

NEW HAMPSHIRE SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Youth and Amateur Divisions

Affiliated with USYS, USASA, USSF, FIFA, and the USFF



NEW HAMPSHIRE SOCCER ASSOCIATION

RESTATED ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

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ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSE

1.1 NAME

This Association shall be known as the New Hampshire Soccer Association Youth and Adult Division, a non-profit corporation hereafter referred to as NHSA or the State Association.

1.2 MISSION STATEMENT

The ~~New Hampshire Soccer Association~~ **NHSA** mission is to provide opportunities for participants to develop to the highest skill level of the individual's ability; to provide through programs and activities education for coaches, players, referees, parents, and administrators; to promote and stimulate interest in the game of soccer.

1.3 OBJECTIVES

To promote the game of soccer and to provide for the following:

- organized soccer activity in the State of New Hampshire
- an environment that emphasizes the ideals of good sportsmanship and fair play, and the importance of development of both individual and team skills for players, coaches and officials
- an opportunity for players, coaches, and officials to expand their participation to regional, national and Olympic levels of competition
- goodwill through physical fitness

ARTICLE II AFFILIATIONS:

2.1 PRIMARY AFFILIATIONS

This Association shall be an affiliate of and comply with the United States Soccer Federation, United States Youth Soccer, United States Amateur Soccer Association, and the United States Futsal Federation.

2.2 FEDERATION PRECEDENCE

- The USSF articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies and requirements take precedence over and supersede the governing documents and decisions of the NHSA and its members to the extent applicable under state law, and NHSA will abide by those articles, bylaws, policies and requirements of USYS, USASA and USSF.
- The NHSA will not join any organization that has requirements that conflict with the Federation's articles, bylaws, policies and requirements.

2.3 INTERPLAY

NHSA and its members shall not discriminate against the participation of players or teams on the basis of that player or team's membership in, or affiliation with, another organization. Members are encouraged to allow teams of all other USSF members to participate in tournaments sponsored by NHSA or any of its members when

the teams otherwise comply with the tournament eligibility requirements. A tournament sponsor may charge each team an additional fee of not more than \$25 to participate in the tournament.

ARTICLE III DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The ~~New Hampshire Soccer Association~~ **NHSA** and its members are committed to a policy of equal opportunity for its players, coaches and referees and prohibits discrimination or harassment against any individual on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity, familial status, marital status or disability.

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ARTICLE IV AUTHORITIES

4.1 Its Articles of Agreement, Bylaws and Rules shall govern NHSA so long as they are consistent with those of USYSA, USASA, USSF, and USFF.

4.2 The governing authority of NHSA shall be vested in a Board of Directors to be known as an Executive Board whose power and authority shall be designated in the Bylaws.

4.2 The New Hampshire Soccer Association shall have an Executive Board

- a. selected through an open and democratic process, which will have the following structure:

- President
- Executive Vice President
- Recreation Vice President
- Competitive Vice President
- Adult Vice President
- Indoor Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Past President

- b. Divisions

The New Hampshire Soccer Association includes the following divisions for the play of soccer: -

Competitive - Recreational -Adult - Indoor – Futsal – **Adaptive Soccer**.

All Divisions shall comply with the authority of the ~~New Hampshire Soccer Association~~ **NHSA**.

- c. These shall be the only Articles of Agreement for the above-mentioned divisions. Each Division can have its own Bylaws or Organizational Rules for areas not covered in the Association Bylaws. All Division Bylaws are subject to approval of the Association Executive Committee and must be on record with the NHSA Secretary.

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 The Membership of the NHSA and the members of the NHSA shall be open to any soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, life members and officials not subject to suspension under Section 4 of Bylaw 241 of the USSF and to any amateur soccer organization in its territory.
- 5.2 Membership in NHSA shall be individuals, leagues, clubs and facilities that pay the appropriate registration fees and meet the requirements as defined in the Bylaws. Affiliated members are allowed to send a representative to attend and vote at the AGM. Affiliated members are defined in sections 4.1 and 4.2 of the bylaws and include Youth Competitive Leagues and Clubs, Youth Recreational Leagues, Indoor Facilities and Adult Leagues that register their players with the NHSA.
- 5.3 NHSA shall not issue capital stock or membership certificates.

ARTICLE VI ANNUAL MEETING

- 6.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held in a location in the state as decided by the Executive Board
- 6.2 The Annual Meeting of NHSA's membership shall be held not later than April 30th. Written notification to all affiliated voting members shall be made at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. The members of NHSA will be provided with an agenda of the meeting and the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting at least 15 days in advance of the meeting. At this meeting a summary of the activities of the Association, all actions and policies adopted by the Executive Board and a Treasurer's report shall be reported to the membership.
- 6.3 Meeting will be conducted using Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR). Minutes should contain mainly a record of what was done at the meeting, not necessarily what was said by the members.
- 6.4 Unless temporarily modified by action of the members, the order of business for Annual General Meetings shall be:
1. ~~1.~~ Roll Call
 2. ~~2.~~ Minutes of previous meeting
 3. ~~3.~~ Treasurer's report
 4. ~~4.~~ Unfinished business and communications
 5. ~~5.~~ Reports of committees
 6. ~~6.~~ New business and communications
 7. ~~7.~~ Proposed changes to Articles and Bylaws
 8. ~~8.~~ -7 Good of soccer
 9. ~~9.~~ Election of officers
 10. ~~10.~~ Date of next meeting
 11. ~~11.~~ Adjournment
- 6.5 The number of votes affiliated members are entitled to shall be based on the current previous years fall and spring season. Example: The 2020 AGM vote is based on Fall of 2018 and Spring of 2019 membership.

Voting members must meet the following criteria:

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- a) All league, club, facility and team registrations for the previous calendar year must be paid in order to vote.
- b) Only members in good standing can vote.
- c) The members of the Executive Board shall be entitled to One (1) vote each.
- d) Youth competitive member clubs will be weighted as follows:
 - i. Member clubs with 1-9 teams = 3 votes
 - ii. Member clubs with 10-19 teams = 4 votes
 - iii. Member clubs with 20+ teams = 5 votes
- e) Adult member clubs will be weighted as follows:
 - i. Member clubs with 1-9 teams = 3 votes
 - ii. Member clubs with 10-19 teams = 4 votes
 - iii. Member clubs with 20+ teams = 5 votes
- f) Recreational member clubs will be weighted as follows:
 - i. 1 to 125 players = 3 votes
 - ii. 126 to 285 players = 4 votes
 - iii. 286+ players = 5 votes
- g) Each Indoor Facility has 4 votes.

6.6 Voting by proxy is NOT allowed.

A Delegate from a member organization must be present to cast votes at an AGM or special meeting. The delegate from the organization must be an officer, director, ~~or~~ senior executive, or a designee carrying a letter of authorization from the directors of that organization.

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6.7 Member Organization Attendance

A Delegate from a member organization (Youth Competitive Leagues and Clubs, Youth Recreational Leagues, Indoor Facilities and Adult Leagues that register their players with the NHSA) must be present to cast votes at an AGM or special meeting, be it in person or by virtual meeting if so designated. The delegate from the organization may be an officer, director, senior executive or a designee carrying a letter of authorization from the directors of that organization. Letter of authorization must be emailed (nhadmin@soccernh.org) to the NHSA state office 24 hours in advance of meeting. A member organization failing to attend will be assessed a \$100 fine.

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6.8 Credentials Committee

~~6.8A~~ Credentials Committee comprised of the Past President, State Secretary, State Registrar Executive Director ~~or~~ and a representative from Competitive (Club or League President), Recreation (Club or League President), Indoor (Facility or League President) and Adult (Club or League President) will be identified by the NHSA Executive Board 15 days before the AGM and announced to the membership (with the Agenda and minutes from the previous AGM). The Credentials Committee is charged with determining the validity of all voting members, distribution of appropriate voting materials, and arbitration of any and all disputed voting issues, in

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accordance with NHSA Bylaws. All decisions by the Committee require a 2/3 vote of the Committee, are final and not subject to review.

Twenty (20) minutes prior to the announced start of the AGM the Committee will close voting registration and adjourn to caucus. The Committee will determine the total voting strength represented.

6.9 Any newly registered club, or league not previously registered during the most recently completed calendar year, will be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting, under section 6.4 of Article VI, as long as they are paid up members in good standing, 45 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

6.10 Except for amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, a majority of eligible votes cast shall decide an issue.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS BY THE MEMBERS

7.1 Amendments to the Articles of Agreement and Bylaws shall be made only at the Annual General Meeting of this Association or any scheduled or called Membership Meeting.

7.2 Each affiliated member may propose changes to NHSA's Articles of Agreement and Bylaws. These changes must be submitted in writing, in a way that guarantee's proof of receipt, to the NHSA office in care of the Secretary no later than 60 days prior to the AGM and must be circulated to voting members no later than 30 days prior to voting.

7.3 These Articles of Agreement and Bylaws may be amended or repealed by an affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by voting members present.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS BY SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

8.1 Amendments to the Articles of Agreement and Bylaws may also be made by the Executive Board. A motion to amend the Articles of Agreement and/or Bylaws may be placed on the table at any duly convened meeting of the Executive Board.

8.2 The vote on such motion shall not be taken at the meeting in which it is first placed on the table. Written notice of the proposed amendment and the text thereof shall be furnished to the members by the State Office following the adjournment of the meeting of the Executive Board at which it is first placed on the table.

A called meeting of the general membership by ¾ of the Executive Board or ½ of the General Membership must meet the following criteria:

- (i) not fewer than thirty (30) days following the transmittal of that notice to the membership and
- (ii) on written notice of such meeting to the membership that the question presented by the motion to amend will thereafter be considered, the Board may adopt the proposed amendment by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of membership present at the meeting.

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ARTICLE VII~~X~~ DISSOLUTION

In the event that NHSA dissolves or becomes defunct all assets remaining after payment of debts and obligations shall be evenly distributed to remaining affiliated Recreational Leagues, Competitive Clubs, Adult Teams, Futsal Teams, and Indoor Facilities that have established their tax exempt status under section 501 (c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

Summary of Proposed Changes

1.0 Use of Abbreviation

Stated in section:
1.1 NAME

This Association shall be known as the New Hampshire Soccer Association Youth and Adult Division, a non-profit corporation hereafter referred to as NHSA or the State Association.

Abbreviation applied in the following sections.
1.2 MISSION STATEMENT

The ~~New Hampshire Soccer Association~~ **NHSA** mission is to provide opportunities for participants to develop to the highest skill level of the individual’s ability; to provide through programs and activities education for coaches, players, referees, parents, and administrators; to promote and stimulate interest in the game of soccer.

2.2 FEDERATION PRECEDENCE

- a) The USSF articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies and requirements take precedence over and supersede the governing documents and decisions of the NHSA and its members to the extent applicable under state law, and NHSA will abide by those articles, bylaws, policies and requirements of **USYS, USASA and USSF**.
- b) The NHSA will not join any organization that has requirements that conflict with the Federation’s articles, bylaws, policies and requirements.

ARTICLE III DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The ~~New Hampshire Soccer Association~~ **NHSA** and its members are committed to a policy of equal opportunity for its players, coaches and referees and prohibits discrimination or harassment against any individual on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, national origin, **gender identity, familial status, marital status** or disability.

Article 4, section 4

- b. Divisions
The New Hampshire Soccer Association includes the following divisions for the play of soccer: - Competitive - Recreational -Adult - Indoor – Futsal – **Adaptive Soccer**.
All Divisions shall comply with the authority of the ~~New Hampshire Soccer Association~~ **NHSA**.

2.0 Change to 2.2 FEDERATION PRECEDENCE

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a) The USSF articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies and requirements take precedence over and supersede the governing documents and decisions of the NHSA and its members to the extent applicable under state law, and NHSA will abide by those articles, bylaws, policies and requirements of USYS, USASA and USSF. The NHSA will not join any organization that has requirements that conflict with the Federation's articles, bylaws, policies and requirements.

3.0 Change to Section 6.4

6.4 Unless temporarily modified by action of the members, the order of business for Annual General Meetings shall be:

1. ~~1.~~ Roll Call
2. ~~2.~~ Minutes of previous meeting
3. ~~3.~~ Treasurer's report
4. ~~4.~~ Unfinished business and communications
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9. ~~8.~~ Election of officers
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4.0 Change to Section 6.5

6.5 The number of votes affiliated members are entitled to shall be based on the current previous years fall and spring season. Example: The 2020 AGM vote is based on Fall of 2018 and Spring of 2019 membership.

From a previous AGM – Votes that count are from the previous fiscal Spring and current Fall.

Should read: . Example: The 2020 AGM vote is based on the previous fiscal year Spring of 2019 and current fiscal year Fall of 2019

5.0 Change to Section 6.6

6.6 Voting by proxy is NOT allowed.

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A Delegate from a member organization must be present to cast votes at an AGM or special meeting. The delegate from the organization must be an officer, director, ~~or~~ senior executive, or a designee carrying a letter of authorization from the directors of that organization.

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6.0 Change to Section 6.8

6.8 Credentials Committee

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7.0 Change to Section 7.1

7.1 Amendments to the Articles of Agreement and Bylaws shall be made only at the Annual General Meeting of this Association or any scheduled or called Membership Meeting.

8.0 Addition of Article 8

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS BY SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

8.1 Amendments to the Articles of Agreement and Bylaws may also be made by the Executive Board. A motion to amend the Articles of Agreement and/or Bylaws may be placed on the table at any duly convened meeting of the Executive Board.

8.2 The vote on such motion shall not be taken at the meeting in which it is first placed on the table. Written notice of the proposed amendment and the text thereof shall be furnished to the members by the State Office following the adjournment of the meeting of the Executive Board at which it is first placed on the table.

A called meeting of the general membership by $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Executive Board or $\frac{1}{3}$ of the General Membership must meet the following criteria:

- (i) not fewer than thirty (30) days following the transmittal of that notice to the membership and
- (ii) on written notice of such meeting to the membership that the question presented by the motion to amend will thereafter be considered, the Board may adopt the proposed amendment by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of membership present at the meeting.