup* (also representative for National D. J. Niotis Cup Competition)

- Under 17 Tom Bailey Cup* (also representative for the National Don Greer Cup Competition)
- Under 18 Unnamed Cup* (also representative for National Andy Stone Cup Competition.)
- Under 19 Benjamin Freeburger Cup* (also representative for National James P. McGuire Cup Competition)

Section 2. Girl's Division

- Under 12 George A. Leyh Cup*
- Under 13 Terry Kullback Cup*
- Under 14 Lee Hood Cup* (also representative for the National Elmer Ehlers Cup Competition)
- Under 15 Mavis Derflinger Cup* (also representative for National Kristine Lilly Cup Competition)
- Under 16 Gene Ringsdorf Cup* (also representative for the National Patricia L. Masotto Cup Competition)
- Under 17 Unnamed Cup* (also representative for the National Laura Moynihan Cup Competition)
- Under 18 Unnamed Cup* (also representative for National Francis J. "Frank" Kelly Cup Competition)
- Under 19 Dorothy Inglehart Cup* (also representative for National Ross Stewart Cup Competition)

**Winners in these age groups represent Maryland in Region I Tournament of Champions.*

Section 3. Regional Representatives

The winners of State Cup Competitions in those age groups of competition in the Region I Tournament of Champions and National competition will be entitled to and obligated to represent this State Association at any such competition sponsored by the USYSA. Failure to meet this obligation may be punishable by suspension, fine (or both) or other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VIII - Adjudication

Section 1. Authority of the Executive Board

- a. The Executive Board shall have final jurisdiction over all matters arising from the enforcement and administration of the Constitution, By-laws, rules and policies and procedures of the Association. In addition, the Executive Board shall have final jurisdiction over protests and appeals from decisions of a member organization involving misconduct or violations of the rules or regulations of such organization or MSYSA. The Executive Board shall also have final jurisdiction relating to incidents of alleged violations by coaches, players, administrators, parents or spectators of any principles or code of conduct adopted by MSYSA or its member organizations. The Executive Board shall also have final authority to

hear protests and appeals arising from decisions relating to all Maryland State Cup play and other competitions sanctioned by the Association.

- b. The Executive Board may grant to an Adjudication Committee the authority to exercise initial review of matters pertaining to the above delineated jurisdiction, while retaining final, discretionary authority to review the decisions of such Committee.
- c. The Association will provide equitable and prompt hearing and appeal procedures to guarantee the rights of individuals to participate and compete. Those procedures shall include that all grievances involving the right to participate and compete in activities sponsored by USSF and MSYSA and its members may be appealed to the USSF Appeals Committee that shall have jurisdiction to approve, modify or reverse a decision.
- d. A party involved in a proceeding before an MSYSA member organization must exhaust all protest and appeal procedures of such member organization prior to bringing an appeal to MSYSA.
- e. The Association retains the authority to initiate proceedings at its own initiative in all matters relating to alleged violations of its rules, policies and procedures.
- f. All decisions of the Executive Board relating to actions taken pursuant to this Article shall be by majority vote of the Executive Board present and voting. Final decisions shall be in writing and shall be made available to all parties in interest.

Section 2. Adjudication Committee

- a. The Executive Board may establish an Adjudication Committee and may delegate to such Committee by resolution, such authority as the Board shall deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this Article.
- b. The Executive Board shall establish in writing the rules and guidelines under which Adjudication Committee shall function, including rules which insure that all parties in interest to a matter considered by the Committee be afforded due process.
- c. All decisions of the Adjudication Committee shall be by a majority vote of those Committee members present and voting. All decisions shall be in writing and shall be made available to all parties in interest in a timely fashion.
- d. All decisions of the Adjudication Committee may be appealed to the Executive Board subject to the procedure provided in Section 3 of this Article. The Executive Board may affirm, modify, or reverse or choose not to review any decision made by the Committee.

Section 3. Procedure for Protests and Appeals

- a. All protests and appeals to this Association shall be filed in writing with the Secretary (or with such other person as the Executive Board may designate) and shall be postmarked no later than 48 hours after notification of the decision or action from which the protest or appeal is taken. The appropriate protest and appeal fee shall accompany the written protest or appeal. The notice of protest or appeal filed with this Association shall describe specifically the decision or action being protested or appealed and shall contain a detailed statement of the basis or grounds for the protest or appeal.
- b. Upon receipt of a written notice, initial authority to review and/or hear the protest or appeal shall rest with the Adjudication Committee, if one has been appointed, otherwise all protests and appeals shall be heard as designated by the Executive Board. The Adjudication Committee, or such other body hearing a protest or appeal shall render a decision as soon as practicable under the circumstances. In the case of an appeal from the decision of a member of the Association, the Adjudication Committee or such other body designated to hear the protest or appeal, or in the case of an appeal from a decision of the Adjudication Committee, the Board, may, at its discretion, hold a hearing at which all parties in interest are given the opportunity to appear. If a hearing is not held, the Adjudication Committee or the Executive Board (or the Committee) may afford all parties in interest an opportunity to submit appropriate information for consideration by the Adjudication Committee or Executive Board in ruling on the protest or appeal. The Adjudication Committee or Executive Board may return the protest and appeal fee, in whole or in part, depending on the outcome of the appeal.
- c. The Executive Board shall establish by resolution the appropriate protest and appeal fee.

Section 4. Instituting Legal Proceedings

No member organization, league, club, team, player, coach, administrator, spectator or referee under the jurisdiction of this Association may invoke the aid of the courts of the United States without first exhausting all administrative remedies made available by the Association, USYSA and the USSF.

ARTICLE IX - Budget and Fees

Section 1. Budget

The Treasurer in conjunction with the Executive Director, shall prepare a proposed annual budget for review and recommendations by the Executive Board and for approval by a majority vote at a meeting of the members of MSYSA prior to the start of the Association's fiscal year.

Section 2. Fees

The Treasurer, in conjunction with the Executive Director, shall also recommend a proposed schedule of affiliation and registration fees for review and recommendation by the Executive Board and for approval by a majority vote at a meeting of the members of MSYSA prior to the start of the Association's fiscal year.

Section 3. Player Registration Fees

All player registration fees are due and payable to the State Registrar prior to the beginning of league play on a seasonal year basis unless otherwise provided for by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE X - Regions

Section 1.

The Executive Board may create geographical subdivisions within the state known as Regions. The boundaries of these regions shall be determined by the Executive Board.

Section 2.

A Region Commissioner shall be elected to administer each region and his/her election shall confer upon him/her a voting seat on the Executive Board. A Region Commissioner shall be elected by the eligible voting members of his/her respective Region, for a period of two (2) years, to represent his/her Region on the Executive Board of this Association.

Section 3.

For the purpose of electing the respective Region Commissioners, each member league, club, and recreation organization within a particular Region shall have one (1) vote for itself. Each member league, club and recreation organization with five (5) or more teams will receive one(1) additional vote for every ten (10) duly affiliated teams, or portion thereof.

Section 4.

The Region Commissioner shall be elected to coincide with the election of the general

membership for the Executive Board, as specified in Article III, Section 1.

Section 5.

Voting members of a Region may request a hearing for the removal of their Region Commissioner at any time. A Region Commissioner may be removed, for just cause, by a majority vote of the eligible voting members of the Region and with the approval of the Executive Board of this Association.

Section 6.

When a Region Commissioner's position is declared vacant, the Executive Board may call for an election of a new Region Commissioner within a period of sixty (60) days of said declaration. If such election is not held, or if an impasse is reached, the Executive Board of this Association shall appoint a Region Commissioner for said vacancy. The newly elected/appointed Region Commissioner shall serve out the remainder of the unexpired term of the office of the Region Commissioner who has left office.

Section 7.

The Region Commissioner shall represent his/her Region to the Maryland State Youth Soccer Association.

- a. Within any Region, the Region Commissioner may designate assistants to aid him/her in the performance of his/her duties. In the absence of the Region Commissioner, his/her designated Assistant Region Commissioner may vote at a meeting of the Executive Board.
- b. The Region Commissioner shall submit a list of his/her assistants to the Secretary of this Association for inclusion in the Association Directory.

ARTICLE XI - Amendment, Repeal or Suspension

The By-laws of the Association may be amended in whole or in part, or suspended in whole or in part, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all the votes eligible to be cast by members in good standing in attendance at a duly authorized meeting of the Association. Proposed amendments to the By-laws shall be in writing and shall be submitted to the Secretary so as to allow thirty (30) days notice to all members prior to consideration of such proposed amendments at the annual meeting or special meeting of the membership of the Association.

ARTICLE XII - Risk Management

The Association opposes all forms of sexual and physical abuse. The Association shall adopt policies prohibiting sexual and physical abuse that meet at least the minimum criteria established by USSF, to the extent not otherwise precluded by state or local law applicable to the Association.