

OVER 30 DIVISION
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I
NAME

1. The Name of the Division shall be the Over 30 Division of the NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE OF CHICAGO, INC. (hereinafter referred to as the “Over 30 Division” or the “Division”)
 - 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 Over 30 Division was founded on the 1st day of April, 1983.
2. This Division shall be non-profit-making.
3. It shall be the object of this Division 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 Over 30 Division.
4. This Division will be affiliated with:
 - A. THE NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE OF CHICAGO (hereinafter referred to as the NSL) and
 - B. THE ILLINOIS STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION (hereinafter referred to as the ISSA).
 - C. THE UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION, INC (hereinafter referred to as the USSF).
5. This organization does not discriminate against any race, creed, color, age or gender.

ARTICLE III
ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE OVER 30 DIVISION

1. Director
2. Board Members (3, one of whom will serve as Secretary)
3. The Treasurer of the NSL shall serve as the Treasurer of the Over 30 Division and shall handle all financial matters.
4. The Chairman of the Rules Committee of the NSL shall also serve as the Chairman of the Rules Committee of the Over 30 Division.

ARTICLE IV
DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

1. The Director
 - A. Shall be the Chairman at all meetings.
 - B. Shall (with the approval of the Executive Board of the National Soccer League and the Over 30 Division) appoint all committees not required by this Constitution.
 - C. 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.
 - D. Has the power to appoint a successor to any office becoming vacant for the remainder of that term, subject to the approval of the membership at the following General Meeting.
 - E. Has the power to veto any decisions of the Over 30 Board, if in his opinion, any such decision is not in the best interest of the Over 30 Division. Any veto must be put to the floor for discussion at the next General Meeting. A majority of the delegates present shall vote to either uphold or disallow the decision in question.
 - F. Shall submit an annual written report on the operation of the Division at the Annual Meeting. This report will be made available to all member teams at that time, and to the member clubs of the NSL.
2. 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 submit a full written report of all Over 30 Division meetings to the NSL Executive Board.
 - D. Is authorized to have an assistant at the discretion of the Executive Board.

The assistant secretary:

 - i. Will have no voting right within this League.
 - ii. Working hours shall be set by the Executive Board.
3. The Board Members
 - A. Shall have those duties which the Director and/or Board assign to them.
4. The Recording Secretary (Appointed by the Board from the Board)
 - A. Shall keep the minutes of all General, Special or Annual Meetings; and
 - 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 OVER 30 DIVISION BOARD*

1. The Over 30 Board shall consist of:
 - A. The Director
 - B. Three Board Members (one of whom shall serve as Secretary)

2. The Over 30 Division Board shall hold meetings to transact all business of this Division 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 Division.
3. The Director and Secretary of this Division shall constitute an Emergency Committee on all matters demanding immediate attention, providing it is impractical or impossible to call a Board Meeting. Their actions shall be subject to the approval of the Division Board, which if withheld, shall invalidate their actions insofar as they are executory.
4. The Over 30 Division 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 of this Division.
5. The Over 30 Division Board shall have absolute power to schedule and reschedule games.
6. The Over 30 Division Board shall have the power and responsibility to settle all disputes and/or protests of the member clubs, subject to appeal to the National Soccer League. (The indoor games are an exception to this rule and shall be dealt with separately.)
7. The Over 30 Division Board shall declare vacant the office of any Board Member absent from three consecutive Board Meetings without just cause.
8. Three voting members of the Over 30 Division Board shall have the power to suspend any Board Member pending approval of the membership.
9. The Over 30 Division Board shall have the power to appoint a member of the Board to act as the Recording Secretary.
10. The Board shall have the power to select a manager and coaches for all All- Star Teams. These coaches and managers must have active coaching licenses in order to be selected. (An All- Star team shall mean a team representing the Over 30 Division.)
11. The Board shall have the power to dismiss a manager or coach of the All-Stars.
12. The 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. The Board shall draw up an anticipated annual budget to be presented at the January meeting, approved by the member clubs and it shall be maintained. The annual affiliation fee 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.

ARTICLE VI *ELECTIONS*

1. Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the NSL (Senior Body) 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. Director and one Board Member shall be elected in even-numbered years.

- B. Secretary and one Board Member shall be elected in odd-numbered years.
- 3. Officers shall be elected by a simple majority of the votes of Over 30 members 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 Director to fill the remainder of that term, subject to the approval of the Over 30 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 election of any officer(s) or Board Member(s).
- 6. NSL Delegates will be elected at the January meeting,

ARTICLE VII
IMPEACHMENTS

- 1. Officers can be impeached at Special Meetings only.
- 2. The grounds 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 Director is being impeached, the President of the NSL shall preside until a Director is appointed.

ARTICLE VIII
MEETINGS

- 1. The General Meeting
 - A. Shall be held the second Tuesday of each month.
 - B. The order of business for all General Meetings shall be:
 - i. Roll Call
 - ii. Minutes of Previous Meeting
 - iii. Correspondence
 - iv. Financial Reports
 - v. Special Reports
 - vi. Delegates' Reports
 - vii. NSL
 - viii. Others
 - ix. Committee Reports
 - x. Unfinished Business
 - xi. New Business
 - xii. For the Good of Soccer
 - xiii. Final Roll Call
 - xiv. Adjournment
 - C. Fifty one percent (51%) of the total member clubs of the Over 30 Division 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 team in the Over 30 Division 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 Division and subject to disciplinary action by the Board.
 - I. All Over 30 Division meetings shall be for the official delegate(s) of member clubs and 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 Division, "Robert's Rules of Order" shall prevail.
2. The Over 30 Division Board Meetings
- A. These meetings may be held at any time or anywhere at the discretion of the Board.
 - B. These meetings are not open to the member clubs unless invited to attend by the Board.
 - C. Two voting members (other than the Director) shall constitute a quorum.
3. The Special Meetings
- A. Special Meetings of the member clubs may be called at any time by the Director, the 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.
 - B. Fifty percent (50%) of the total member clubs of the Division shall constitute a quorum. A quorum is required to hold a meeting.
 - C. A simple majority of the votes present shall decide all issues. Exceptions to this are as follows.
 - i. Amendments to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes present.
 - ii. Expulsion of a member club from the Over 30 Division shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes present.
 - iii. Impeachment of elected officials shall require a three-quarter majority of the votes present.
 - D. Each member club shall be entitled to one delegate and one vote for each team in the Division. Only one delegate need be present to exercise the voting rights of his club.
 - E. 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.

- F. Member clubs failing to be represented at Special Meetings shall be subject to fine for each offense.
 - G. Member clubs failing to answer the roll call(s) shall be considered absent. No exceptions.
 - H. Each member club shall be held responsible for the conduct of its delegate at any meeting of the Division and shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Board.
 - I. Special Meetings shall be for official delegate(s) of the member clubs and the Board only, 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 Division, "Robert's Rules of Order" shall prevail.
4. Annual Meetings
- A. Annual Meetings shall be held in November each year.
 - B. Elections shall be held at the Annual Meeting of the NSL.
 - C. A simple majority of the votes present shall decide all issues. Exceptions to this are as follows.
 - i. Amendments to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes present.
 - ii. Expulsion of a member club from the Over 30 Division shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes present.
 - D. Each member club shall be entitled to one delegate and one vote for each team in Division competition. Only one delegate need be present to exercise the voting rights of his club.
 - E. 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.
 - F. Clubs failing to be represented at Annual Meetings shall be subject to a fine. No exceptions.
 - G. Clubs failing to answer the roll call(s) shall be considered absent. No exceptions.
 - H. Annual and/or Special meetings shall be for official delegate(s) of member clubs and the Board only, with the exception of anyone given the courtesy by the Chairman.

ARTICLE IX
MEMBERSHIP

- 1. Any new club may apply for membership in the Division at any time. However, in order to participate in Division competition, they must be accepted no later than the date of the regular February Meeting.
- 2. Any new club applying for membership in the Division must be chartered by the State of Illinois. To be considered for membership, the following must be submitted to the Board:
 - A. Membership application;
 - B. Membership fee (non-refundable);

- C. Security fee;
 - D. List of players;
 - E. List of officers;
 - F. Name of their regular and alternate delegate(s) – (4);
 - G. Location of the member club’s home field (along with a written authorization form that field’s owner or legal representative stating availability and permission to use that field).
3. New clubs seeking membership in this Division must be known by a “team name”.
 4. To admit any new club to the Division, a two- thirds majority of the votes present at any General Meeting is required.
 5. Upon acceptance as a new member of the NSL, that club must use its letterhead printed stationery in all correspondence with the Division or the correspondence may not be recognized.
 6. Upon being accepted as a new member of this Division, they shall be furnished with a copy of the Constitution and By- Laws of the Division at no charge. This shall be deemed as sufficient notice as to their responsibilities and liabilities.
 7. All new clubs admitted to the Over 30 Division must start League competition in the lowest division.
 8. All member clubs must pay their annual outdoor affiliation fee by March 1st in order to participate in League competition for the upcoming year.
 9. The number of teams in the Over 30 Competition shall not exceed 8 teams per Group.
 10. If a club wishes to temporarily discontinue 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 other voting rights. If, before the expiration of the one- year period, the club requests full re-instatement, it shall be granted. In such case, the club on leave shall be given priority over all new clubs desiring admission, until such time that a vacancy occurs. Upon re-instatement, the team shall resume play in the lowest Division.
 11. A club admitted to this Division after the date of the regular February 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. Shall become full members when a vacancy occurs (and enter the Over 30 Competition at the beginning of the following season). NOTE: Clubs under leave of absence will be given priority to be reinstated over temporary affiliates. Any club applying for membership or temporary affiliation shall, at the time of their application, be notified of any clubs being on leave of absence, and having such priority.
 - C. May participate in any friendly or tournament games.
 - D. May not vote at any meetings, but may otherwise actively participate.
 - E. If, at the beginning of league competition at the beginning of the following season, a vacancy has not occurred, the club may withdraw its temporary

affiliation and receive at that time its security fee (if in good standing) and one-half of its membership fee.

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 X *EXPULSION*

1. Member clubs can be expelled from the Over 30 Division 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 Division shall automatically forfeit all rights.

ARTICLE XI *REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS*

1. The status, rights and privileges of amateur and professional players shall be set forth by the USSF.
2. A player is eligible to compete in the Over 30 Division player after he has completed his 30th birthday.
3. 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.
4. An Over 30 registration shall expire each year on the date established by the ISSA.
5. A player cannot register for any other team until properly released from his old club.
6. 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 Over 30 Division. 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.
 - A. A club's Senior Team may use up to four Over 30 players in a Senior match as secondary players, provided that the total number of players' names appearing on the Senior Team's lineup sheet does not exceed the maximum of 18 names.
7. No registration of new players shall be permitted for any team during its last three games. Exempt from this rule are those clubs who sign their own Senior players on an Over 30 registration form.
8. A player who has competed in this Division's current competition must be idle for 14 days inclusive, following his release, before being eligible to play for another club in this Division.

9. No team shall have more than 30 players registered at any one time. If more are registered at any one time, the team is subject to fine and must forfeit all games in question.

ARTICLE XII
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 Over 30 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. 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.

ARTICLE XIII
DIVISIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE OVER 30 DIVISION

INDOOR SOCCER: Divisional structure and rules pertaining to indoor games will be decided by the Over 30 Board. Any teams participating in indoor soccer will receive in writing all rules and regulations governing the indoor season before start of season. Any rules questioned by any teams may be made in writing to the Over 30 Board.

1. This Over 30 Division shall consist of the following Groups:
 - A. Group 1
 - B. Group 2
 - C. Group 3
 - D. Group 4
 - E. Group 5
 - F. Group 6
2. Each Group shall consist of eight teams. The standings of the teams within their respective Division and/or Groups 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:
 - i. 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.

- ii. 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.
 - iii. If the teams remain tied after applying Step 2, then the team with the greater number of total victories wins the tiebreaker.
 - iv. If the teams remain tied after applying Step 3, then the team with the greater number of points in Sectional matches wins the tiebreaker.
 - v. If the teams remain tied after applying Step 4, then the team with the greater number of victories in Sectional matches wins the tiebreaker.
 - vi. If the teams remain tied after applying Step 5, then the team with the best goal difference in all matches wins the tiebreaker.
 - vii. 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.
 - viii. If the teams remain tied after applying Step 7, then the team with the best goal difference in Sectional matches wins the tiebreaker.
 - ix. 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.
 - x. 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 XIII, Paragraph 2, Section A.
- i. 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.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. If three or more teams remain tied after applying Step 2, then the team with the greater number of total victories wins the tiebreaker.
 - iv. 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.
 - v. 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.

- vi. 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.
 - vii. 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.
 - viii. 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.
 - ix. 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.
 - x. 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. If at any time, there are less than eight teams in any particular Group, the teams will compete in an equally balanced inter-group competition, as directed by the Board of the Over 30 Division.
 4. At no time will a Group (for scheduling purposes) consist of less than four teams per group.
 5. Each Group will compete within their Group in a home and away series.
 6. Scheduling
 - A. The composition of each Group shall be determined by lottery.
 - B. The schedule shall be drafted by the Board of the Over 30 Division and presented to the clubs no later than the April General Meeting.
 7. At the conclusion of each season of regular competition, the first place teams of each Group shall play each other for the Divisional Championship. The Championship matches shall be arranged between the Over 30 Division Board and the National Soccer League Executive Board.

ARTICLE XIV
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, and after the conclusion of the game. Those clubs failing to heed this rule shall be subject to the loss of points, fines, suspensions or any combination thereof at the discretion of the Over 30 Board. If either club had taken all possible precautions (attested to

- by the referee and/or other evidence), they cannot and will not be held liable for the actions of the opposing team and their spectators.
2. The Manager of each team shall furnish the referee with an official completed line-up form in triplicate prior to the start of the 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.NOTE: Those teams failing to comply with Section 2 in its entirety shall be subject to fine.
 3. All home teams must furnish nets for the goals and four corner flags of standard 5 ft. size. Failure to do so will be subject to fine.
 4. 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 10 inches high.
 5. Any club desiring postponement of any scheduled games can only do so with the consent of the opposing club. If such postponement cannot be mutually agreed upon by both clubs, the club requesting the postponement can appeal to the Board, who will render a final decision on when the game will be played.
 6. Any club whose home field is not listed on the schedule or is forced or desires to change its home field, must notify their opponents and the Over 30 Division Board of the location of the new field at least six calendar days (five calendar days if notice is made by telegram or mailgram) before game day. Failure to do so is subject to fine and forfeit of the game. Only the Over 30 Division Board, under extenuating circumstances, may approve a shorter notice.
 7. All players with player passes plus an additional five persons of the visiting team shall be permitted to enter the grounds of the home club without paying admission.
 8. Any member clubs of the Over 30 Division wishing to play a friendly game must request permission for same from the Division in writing at least eight calendar days (seven if by telegram or mailgram) prior to the game. Failure to comply shall be subject to a fine. Only the Board, under extenuating circumstances, may approve a shorter notice.
 9. Any member clubs of the Over 30 Division wishing to sponsor and/or participate in tournaments must request permission from the Division in writing at least fourteen 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; and
 - D. The schedule of games.
 10. Any team entering Cup Competition shall attempt to ensure that Cup games not interfere with regularly scheduled matches. Should conflict occur, matches will be rescheduled to be played during the week.
 11. It is the responsibility of the home team to report the score within 24 hours of the game. Failure to do so shall be subject to fine.

12. All teams under the jurisdiction of the NSL have the power to suspend any players or officials. The appeal process applies.
13. 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.)
14. Any club playing an ISSA Cup Game must notify its League opponent as early as possible.

ARTICLE XV
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 and therefore FIFA.
2. All games played by the member clubs of this Division shall be under the jurisdiction of this Division. No team or registered player thereof can participate in any other game unless given permission to do so by the Over 30 Division Board. (National Cup Games or any other games arranged by the ISSA or the USSF are exempt from this rule.)
3. Players under the jurisdiction of the Division may be either amateur or professional.
4. This Division shall recognize and honor all suspensions or like rulings of co-equal bodies (ISSA, USSF, NSL, etc.) provided that the Over 30 Division has been officially notified of same. Any club under suspension or not in good standing with the ISSA and/or the Over 30 Division must forfeit their points to their scheduled opponents until said club is reinstated.
5. Only 20 players' names are allowed on the line-up form. An Over 30 player whose name appears on the line-up form shall be considered as a competing player regardless of whether he participates in the game or not.
6. In the event a team is found guilty of using an ineligible player, (see Article XVII, 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 ISSA.
7. A maximum of four players whose names appear on the line-up form must sign their name on the line-up form if and when requested to do so by the opposing team, except as provided by Section 22 of this Article.
8. 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.

9. 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 game is to be played.
10. Substitutions can be only be made with the approval of the referee during a stoppage in the match by either team, regardless of the position of the ball.
11. 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 form 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.
 - E. All substitutes are subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the referee, regardless of whether they are called upon to play.
 - F. Any player can change places with the goalkeeper, provided that the referee is informed of the change and that the change is made during a stoppage in the match.
12. Any team forfeiting a scheduled game and notifying the Over 30 Division Board at least eight calendar days (seven days if notice is made by telegram or mailgram) in advance, will not be subject to fine. Forfeits shall be recorded as 3:0 for the opposing team. Only the Board, under extenuating circumstances, may approve a shorter notice.
13. Any team that forfeits three games in any one season shall be fined and suspended.
14. 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 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 by the Trial Board.
15. Any club refusing or failing to play a game and not complying with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Division shall forfeit points and (if requested by the opposing team) pay them a fine to cover expenses.
16. In case of Group play-off games, only players who were properly registered prior to the last three games may participate. Failure to do so will result in the loss of the game for the offending team.
17. Any player found guilty of using profane and/or threatening language towards the referee, officials of the Division, the other players or the spectators at any game under the jurisdiction of this Division as reported by the referee, shall be liable for suspension. Any club official found guilty of same shall incur a fine for his club.
18. Any registered player of this Division who physically assaults a referee or assistant 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. The Over 30 Board may choose to impose fines and suspension on the Club.

19. All clubs under the jurisdiction of this Division who sponsor tournaments shall conduct them under the tournament rules which are supplied by the Over 30 Division of the National Soccer League.
20. In case a team disbands during the season, all games in which said team participated or was involved in will be nullified.
21. If a referee refuses 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.
22. 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. During the first two games of the season, 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 names on the line-up form. From the third game of the season onward, all players must present a valid player pass to the match officials in order to be eligible to participate.
23. A team lacking passes shall be fined \$25 for each player lacking a player's pass. All players must be properly registered and not under suspension, or the team using improper players may be found guilty of using an ineligible player. 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.
24. Referee fees must be paid before the start of the match. The competing teams are each responsible for paying half of the referee fee.

ARTICLE XVI
INTERRUPTED GAMES

1. If, for any reason, a game is not played the full 90 minutes, the Over 30 Division 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; and
 - 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 opponents. Score stands as it was when the game was interrupted, if this benefits the team not at fault.

ARTICLE XVII
DISPUTES, APPEALS AND PROTESTS

1. Any team protesting a game must submit all pertinent facts to the Secretary of the Division within three days following the game. The protest must be accompanied by a protest fee which shall be forfeited to the Division 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 Over 30 Division Board in writing.
3. Protests 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 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 Over 30 Division 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 Board's decision.
 - 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 over 30 Division 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 fine is reversed, the appeals fee must be refunded.
9. Member clubs have the right to appeal Over 30 Division rulings to the NSL.
10. Member clubs have the right to appeal NSL rulings to the ISSA.
11. Member clubs have the right to appeal ISSA rulings to the USSF.
12. Member clubs have the right to appeal USSF rulings to the FIFA.

ARTICLE XVIII *REFEREES*

1. All games under the jurisdiction of this Division 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 the opposing teams. This new referee shall conduct the game to its conclusion.
5. A referee must be paid his fee before the start of the game or the team withholding shall be subject to a fine.
6. In case of forfeits, the referee must still be paid his fee, from whichever team is present.
7. The fees for the referees shall be set by the Over 30 Division in conjunction with the Illinois State Referee Committee for the season in which games are to be played.
8. 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.
9. Any complaints regarding any official referee shall be directed in writing to the Referee Committee, with a copy to the Secretary of the Division, NSL and to the ISSA.

ARTICLE XIX
MISCELLANEOUS

1. The Constitution and By- Laws of this Division may be altered, amended or appealed at any General, Annual or Special Meeting of this Division by a two-thirds majority vote of those delegates present and the approval of the Executive Board of the NSL. Each member club must receive fourteen days' notice (written) of the proposed alterations, amendments and repeals.
2. No member club shall be allowed to withdraw from this League without first obtaining clearance to do so from the other member clubs and the Over 30 Division Board. 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 Division shall be considered as individual units.
4. It shall be mandatory that every member club of the Division buy a minimum number of tickets to all home games of the Over 30 Division All-Stars.
5. If any member club fails, refuses or neglects to fulfill any of its agreements or obligations to this Division, they shall be subject to fine.
6. If any member club fails, refuses or neglects to fulfill any of its obligations as a member of the Division or violates any of the provisions of the Constitution of this Division, they shall be subject to a fine.
7. 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.

8. In the event of a playoff game between Group winners or between teams tied on points and goal difference, etc., the game receipts (after deducting expenses) shall be divided equally between the competing teams and the Over 30 Division.
9. If a member club of the Over 30 Division arranges and/or sponsors and international game, the Division must be asked for this permission and two percent (2%) of the gross receipts shall be donated to the Division.

ARTICLE XX
LIQUIDATION OF THE NSL

1. All physical property of the Over 30 Division (such as furnishings, equipment and property rights) shall not be subject to claim by any member club. Said properties shall remain in trust of the NSL.
2. In the event of the Over 30 Division failing to continue its operation, all of its properties shall be donated to the NSL.

ARTICLE XXI
FINES

1. All fines must be paid on or before the date set by the Over 30 Division 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 suspension of game play.
3. Fines may be appealed after payment has been made.
4. Clubs owing fines shall be furnished with a monthly statement showing all fines due.
5. If such member club is not involved in any soccer activities at that time, suspension shall continue until fine is paid in full.
6. Teams under suspension cannot participate in meetings.
7. Member clubs issuing bad checks will be subject to fine. Exceptions are bank errors.
8. No fine shall be more than \$1500.00 per violation for any offense not specifically covered in this Constitution.

