

SENIORS
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I
NAME

1. The Name of the League shall be the NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE OF CHICAGO, INC. (hereinafter referred to as the “NSL” or the “League”)
 - A. The Official Symbol of the NSL shall be the one pictured on the cover of the Constitution and By- Laws of the NSL.
 - B. The Official Colors of the NSL shall be red, black and white.
 - C. Any Official representation of the NSL shall bear only these symbols.

ARTICLE II
FOUNDATION AND PURPOSE

1. The NSL was founded on the 22nd day of July, 1919.
2. This League shall be a non-profit-making organization.
3. It shall be the object of this League to foster and advance the game of soccer in the city of Chicago and the state of Illinois and to guard the interests of the members of the NSL.
4. This League will be affiliated with:
 - A. THE ILLINOIS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION (ISSA)
 - B. THE UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION, INC. (USSF)
 - C. This organization does not discriminate against any race, creed, color, age or sex.

ARTICLE III
ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE NSL

1. The President:
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Board Members (3)
6. Chairman of the Rules Committee
7. Audit Committee Members (3)
8. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Board Members and Chairman of the Rules Committee shall be eligible for a monthly allowance for expenses which shall be determined by the Delegates at the Annual Meeting

ARTICLE IV
DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

1. The President:
 - A. Shall be the Chairman at all meetings.
 - B. Shall pass upon and approve all cost incurred by the League.
 - C. Shall countersign all checks for payment
 - D. Shall (with the approval of the Executive Board) appoint all committees not required by this Constitution.
 - E. Shall cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie vote, at any meeting, be it General, Executive or Special Meeting. He may waive his right to do so if he chooses.
 - F. Shall appoint a member of the Executive Board to attend all ISSA open meetings.
 - G. Has the power to appoint a successor to any office becoming vacant for the remainder of the term, subject to the approval of the membership at the following General Meeting.
 - H. Has the Power to veto any decision of the Executive Board if in his opinion any such decision is not in the best interest of the NSL. Any veto must be put to the floor for discussion at the next General Meeting.
 - I. Shall submit an annual written report on the operation of the League at the Annual Meeting. This report will be made available to all member clubs and to the ISSA each January.
 - J. Must be Bonded. A copy of this certificate must be presented to all clubs and to the ISSA each January.
2. The Vice-President
 - A. Shall succeed to the duties of the President in his absence.
 - B. Cannot vote at the General or Special Meetings of the member clubs
 - C. Must be Bonded. A copy of this certificate must be presented to all clubs and to the ISSA each January.
3. The Secretary
 - A. Shall attend to all correspondence.
 - B. Shall keep the records of the member clubs, their officers, managers and League delegates.
 - C. Shall have the power to countersign checks.
 - D. Cannot vote at the General or Special Meetings of the member clubs.
 - E. Is authorized to have an assistant at the discretion of the Executive Board.

The assistant secretary:

 1. will be eligible for the payment of a salary which shall be determined by the Executive Board and subject to the approval of the Membership.
 2. Will have no voting right within this League.
 3. Working hours shall be set by the Executive Board.
 - F. Both the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary must be Bonded. A copy of this certificate must be presented to all clubs and to the ISSA each January.

4. The Treasurer
 - A. Shall collect all dues and have charge of all money of this league.
 - B. Shall keep a detailed account of income and expenditures.
 - C. Shall pay all expenses incurred by the NSL which have been properly passed upon and approved by the President. Transactions shall be made by check whenever possible.
 - D. Shall submit a monthly report of finances, including a copy of the monthly bank statement. This report shall be in writing and distributed to the member clubs at each General Meeting.
 - E. Shall submit an annual written report on the financial transactions of the League for the past year. This report shall be certified by an independent auditor.
 - F. Shall have the authority to countersign all checks for payment of expenses.
 - G. Cannot vote at the General or Special Meetings of the member clubs.
 - H. Must be Bonded. A copy of this certificate must be presented to all clubs and to the ISSA each January.
5. The Board Members
 - A. Shall have those duties which the President and/or the Executive Board assigns to them.
 - B. Cannot vote at the General or Special Meetings of the member clubs.
 - C. Must be Bonded. A copy of this certificate must be presented to all clubs and to the ISSA each January.
6. The Chairman of Rules Committee
 - A. Shall preside at meetings of the Rules Committee.
 - B. Is not a member of the Executive Board.
7. The Recording Secretary (Appointed by the Executive Board)
 - A. Shall keep minutes of all General, Special or Annual Meetings.
 - B. Shall read the minutes at the General Meeting of all previous meetings which have occurred since the last General Meeting.

ARTICLE V
*RESPONSIBILITIES, FUNCTIONS AND POWERS
 OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD*

1. The Executive Board shall consist of:
 - A. The President
 - B. The Vice-President
 - C. The Secretary
 - D. The Treasurer
 - E. Three Board Members
2. The Executive Board shall hold meetings to transact all business of this League and shall have the power to enforce the Laws of the Game, the Rules of the USSF and the Constitution and By- Laws of this League.

3. The President, Vice-President and Secretary of this League shall constitute an Emergency Committee on all matters demanding immediate attention providing it is impractical or impossible to call an Executive Board Meeting. Their actions shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Board which if withheld shall invalidate their actions insofar as they are executory.
4. The Executive Board may fine, discipline or suspend any member club within the framework of the Constitution; but only member clubs shall have the power to expel another member from this league.
5. The Executive Board Shall have absolute power to schedule and reschedule games.
6. The Executive Board shall have the power and responsibility to settle all disputes and/or protests of the member clubs subject to appeal to the ISSA (Exception to this rule is in the indoor game which shall be dealt with separately.
8. The Executive Board shall declare vacant the office of any Board Member absent from three consecutive Board Meetings without just cause.
9. Four voting members of the Executive Board shall have the power to suspend any Executive Board Member pending approval of the membership.
10. The Executive Board shall have the power to appoint a member of the Executive Board to act as the Recording Secretary.
11. The Executive Board shall have the power to select a manager and coaches whom have active coaching licenses to the All- Star Team (an All- Star team shall mean a team representing the NSL.)
12. The Executive Board shall have first call upon any registered player of the NSL for all All-Star Games. Any player refusing to comply without satisfactory reason shall be subject to suspension.
13. In the event the Secretary or Treasurer is unable to perform his/her duties because of absence for two or more consecutive weeks, the Executive Board shall advise the member clubs of the interim substitute.
14. The Executive Board shall draw up an anticipated annual budget to be presented at the January meeting, approved by the member clubs and it shall be adjusted up-or-down to reflect the requirements of that budget. Any expenditure not in the original budget will not be allowed until it is approved by the member clubs.
15. The Executive Board of the NSL must meet with the Executive Boards of all Divisions of the NSL (youth, Over-30, Women's, etc.) on a semi-annual basis, at which time each Division must submit a written report of Division Operations, including a Financial Report. The reports shall be made available by the NSL for club inspection upon request.
16. In the event of a specific matter involving a member of the Executive Board's team, the board member cannot be present during the Executive Board's decision.

ARTICLE VI
ELECTIONS

1. Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the NSL and take office on the 1st day of the following month.
2. Officers shall hold office for a period of two years and shall be eligible for re-election.
 - A. President, Secretary, and 1 Board Member shall be elected in even years.
 - B. Vice-President, Treasurer and 2 Board Members shall be elected in odd years.
3. Officers shall be elected by a simple majority of the votes present at the Annual Meeting. Any contested election must be by secret ballot.
4. If, for any reason, an office becomes vacant, a successor may be appointed by the President to fill the remainder of that term, subject to the approval of the Executive Board. Or, a Special Meeting may be called to elect a successor.
5. All Member Clubs shall receive fourteen days' written notice of an impending ejection of any officers or Executive Board Member(s)
6. A Delegate to the Youth Division of the NSL shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. The Delegate must attend all Youth Division meetings as a spokesperson for the Senior Body of the NSL.
7. A Delegate to the Over-30 Division of the NSL shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. The Delegate must attend all Over-30 Division meetings as a spokesperson for the Senior Body of the NSL.

ARTICLE VII
IMPEACHMENTS

1. Officers can be impeached at Special Meetings only.
2. The ground for impeachment must be stated in writing along with notification of a Special Meeting.
3. Sixty-six percent (66%) of the votes present at the Special Meeting must be in favor of impeachment for the impeachment to be upheld.
4. If the President is being impeached, the Vice-President shall preside.
5. If the President and Vice-President are being impeached at the same time, the Chairman of the Rules Committee shall preside.

ARTICLE VIII
COMMITTEES

1. The Rules Committee
 - A. The Chairman of the Rules Committee will be elected at the Annual meeting of the NSL.
 - B. It shall be the duty of this committee to:

1. Interpret the Constitution if any conflicts or problem arise, and only when and if they are requested to do so by any member club or by the Executive Board.
 2. Annually review the Constitution and, as deemed necessary, Submit any amendments for approval within the guidelines of Article XX, Par. 1.
- C. This Committee shall have power to determine the constitutionality of any Executive, Legislative or Judicial action of the NSL and its members pertinent to the operation of this League within the framework of its Constitution.
 - D. Two regular members and one alternate member shall be appointed to this committee by the Executive Board subject to the approval of the member clubs.
 - E. This committee shall act only upon written request from any member club or the Executive Board. This written request must state the specific article of the Constitution which that member club feels has been violated and by what action.
 - F. This Committee shall not hold hearings.
 - G. This Committee shall not be looked upon as an appeals board for protests.
2. The Auditing Committee
 - A. This committee shall consist of 3 people elected at the Annual Meeting of the National Soccer League. No member of the Executive Board shall serve on this committee.
 - B. It shall be the duty of this committee to review the financial records of the NSL on a quarterly basis.
 - C. This committee shall give a report to the member clubs quarterly (at the April, July, October and January meetings.) This report must be in writing. The Auditing Committee may audit the books on a monthly basis, if they deem necessary.

ARTICLE IX
MEETINGS

1. The General Meeting
 - A. Shall be held the third Wednesday of each month.
 - B. The order of business for all General Meetings shall be:
 1. Roll Call
 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting
 3. Correspondence
 4. Financial Reports
 5. Special Reports
 6. Delegates' Reports
 - a. Youth
 - b. Over-30

- c. ISSA
 - d. Others
 - 7. Committee Reports
 - a. Rules
 - b. Audit
 - c. Others
 - 8. Unfinished Business
 - 9. New Business
 - 10. For the Good of Soccer
 - 11. Final Roll Call
 - 12. Adjournment
 - C. Fifty- One percent (51%) of the total member clubs of the NSL shall constitute a quorum. A quorum is required in order to hold a meeting.
 - D. A simple majority of the votes present shall decide all issues unless otherwise specified in the Constitution
 - E. Each member club shall be entitled to one delegate and one vote for each senior team in the League competition. Only one delegate need be present to exercise the voting rights of his club.
 - F. The authorized delegate(s) and alternate delegate(s) of each member club in good standing shall be the only delegate(s) recognized until recalled via official notification.
 - G. Member clubs failing to answer both the first and final roll calls shall be considered absent and subject to a fine for each offense.
 - H. Each Member club shall be held responsible for the conduct of its delegate(s) at any meeting of the NSL and subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Board.
 - I. All NSL meetings shall be for the official delegate(s) of member clubs and Executive Board Members, with the exception of anyone given the courtesy by the Chairman.
 - J. In case of doubt as to the procedure to be followed at any meeting of the NSL, "Robert's Rules of Order" shall prevail.
 - K. The President shall have the option to appoint both a sergeant-at-arms and parliamentarian at each General Meeting.
2. The Executive Board Meetings
- A. These meetings may be held at any time or anywhere at the discretion of the Executive Board.
 - B. These meetings are not open to the member clubs unless invited to attend by the Executive Board.
 - C. Four voting members (other than the President) shall constitute a quorum.
3. Annual and/or Special Meetings
- A. Annual Meetings shall be held in November each year.
 - B. Elections shall be held at the Annual Meeting.
 - C. Fifty- One Percent (51%) of the total member clubs of the NSL shall constitute a quorum. A quorum is required in order to hold a meeting.

- D. A simple majority of the votes present shall decide all issues.
Exceptions to this are as follows:
 - 1. Amendments to the Constitution shall require a two- thirds majority of the votes present.
 - 2. Expulsion of a member club from the NSL shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes present.
 - 3. Impeachment of elected officials shall require a two- thirds majority of the votes present.
- E. Each member club shall be entitled to one delegate and one vote for each senior team in League competition. Only one delegate need be present to exercise the voting rights of his club.
- F. The Authorized delegate(s) and alternate delegate(s) of each member club in good standing shall be the only delegate(s) recognized until recalled via official notification.
- G. Clubs failing to be represented at Annual and/or Special Meetings shall be subject to a fine. No exceptions.
- H. Clubs failing to answer the roll call(s) shall be considered absent. No exceptions.
- I. Each member club shall be held responsible for the conduct of its delegate(s) at any meeting of the NSL and subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Board.
- J. Annual and/or Special meetings shall be for official delegate(s) of member clubs and the Executive Board only, with the exception of anyone given the courtesy by the Chairman.
- K. In case of doubt as to the procedure to be followed at any meeting of the NSL, “Robert’s Rules of Order” shall prevail.
- L. Special Meetings shall have the same format as Annual Meetings with the following exceptions:
 - 1. Special meeting of the member clubs may be called at any time by the President, the Executive Board, or upon written request of twenty- five percent (25%) of the member clubs. The request from the clubs shall state the purpose of the meeting.
 - 2. All decisions shall require a two- thirds majority of the votes present.

ARTICLE X
MEMBERSHIP

- 1. Any new club may apply for membership in this League at any time. However, in order to participate in League competition, they must be accepted no later than the date of the regular April Meeting.
- 2. Any new club applying for membership in the NSL must be chartered by the State of Illinois. To be considered for membership, the following must be submitted to the Executive Board:
 - A. Proof of application of their state charter within 30 days of acceptance;

- B. Membership application;
 - C. Membership fee (non-refundable);
 - D. List of Players;
 - E. List of Officers;
 - F. Name of their regular and alternate NSL delegate(s)
3. New Clubs seeking membership in the League must be known by a “team name”.
 4. The Name of the team must meet approval by the Executive Board and the general membership.
 5. To admit any new club to the NSL, a two- thirds majority of the votes present at any General Meeting is required.
 6. Upon acceptance as a new member of the NSL, that club must use its letterhead printed stationary in all correspondence with the League or the correspondence may not be recognized.
 7. Upon being accepted as a new member of this League, they shall be furnished with a copy of the Constitution and By- Laws of the NSL at no charge. This shall be deemed as sufficient notice as to their responsibilities and liabilities.
 8. All new clubs admitted to the NSL must start League competition in the lowest division.
 9. All member clubs must pay the full amount of their annual outdoor affiliation fee no later than the March monthly meeting in order to participate in League competition for the upcoming year. The National Soccer League Executive Board reserves the right to declare vacant the spot of any team that fails to meet this deadline
 10. If a club wishes to discontinue temporarily its soccer activities, it may request a leave of absence for a period not to exceed one calendar year. Such leave may be granted by a simple majority of votes present at a General meeting. A team on leave need not pay an affiliation fee, and has no voting rights. If, before the expiration of the one- year period, the club requests full re- instatement, it shall be granted. Upon re- instatement, the team shall resume play in the lowest Division.
 11. A club admitted to this league after the date of the regular April meeting, but before the conclusion of the League competition, shall be considered under temporary affiliation. As a temporary affiliate, the club:
 - A. Shall fulfill all obligations required of clubs entering as full members.
 - B. May participate in any friendly or tournament games.
 - C. May, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be assigned to play in the lowest Division. While under temporary affiliation, however, a team is not eligible for any championships in League play.
 - D. May vote at any meetings.
 12. In all cases, priority for admission, leaves of absence, and temporary affiliation, among teams in similar status shall be by, first, date of approval, or, if identical, by date of request for approval.

ARTICLE XI
EXPULSION

1. Member clubs can be expelled from the NSL at General or Special Meetings.
2. A two- thirds majority of the votes present are required for expulsion.
3. Any member club being expelled from the NSL shall automatically forfeit all rights to any and all properties of this league.

ARTICLE XII
REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

1. The status, rights and privileges of amateur and professional players shall be set forth by the ISSA and USSF.
2. All amateur players must be registered with the ISSA on the form adopted by that association. This registration is also binding on the NSL as are the rules regarding registration as set forth by the ISSA and USSF
3. A player cannot register for any other team until properly released from his old club.
4. Any player properly registered shall not play for any other team than that for which he is registered without first obtaining written consent from his club and the NSL. Failure to comply with this rule shall result in suspension of said player and the club using said player shall be fined and forfeit the game in which the player participated.
5. A player who has competed in this League's current competition must be idle for fourteen days inclusive, for another club in this League.
6. No registration of new players shall be permitted for any club during its last three League games.
 - A. Thus, new players can be registered up to the beginning of the third-to-the-end game.
 - B. Exempt from this rule are players registered for Cup Games. All such players must have their names provided to the NSL.
7. No team shall have more than eighteen players registered at any one time. If more are registered, they are subject to fine and forfeit all game in question.
8. A junior player leaving his club to play for any other club must wait six months before being eligible to register for a senior team. This rule does not apply to those junior teams which do not have a senior team. Exempt from this rule are those junior players who receive written permission from their club to leave.
9. No club or person acting on behalf of a club shall approach a player who is registered for any other club without the consent of that club for the purpose of signing that player. Any club found guilty of doing so shall be fined.
10. Any first- time registered player must be registered and cleared by the ISSA.
11. Player passe (ID cards) shall be provided by the ISSA.

12. The current secretary (or manager) of the club shall sign all player release forms and these signatures shall be the only authorized signatures on said forms.
13. A maximum of four (2) "B" team and/or Over-30 players above the 25-player registration limit may play for the "A" team within their own club, provided that the players DO NOT play two games on the same day.
14. The secretary (or manager) of a club must submit a written request to the player's team, IYSA, ISSA and NSL for permission to place a "junior" player on a senior team line-up. The junior player may play an unlimited number of games. A maximum of four (4) junior players may play for the senior team.

ARTICLE XIII
RELEASE OF PLAYERS

1. Only those releases made out on regular ISSA release forms shall be recognized.
2. The valid date of a release shall be the date of receipt by the registration secretary of the ISSA. This date shall be properly recorded on the release form by the registration secretary. This is the date which shall be referred to in case of a protest.
3. Any amateur player withholding property belonging to the club of which he was last a member shall not be eligible for release.
4. Any club claiming property from a player must submit written proof of same.
5. Every club must determine on a yearly basis, one person to act as official Secretary (or manager) of that club. Only the signature of this person shall be recognized as official on any release form.
6. Any player obtaining a release in order to transfer from a "B" team, within his own club, to the "A" team shall be allowed to do so with no idle period. Any player transferring from the "A" to the "B" team must be idle for a period of fourteen (14) days.
7. Any player participating in his own club's Over-30 team and wishing to transfer to the "A" team shall be allowed to do so with no idle period. However, there shall be the usual fourteen (14) day idle period for players moving from the "A" team to the Over-30 team.

ARTICLE XIV
DIVISIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE NSL

1. This League shall be comprised of the following divisions and sections:
 - A. Major Division
 1. Red Section
 2. Blue Section
 - B. First Division
 1. Red Section
 2. Blue Section

C. Second Division

1. Red and Blue Sections if possible;
 2. Otherwise, the divisional structure and scheduling shall be made by the Executive Board for that particular season only.
2. Each section shall be comprised of six (6) teams. The standings of the teams within their respective division and/or sections shall be figured by points. Three (3) points shall be awarded for each win, one (1) point for each tie, and no points for a loss. If a tie for position exists, positions shall be determined by the following:
- A. Tiebreaking procedure when two teams are tied with an equal number of points:
 1. If two teams have an equal number of points, the tie is broken by looking at the results of matches played between the two teams. The team with the greater number of points in matches played between the two teams wins the tiebreaker.
 2. If the teams remain tied after applying Step 1, then the team with the greater number of goals scored in matches played between the two teams wins the tiebreaker.
 3. If the teams remain tied after applying Step 2, then the team with the greater number of total victories wins the tiebreaker.
 4. If the teams remain tied after applying Step 3, then the team with the greater number of points in Sectional matches wins the tiebreaker.
 5. If the teams remain tied after applying Step 4, then the team with the greater number of victories in Sectional matches wins the tiebreaker.
 6. If the teams remain tied after applying Step 5, then the team with the best goal difference in all matches wins the tiebreaker.
 7. If the teams remain tied after applying Step 6, then the team with the greatest number of goals scored in all matches wins the tiebreaker.
 8. If the teams remain tied after applying Step 7, then the team with the best goal difference in Sectional matches wins the tiebreaker.
 9. If the teams remain tied after applying Step 8, then the team with the greatest number of goals scored in Sectional matches wins the tiebreaker.
 10. If the teams remain tied after applying Step 9, the teams will play one match to break the tie. The match will be scheduled by the National Soccer League.
 - B. This procedure is applied in situations where three or more teams have an equal number of points. If the tie remains unresolved after applying any Step in this Procedure and two teams remain tied, the tie is broken by using the Tiebreaker Procedure described in Article XIV, Paragraph 2, Section A.

1. If three or more teams have an equal number of points, the tie is broken by looking at the results of matches played between the tied teams. The team with the greater number of points in matches played between the tied teams wins the tiebreaker.
 2. If three or more teams remain tied after applying Step 1, then the team with the greater number of goals scored in matches played between the tied teams wins the tiebreaker.
 3. If three or more teams remain tied after applying Step 2, then the team with the greater number of total victories wins the tiebreaker.
 4. If three or more teams remain tied after applying Step 3, then the team with the greater number of points in Sectional matches wins the tiebreaker.
 5. If three or more teams remain tied after applying Step 4, then the team with the greater number of victories in Sectional matches wins the tiebreaker.
 6. If three or more teams remain tied after applying Step 5, then the team with the best goal difference in all matches wins the tiebreaker.
 7. If three or more teams remain tied after applying Step 6, then the team with the greatest number of goals scored in all matches wins the tiebreaker.
 8. If three or more teams remain tied after applying Step 7, then the team with the best goal difference in Sectional matches wins the tiebreaker.
 9. If three or more teams remain tied after applying Step 8, then the team with the greatest number of goals scored in Sectional matches wins the tiebreaker.
 10. If three or more teams remain tied after applying Step 9, then the tie will be broken by conducting a blind draw. The first team whose name is drawn wins the tiebreaker. All subsequent teams whose names are drawn are placed in the standings in the order that they were drawn.
- C. If the breaking of such tie shall determine only in what place a team has finished, and for purposes of restructuring for the following season, the criteria shall be as described in Sections A and B, except a blind draw shall replace the playoff game.
3. All teams shall be scheduled to play as follows:
 - A. Each team shall play teams within their own section twice during the year on a home and away basis.
 - B. Each team shall play teams from the other section only once during the year.
 - C. The Executive Board shall endeavor to assign all teams an equal number of home games as far as is possible.

- D. In the event the 2nd Division has more or less than twelve (12) teams, the Executive Board shall have the power to change game scheduling with the approval of the second division teams.
4. At the end of each season in League competition, the Divisional Champion shall be determined as followed:
- A. In the Major, First and Second (if two sections) Divisions, the first place team of each section shall play each other for the Divisional Championship.
 - B. In the event there are not two sections in the Second Division, the Champion will be determined as follow:
 1. If there is only one section the team with the most points is Champion and the team with the second most points is runner-up.
 2. If there are more than two sections, the format shall be presented by the Executive Board and decided by the general body.
5. Promotions and Demotions:
- A. The first-place finishers in each section of the First and Second (if two sections) Divisions shall be promoted to the next highest division for the following year's competition.
 - B. The last-place finishers in each section of the Major and First Divisions shall be demoted to the next lowest division for the following year's competition.
 - C. In the event there are not two sections in the Second Division, the promotions shall be as follows:
 1. If there is only one section, the two teams with the most points shall be promoted.
 2. If there are more than two sections, the format shall be presented by the Executive Board and decided by the general body.
6. Restructuring
- At the beginning of each year, the sections shall be restructured as follows:
- A. The odd-place finishers of the Blue Section, the even-place finishers of the Red Section, and any teams being promoted* or demoted to the division from a Blue Section shall comprise the Blue Section for the year's competition, in each division. (*except to fill vacancies)
 - B. All other teams within each division shall comprise the Red Section for the year's competition.
 - C. If there are any vacancies to be filled for whatever reason, the following actions shall take place:
 1. If there is one vacancy to be filled the heretofore demoted team with the most points shall not be demoted.
 2. If there are two vacancies to be filled, both heretofore demoted teams shall not be demoted.

3. If more than two vacancies exist, the two second place teams from the next lowest division shall have a play-off game to fill the vacancy.
4. If more than three vacancies exist, the third place teams of the next-lowest division shall have a play-off game.
5. If more than four vacancies exist, the third place teams of the next-lowest division shall have a play-off game.
6. Follow procedures three through five until all vacancies have been filled.
7. For purposes of restructuring, a team filling a vacancy shall be treated as occupying the vacated slot. (i.e. if the 3rd place team of the Blue Section disband, and a team is promoted from a lower section, that team shall be treated as having finished 1 3rd place (odd) in the Blue Section, and consequently, compete in the higher division's Blue Section that year.)

ARTICLE XV

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPETING TEAMS

1. Every member club shall be held responsible for the actions of its own officials and spectators and is required to take all possible precautions to prevent spectators from threatening or assaulting officials and players prior to, during, or after the conclusion of the game. Those clubs failing to heed this rule shall be subject to forfeit of games, fines, suspensions or any combination thereof at the discretion of the Executive Board. If either club had taken all possible precautions (attested to by the referee and/or other evidence) they cannot and will not be liable for the actions of the opposing team and their spectators.
2. The manager of each team shall furnish the referee and their opponent with an official line-up prior to the start of each game. Players' names may be added to the line-up form only until the start of the game. The line-up form shall list (in print) the following:
 - A. Names of players (with numbers).
 - B. Name of manager.
 - C. Names of three field officials.
 - D. Name of the linesman. Each team must provide a linesman in uniform. The League will make linesmen uniforms available to all teams for a fee. Exceptions include the Major Division and any other games for which the NSL has assigned official Linesmen, at the discretion of the Executive Board of the NSL. Failure to comply with this rule will be subject to a fine.
3. It shall be the duty of the field officials to maintain order and restrain spectators from entering the playing area and to protect the referee.
4. All home teams must furnish nets for the goals and four corner flags of standard 5 ft. size. Failure to do so shall be subject to a fine.

5. Home team shall retain its team colors, though white cannot count as a home color. All teams must have all their players in identical uniform (i.e. socks, shorts, shirts, etc.) Failure to do so is subject to a fine. (Example: If both teams wear the same colors, the visiting team must change or wear white. If both teams wear white, the home team must change.)
6. All jerseys must be numbered and correspond with the name and number of the player listed on the line-up form. Failure to do so is subject to a fine. Minimum size of the numbers must be at least 8" high. The numbers on shorts should be a minimum size of 2" high.
7. Any club desiring postponement of any scheduled games must first reach mutual agreement with the opposing club and then give no less than eight (8) calendar days notice (7 calendar days if notice is made by telegram or fax) to the NSL. If such postponement cannot be mutually agreed upon by both clubs, the game must be played as scheduled. Only the Executive Board, under extenuating circumstances, may approve a shorter notice.
8. Any club playing an ISSA Cup Game must notify its League opponent as early as possible.
9. Any club whose home field is not listed on the League schedule or is forced or desires to change its home field must notify their opponents and the Executive Board of the location of the new field at least eight (8) calendar days before game day. Failure to do so is subject to a fine and forfeit of the game. Only the Executive Board, under extenuating circumstances, may approve a shorter notice.
10. Twenty members of the visiting team shall be permitted to enter the grounds of the home club without paying admission.
11. Any member clubs of the NSL wishing to play a friendly game must request permission for it from the NSL in writing a least eight (8) calendar days (7 if by telegram or fax). Failure to comply shall be subject to a fine. Only the Executive Board, under extenuating circumstances, may approve a shorter notice.
12. Any member clubs of the NSL wishing to sponsor and/or participate in tournaments must request permission from the NSL in writing at least fourteen (14) days in advance. Sponsors of tournaments must include the following information with their notification:
 - A. The number of teams invited.
 - B. The names of the clubs invited.
 - C. The date of the tournament.
 - D. The schedule of games.
13. Any team that forfeits four games or more in any one season shall be fined and suspended.
14. Any club refusing or failing to play a game and not complying with the Constitution and By- Laws of this League shall forfeit the points and (if requested by the opposing team) pay them a fine to cover expenses.
15. Any player found guilty of using profane and/or threatening language toward the referee, officials of the League, the other players or the spectators at any game under the jurisdiction of this League as reported by the referee shall be

liable for suspension. Any club official found guilty of same shall incur a fine for his club.

16. A player or official removed from the field by the referee due to misconduct shall stand suspended until his case has been dealt with by the Trial Board of the NSL or ISSA. Suspensions shall be retroactive. A player or official must submit his report to the Trial Board within 48 hours of the incident for consideration.
17. Any registered player of this League who physically assaults a referee or linesman shall be automatically suspended, as of the date of such assault. His club shall be subject to disciplinary action by the ISSA, such as fines, suspension or both for each player or official involved in the incident.
18. All clubs under the jurisdiction of this League who sponsor summer tournaments shall provide a copy of the tournament rules to both the NSL and the ISSA.
19. In case a team disbands during the season, all games in which said team participated or was involved in will be nullified.
20. All teams under the jurisdiction of the NSL have the power to suspend any players or officials. The appeal process applies.

ARTICLE XVI *RULES OF THE GAME*

1. All teams under the jurisdiction of this League shall play under the rules of the game as approved by the USSF.
2. All games played by the member clubs of this League shall be under the jurisdiction of this League. No team can participate in any other game unless given permission to do so by the Executive Board. (Exempt from this rule are the National Cup Games or any other games arranged by the ISSA or the USSF.)
3. Players under the jurisdiction of the League may be either amateur or professional.
4. This League shall recognize and honor all suspensions or like ruling of co-equal bodies (ISSA, USSF, etc.) provided that the NSL has been officially notified of same. Any club under suspension or not in good standing with the ISSA and/or the NSL must forfeit their points to their scheduled opponents until said club is reinstated.
5. Eighteen players are allowed on the line- up form. A senior player whose name appears on the line- up form shall be considered as a competing player whether he participates in the game or not.
6. In the event a team is found guilty of using an ineligible player, (see Article XVIII, Section 3) the following actions shall take place:
 - A. The guilty team shall forfeit the game in which the ineligible player was used to their opponents and shall be fined for each ineligible player used.

- B. Each ineligible player used shall be referred to and dealt with by the Trial Board of the NSL
7. All games must start on schedule. A delay of up to fifteen minutes shall be allowed; however, the team which was not prepared to start on time shall be fined. After fifteen minutes, that team not prepared to start playing shall forfeit the points to their opponents. The referee shall make a complete report stating the reasons for any delays. No team will be fined nor forfeit the game without a referee's report on the reason for delays. Fines based on late starts shall be assessed based on the referee report.
 8. In the event the condition of the playing field is in question, only the referee and/or the field directors shall have the authority to decide whether the games is to be played.
 9. Substitutions shall be allowed under the following conditions:
 - A. Each substitute must report to the referee before he is allowed to participate in the game.
 - B. Only those players whose names appear on the line-up may be substituted.
 - C. A player who has been substituted for, may return to the game.
 - D. A player ordered off the field for a red card by the referee cannot be substituted for.
 10. If a referee refused to officiate because of improper field preparations (such as no marked lines, no nets, etc.) due to the negligence of the home team, the home team must forfeit the points.
 11. Starting players' passes must be presented to the referee prior to the start of the game. Substituting players' passes must be presented to the referee at the time the substitution is made. The team lacking passes shall be fined for each player without a players' pass.
 - A. If a pass or passes are not available, the game may be played, and the opposing team may request that all players whose names appear on the line-up form, and who do not have passes sign their name on the line-up form.
 1. All players must be properly registered and not under suspension , or the team using improper players may be found guilty of using an ineligible players.
 2. If the game is not played due to a player or players refusing to sign their name(s), the game shall not be played, and entered as a forfeit. The team shall also be fined for each such player.
 - B. The Secretary or Manager may request a copy of the original registration form and I. D. pass from the Registrar. Should the I. D. pass be unavailable this for may be submitted to the referee who must then send it back with a report. This procedure shall enable a team to play the game without a fine.
 - C. Should an I. D. pass be lost or stolen, a new I. D. pass must be obtained within seven (7) days, or the player shall be deemed ineligible.

ARTICLE XVII
INTERRUPTED GAMES

1. If, for any reason, a game is not played the full 90 minutes, the Executive Board shall have the power to:
 - A. Reschedule the game in its entirety if no one was at fault and less than fifteen minutes of the game was played.
 - B. Order the game to stand as played if no one was at fault and less than fifteen minutes remained to be played.
 - C. Order the remaining minutes to be played off at a later date if no one was at fault and more than fifteen minutes of the game was played but at least fifteen minutes are left to be played.
2. In the event a game is not played the full 90 minutes due to the actions of one of the teams, the team which was at fault must automatically forfeit the points for that game to their opponent. Score stand as it was when the game was interrupted, if this benefits the team not at fault.

ARTICLE XVIII
DISPUTES, APPEALS AND PROTESTS

1. Any team protesting a game must submit all pertinent facts to the Secretary of the NSL within three days following the game. The protest must be accompanied by a protest fee which shall be forfeited to the League if the protest is not sustained. If the protest is not mailed within three days, it shall be ruled out of order.
2. Protest based on late starts and/or the field of play shall be filed with the referee in writing PRIOR TO THE START OF THE GAME. A copy of the protest shall be handed to the captain, manager or official of the opposing team in the presence of the referee.
3. Protest based on ineligible players shall be filed no later than fourteen days after the game in which the player or players had participated. If the protest is not postmarked within fourteen days, it shall be ruled out of order.
4. A copy of all protests must be mailed to the Secretary or Manager of the opposing club. Failure to do so shall result in a fine but shall not rule out the protest.
5. Once a protest has been filed, it can be withdrawn; however, the protest fee shall be forfeited.
6. Once the Executive Board has ruled on a protest, any member club may request a hearing or reconsideration of their protest only after following the proper procedure, which is:
 - A. Request must be made in writing and must include new evidence to be presented.
 - B. Requests must be made within fourteen days of the receipt of the Executive Board's decision. The postmark mailing date shall be used to determine same.

- C. Requests must include the hearing fee.
- 7. Rules governing the hearing fee are as follows:
 - A. If the original penalty is reduced in any way, 50% of the hearing fee must be refunded.
 - B. If the original penalty is not reduced, the hearing fee shall be forfeited.
 - C. If the original penalty is reversed, the hearing fee must be refunded.
- 8. Fines may be appealed to the NSL in writing within fourteen days of being notified of the fine.
 - A. If the original fine is reduced in any way, 50% of the appeals fee must be refunded.
 - B. If the original fine is not reduced, the appeals fee shall be forfeited.
 - C. If the original fee is reversed, the appeals fee must be refunded.
- 9. Member clubs have the right to appeal NSL rulings to the ISSA.
- 10. Member clubs have the right to appeal ISSA rulings to the USSF.
- 11. Member clubs have the right to appeal USSF rulings to the FIFA.

ARTICLE XIX
REFEREES

- 1. All games under the jurisdiction of this League shall be officiated by referees duly accredited by the USSF and/or by the ISSA.
- 2. In the event the official referee fails to appear, a referee(s) may be appointed by mutual agreement between the teams, provided both teams submit a signed agreement and line-ups prior to the start of the game.
- 3. An appointed referee is entitled to a full regular fee.
- 4. If, for any reason, any referee becomes incapacitated during the progress of a game that would prevent him from continuing to officiate, he shall turn the game over to any affiliated referee or person mutually agreed upon, in writing, by both opposing teams who shall conduct the game to its conclusion.
- 5. A referee must be paid his fee before the start of the game or the home team shall be subject to a fine.
- 6. Unless otherwise stated, all referees shall be paid by the home team.
- 7. In case of forfeits, the referee must still be paid half his fee.
- 8. The fees for the referees shall be set by the NSL in conjunction with the ISSA for the season in which games are to be played.
- 9. The referee shall be the sole judge on the field of play insofar as the rules of the game of soccer are concerned. His decisions shall be final.
- 10. Any complaints regarding any official referee shall be directed in writing to the Referee Committee, with a copy to the Secretary of the NSL

ARTICLE XX
MISCELLANEOUS

1. The Constitution and By- Laws of this League may be altered, amended or appealed at any Annual or Special Meetings of this League by a two-thirds majority vote of those delegates present. Each member club must receive fourteen days' written notice of the proposed alterations, amendments or appeals.
2. No Member club shall be allowed to withdraw from this League without first obtaining clearance to do so from the League and the other member clubs. In addition, should the member club wish to withdraw from this League in order to transfer to another League, THE CLUB MUST INFORM THE LEAGUE OF THE INTENDED TRANSFER ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE. (no later than December 31st), during which time the club must remain in good standing with this League.
3. All teams registered with this League shall be considered an individual unit. A "B" team shall be considered an individual unit.
4. If any member club fails, refuses or neglects to fulfill any of its agreements or obligations to this League, they shall be subject to a fine.
5. If any member club fails, refuses or neglect to fulfill any of its obligations as a member of the NSL or violates any of the provisions of the Constitution of this League, they shall be subject to a fine.
6. If any member club commits any act which is inconsistent with the principles and standards of good sportsmanship, they shall be subject to a fine.

ARTICLE XXI
LIQUIDATION OF THE NSL

1. All physical property of the NSL (such as furnishings, equipment and property rights) shall not be subject to claim by any member club. Said properties shall remain in trust throughout the existence of the League.
2. No individual member club or group of member clubs may lay claim to the properties of the NSL as long as the League remains active with a membership of at least ten clubs in good standing.
3. In the event of the NSL failing to continue its operation, all of its properties and headquarters shall be liquidated between all surviving clubs.

ARTICLE XXII
FINES

1. All fine must be paid on or before the date set by the Executive Board which shall not be less than fourteen days from the date the decision has been reached. Postmark or acknowledge receipt shall determine whether the fine was paid within the specified time.
2. Failure to pay the fine on time (within the fourteen days) shall result in the following penalties:

- A. For each fine of \$25 or less, \$5 per week or part thereof shall be added to the original fine.
 - B. For each fine over \$25 but less than \$50, \$10 per week or part thereof shall be added to the original fine.
 - C. For each fine of \$50 or more, the penalty is 20% of the fine per week or part thereof.
3. Under no condition will the above additional penalties exceed more than twice the amount of the original fine.
4. Fines may be appealed after payment has been made.
5. Clubs owing fines shall be furnished with a monthly statement showing all fines due plus any added penalties due to late payments
6. If seven days after the maximum additional penalties have been added, a member club fails to pay all fines and penalties due, it will be suspended from all soccer activities immediately.
7. If such member club is not involved in any soccer activities at that time, suspension shall continue until fine is paid in full, and two points shall be deducted at the end of the following season for each month (or part thereof) that it remains unpaid.
8. Team under suspension cannot participate in meetings.
9. Member clubs issuing bad checks will be subject to fine (with exception to bank errors).