

STARKVILLE SOCCER ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

1.1 Name, Purpose, and Affiliation

1.1.1 Name: This organization shall be the Starkville Soccer Association, (SSA).

1.1.2 Purpose: The Association's purpose shall be the control, regulation, promotion, and development of and education for soccer in the County of Oktibbeha at all playing levels of competition, i.e., Division III (Recreational), Division II (Intermediate), Division I (State Division), and Adult Divisions. In order to accomplish its purpose, the Association shall have jurisdiction over all affiliated members within its territory.

1.1.2.1 The purposes for which the Association is organized are exclusively religious, charitable, scientific, literary, and educational within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

1.1.3 Affiliation: This Association shall be associated with the Mississippi Youth Soccer Association (MSA), United States Youth Soccer Association (U.S. Youth Soccer Association), Incorporated, and the United States Soccer Federation (USSF); shall be an integral part of these Associations; and shall at all times recognize the authority, rules, and laws of these bodies.

2.1 Territory and Headquarters

2.1.1 Territory: The territory shall be the County of Oktibbeha. Players may also be accepted from surrounding counties where there is no organized soccer association. Players may also be accepted from surrounding counties provided that properly executed transfers are granted from their primary soccer association.

2.1.2 Headquarters: The legal headquarters, domicile, and residence shall be in the County; Judicial District, if any; and the city, if any, of the residence of the President. The Executive Council may designate other business headquarters as appropriate.

3.1 Administration and Rules Suspension

3.1.1 Administration: This Association shall be governed by its Constitution, By-laws, Rules, and Regulations as supplemented by the USSF Constitution and USYSA Constitution and all their regulations. In the event of any conflict, the USSF and USYSA documents and regulations shall apply.

3.1.2 Rules Suspension: Any rule may be suspended at any Association meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present in order to deal with an emergency and to protect the purpose of the Association. (Section 1.1.2)

4.1 Disaffiliation, Dissolution, Savings Clause, and Amendments

4.1.1 Disaffiliation: This Association shall not disband or withdraw from MSA, USYSA and USSF except on a two-thirds (2/3) vote of SSA members-in-good standing present at any business meeting as defined in the SSA By-Laws.

4.1.2 Dissolution: Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the County in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

4.1.3 Savings Clause: If any word, phrase, sentence, or other provision of this Constitution or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect the other words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and provisions or applications of this Constitution, and to this end, the provisions of this Constitution are declared to be severable.

4.1.4 Amendments: This Constitution shall only be amended at the AGM by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting members present acting on proposed amendments which are submitted to the AGM in accordance with the established SSA Rules and Revisions Process.

4.1.5 Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this organization shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

Adopted this the 29th day of March, 2007.

President

1st Vice-President

2nd Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Registrar

STARKVILLE SOCCER ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

5.1 SSA SSAA Council

5.1.1 Members: SSA SSAA shall be administered and operated by a Council of elected officers as specified herein. The Executive Council shall consist of ten (10) officers elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting as well as the head referee who is appointed by the Executive Council; in addition, the Immediate Past President, the Director of Coaching, and the Starkville Parks and Recreation Director serve as ex-officio members. The Executive Council members are the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice- President, Third Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Director of Coaching, Team Mother Coordinator, Sponsor Manager and Head Referee.

5.1.2 Voting Policies: The Council practices will ensure that:

5.1.2.1 Each member may cast one vote in all properly presented and considered matters.

5.1.2.2 Each member may advocate, represent a member's views, and/or vote on a proposed resolution to any member grievance which must be resolved by the Council. However, a member must abstain from acting on behalf of their team or club and voting on the resolution motion for any grievance involving their own team or club.

5.1.2.3 All matters are determined by a majority vote of the meeting quorum, except where designated differently in the constitution and these By-Laws.

5.1.2.4 The Executive Council members shall have no voting alternate at any SSA meetings.

5.1.2.5 Members must be present to vote.

5.1.3 Authority: The Council shall have the authority to:

5.1.3.1 Transact all business of this Association.

5.1.3.2 Delegate its authority to such person or persons whom it may determine should accomplish one or more of its delegated responsibilities.

5.1.3.3 Enforce the Constitution, By-Laws, and Administrative rules of the USSF, U.S. Youth Soccer Association, MSA and SSA.

5.1.3.4 Arrange games of any nature whatsoever in its own name, and to that end, it may request the memberships support and/or their affiliated organizations and personnel.

5.1.3.5 Create and manage the establishment of special funds such as injured players, trips, and/or any organization which it may deem expedient for the welfare of The Game. This authority may be delegated to others under the direction of the Council.

5.1.3.6 Suspend, expel, and/or impose such fines or penalties upon any organization and/or person under its jurisdiction who violates or breaches the Constitution, By-Laws, and Administrative Rules of USSF, U.S. Youth Soccer Association, MSA and/or SSA.

5.1.3.7 Settle all disputes between two or more SSA Members.

5.1.3.8 Make the final decision on all controversial matters subject to the MSA, U.S. Youth Soccer Association and USSF Appeals and Decisions Process.

5.1.3.9 May bestow the title of Honorary President upon any person who has performed meritorious service to SSA. The Council may vest in that person such rights and privileges as it deems appropriate. This individual shall not have voting power.

6.2 Officers

6.2.1 Term of Office: The Officers of this Association shall hold office for the period of one (1) year, or until their successors have been elected and installed as per section 3.2.2 of these By-Laws. There shall be no term limits and officers are eligible to succeed themselves.

6.2.2 Election of Officers: The Executive Council shall be elected in the following manner. All elected individuals must be a member-in-good standing and must receive a majority of the cast votes. The Head Referee must be a licensed official to be eligible for appointment.

6.2.2.1 The entire membership shall elect the Executive Council by secret ballot, when so requested by a majority of those present at the Annual General Meeting.

6.2.2.2 Officers will be elected at the Annual General Membership Meeting (Section 6.4.1). The Officers - Elect will attend meetings and aid the sitting Council until they assume full responsibility when they are installed on or prior to June 1.

6.2.3 Removal from Office and Officer Duties: Any elected or appointed Council member who misses six (6) regularly scheduled Council meetings in a seasonal year shall be automatically removed from office. Further, any member may be impeached and automatically removed from office by seventy-five (75%) percent of the total SSA members in good standing. Each officer shall accomplish the following tasks:

6.2.4.0 The President shall:

6.2.4.0.1 Preside at all SSA meetings.

6.2.4.0.2 Pass upon and approve all incurred SSA bills.

6.2.4.0.3 Appoint with Executive Council approval all SSA non-elected SSA Council positions, committees, and appeal boards with the goal of equitable representation among the member teams or clubs.

6.2.4.0.4 Serve and cast one vote as an ex-officio member of all appointed SSA committees and appeal boards.

6.2.4.0.5 Serve as or appoint to all Association Committees, a nonvoting ex-officio member.

6.2.4.0.6 Have access to all member team meetings.

6.2.4.0.7 Serve as the SSA delegate to all MSA, U.S. Youth Soccer Association and USSF meetings unless he/she chooses to appoint an alternate delegate due to the inability to fulfill the obligation.

6.2.4.0.8 Appoint a temporary successor for any vacant officers position except the President until the next general membership business meeting when the membership shall fill the position in the manner prescribed for officer elections.

6.2.4.0.9 Be responsible for the Association operations and personnel, including but not limited to appointment of a Director of Coaching, with Executive Council approval.

6.2.4.0.10 Be responsible for SSA publicity, including appointment and supervision of others to assist when necessary. This shall include appointment of a webmaster to maintain the organization's website, with Executive Council approval.

6.2.4.1 The Vice-President for Division III (Recreation) Affairs (First Vice- President) shall:

6.2.4.1.1 Assume the duties of the President in his/her absence.

6.2.4.1.2 Administer the division business which includes, but is not limited to:

6.2.4.1.2.1 Coordinating SSA Regular Season, Off Season & overall Field Maintenance with the Director of Starkville Parks and Recreation Department.

6.2.4.1.2.2 Providing to the Head Referee a master schedule of all games scheduled as early as possible to insure the availability of referees.

6.2.4.1.3 Maintaining responsibility for judgment of field conditions on game and practice days in cooperation with the head referee. It is the responsibility of the First-Vice President or his/her designee to determine when weather and field conditions are such that games and/or practices should be called.

6.2.4.2 The Vice-President for Division II (Intermediate or Challenge) Affairs (Second Vice-President) shall:

6.2.4.2.1 Assume the duties of the President in the absence of this individual and the First Vice-President.

6.2.4.2.2 Administer the division's business which includes, but is not limited to:

6.2.4.2.3 Assisting in the organization of player pools and teams, and serving as travel coordinator for teams playing all teams other than SSA affiliated teams during each season of soccer play. This includes but is not limited to assisting coaches in registering their teams, applying for proper travel permits, and being the Executive Council contact person for all teams playing outside the SSA in regular season games as well as tournaments.

6.2.4.2.4 Organize and manage SSA Division II League play, when applicable, and serve as the SSA Representative to Division II members.

6.2.4.2.5 Assisting managers in scheduling games and practices, including out of league games, and coordinating field use with the First Vice President.

6.2.4.3 The Vice-President for Division I (Select) Affairs (Third Vice-President) shall:

6.2.4.3.1 Assume the duties of the President in the absence of this individual and the First and Second Vice-Presidents.

6.2.4.3.2 Administer the division's business which includes, but is not limited to:

6.2.4.3.2.1 Serve as travel coordinator for teams playing all teams other than SSA affiliated teams during each season of soccer play. This includes but is not limited to assisting coaches in registering their teams, applying for proper travel permits, and being the Executive Council contact person for all teams playing outside the SSA Organization in regular season games as well as tournaments.

6.2.4.3.2.2 Organize and manage the SSA Division I League play, when applicable, and serve as the SSA Representative to the Division I members.

6.2.4.3.2.4 Assisting managers in scheduling game times, practice times and field availability, scheduling all make-up league games, and assisting coaches in scheduling out of league games; coordinate field use with the First Vice President.

6.2.4.4 The Vice-President for Girls Division Affairs (Fourth Vice-President) shall:

6.2.4.4.1 Assume the duties of the President in the absence of this individual and the First, Second, and Third Vice Presidents.

6.2.4.4.2 Administer the Girls Division's business which includes, but is not limited to:

6.2.4.4.2.1 Organize and manage the SSA Girls Divisions in inter - league and State League play and serve as the SSA representative to the Girls Division members.

6.2.4.5 The Secretary shall:

- 6.2.4.5.1 Record and distribute the minutes of all SSAA and Executive Board minutes.
- 6.2.4.5.2 Maintain copies of all SSA records, mailing, and e-mailing lists.
- 6.2.4.5.3 Distribute routine correspondence to the Council and general mailings to the membership.
- 6.2.4.5.4 Maintain and distribute changes to the SSA Constitution, By-Laws or Rules and Regulations, to include public posting of same to the organization's website.
- 6.2.4.5.5 Respond to correspondence directed to SSA.
- 6.2.4.5.6 Provide administrative assistance to the Council.
- 6.2.4.5.7 Serve as the SSA Polling Committee for all general and special elections.
- 6.2.4.5.8 Provide its most recent status report delivered to the Secretary of State under Mississippi Statutes, Section 79-11-391.
- 6.2.4.5.9 Maintain an alphabetical list of voting members. This shall include the members address.
- 6.2.4.5.10 Make all arrangements for meetings of the Executive Council as directed by the President.
- 6.2.4.5.11 All records must be maintained for a minimum period of 3 years.

6.2.4.6 The Registrar Shall:

- 6.2.4.6.1 Administer all USSF, U.S. Youth Soccer Association, MSA and SSA rules and regulations for player registration.
- 6.2.4.6.2 Maintain records and detailed reports on the number of player registrations.
- 6.2.4.6.3 Respond to all routine correspondence about SSA registration matters.
- 6.2.4.6.4 Serve as the Registrar for all SSA sponsored tournaments.
- 6.2.4.6.5 Accomplish all required SSA approval/disapproval actions on all player registration-related actions such as player passes, player releases, player transfers player drops, etc.
- 6.2.4.6.6 Accomplish all paperwork necessary for SSA teams to enter all approved tournaments.
- 6.2.4.6.7 Maintain and provide to the Secretary, an alphabetical list of all its members that are entitled to vote. The list must show the address of each member.

6.2.4.7 The Treasurer shall:

- 6.2.4.7.1 Keep records on all SSA property.
- 6.2.4.7.2 Maintain a detailed accounting of income and expenditures thereof.
- 6.2.4.7.3 Deposit all funds upon receipt into the established SSA accounts.
- 6.2.4.7.4 Prepare a complete financial report for all MSA Business and Council Meetings.
- 6.2.4.7.5 Sign all SSA checks unless signed by the President or other Executive Council member designated to have signature by the Executive Council.
- 6.2.4.7.6 Help prepare the proposed annual SSA budget, and assist or coordinate the filing of required tax documents.

6.2.4.7.7 Maintain all records/reports for SSA funded clinics.

6.2.4.7.8 Respond to all routine correspondence about SSA financial matters.

6.2.4.7.9 Serve as a SSA Tournament Official when required.

6.2.4.8 The Sponsor Manager shall:

6.2.4.8.1 Be responsible for chairing, and recruiting others to form a sponsor committee, whose prime mission is to develop and maintain a list of major and team sponsors for the league's various divisions.

6.2.4.8.2 Be responsible for obtaining advertising logos and information from sponsors that will be applied to signage, player shirts, the SSA website, and otherwise disseminated.

6.2.4.8.3 Serve as immediate liaison to the registrar, Team Mother Coordinator, Tournament Liason, and SSA webmaster, to facilitate appropriate recognition of sponsors throughout all league activities.

6.2.4.8.4 Aid the Secretary in disseminating information, correspondence and policies to the SSA sponsors.

6.2.4.8.5 Respond to all routine correspondence about SSA sponsor matters.

6.2.4.8.6 Have been, or is currently, a SSA team or major sponsor .

6.2.4.8.7 Make recommendations to the Executive Council regarding sponsors for Division I, Division II and Division III programs, and submit names of sponsor committee member nominees for Council approval. Assist the Executive Council in budget planning by tracking past and projected sponsor related contributions to the SSA program, and by making proposals regarding sponsorship fees⁸⁷.

6.2.4.9 The Head Referee shall:

6.2.4.9.1 Provide the referees of SSA with the necessary training in the abilities, knowledge, and skills of the Game in order that they may provide the proper and safe playing environment for the players

6.2.4.9.2 Schedule and administer the referee program within SSA.

6.2.4.9.3 Schedule annual assessments for and verify the abilities of referees within the program.

6.2.4.9.4 Respond to all routine correspondence about SSA referee matters.

6.2.4.9.5 Be a currently licensed USSF official.

6.2.4.10 The Team Mother Coordinator shall:

6.2.4.10.1 Set up a network of team mothers. There shall be one team mother for each team.

6.2.4.10.2 Serve as the contact person to distribute information to team mother in order to facilitate the dissemination of information from the Council to each team member.

6.2.4.10.3 Be responsible for ordering and distributing team uniforms.

6.2.4.10.4 Arrange for team pictures to be taken.

6.2.4.11 The Equipment Manager shall:

6.2.4.11.1 Be appointed by the president with approval of the Executive Council.

6.2.4.11.2 Be responsible for all SSA equipment. This includes but is not limited to keeping a current inventory of the equipment owned by SSA, keeping a current inventory of all equipment that is for use by SSA coaches in the Fall and

being responsible for collecting the equipment from all coaches following the Spring season and maintaining in his/her possession all equipment until such time as a new Equipment Manager is appointed.

6.2.4.12 The Tournament Director/Liaison shall:

6.2.4.12.1 Be appointed by the president with approval of the Executive Council. This may be a paid position at the discretion of the Executive Council.

6.2.4.12.2 Prepare bids for Division I, Division II, and/or Division III tournaments, and submit same to the Executive Council for approval.

6.2.4.12.3 Organize and direct any SSA sponsored Division I, Division II, or Division III tournaments that shall be awarded to the organization from time to time, and/or delegate others to assist with such events.

6.2.4.13 The Director of Coaching shall:

6.2.4.13.1 Be responsible for recruiting coaches and providing for coaches on all teams in all age divisions. This will include but is not limited to attending registration sessions in order to recruit coaches.

6.2.4.13.2 Be responsible for scheduling youth coach training for all SSA Coaches in all Divisions.

6.2.4.13.3 Serve as immediate liaison to coaches on training and fitness related issues.

6.2.4.13.4 Aid the Secretary in disseminating information, correspondence and policies to the SSA coaches.

6.2.4.13.5 Respond to all routine correspondence about SSA Coaching matters.

6.2.4.13.6 Have been, or is currently, a SSA registered soccer coach.

6.2.4.13.7 Make recommendations to the Executive Council regarding coaches and managers for Division I, Division II and Division III programs.

6.2.4.13.8 Provide such assistance for tournament development, fund raising, and other league activity from time to time as shall be deemed necessary by the Executive Council.

6.3 Membership

6.3.1 Eligibility: All persons interested in playing soccer under SSA jurisdiction must make application by submitting a completed approved registration form along with the seasonal dues to the Registrar, the President or an appointed agent of the Council.

6.3.1.1 Member (defined): To be a voting member of SSA you must be:

6.3.1.2 A parent and/or guardian including spouses in extended families.

6.3.1.3 An Executive Council approved SSA Coach who may not be a parent.

6.3.1.4 A current, active SSA referee.

6.3.2 Membership Approval Authority: The Council shall have sole power to determine membership qualification; and to accept or reject any applicant.

6.3.3 Obligations of Members: The members' obligations are:

6.3.3.1 To complete and submit the following items to the Council for file and/or their approval in accordance with established deadlines:

6.3.3.1.1 Approved registration form.

6.3.3.1.2 The seasonal membership fee as determined by the Council.

6.3.3.1.3 To pay all dues and fees as required herein.

6.3.3.1.4 To attend all practices, games and meetings whenever possible.

6.3.3.1.5 To support the Association Officers, Appointees and Coaches; and uphold and abide by the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules & Regulations of USSF, U.S. Youth Soccer Association, MSA and SSA.

6.3.3.2 The Members' rights are:

6.3.3.2.1 To be present and cast one vote at all membership business meetings.

6.3.3.2.2 To have qualified teams participate in MSA sponsored & sanctioned tournaments.

6.3.3.2.3 To have qualified individuals hold SSA Council offices if elected in accordance with the provisions of this document.

6.3.3.2.4 To participate fully in all SSA programs for which SSA is eligible.

6.3.4 Membership Dues: The annual dues policies are as follows:

6.3.4.1 Dues shall be determined by the Executive Council each year and will adequately fund SSA programs for which they are collected.

6.3.4.2 All dues shall be paid upon demand by the Council.

6.3.4.3 Any member, who does not pay their annual dues as provided herein, shall give cause for immediate suspension after a fifteen (15) day period.

6.3.5 Associate Member: This membership category is available to any individual who does not have a child playing within the Association and is not a Referee or Coach, but wishes to be an active participant or supporter of the Starkville Soccer Association. This may include adult league players. All individuals who hold this type of membership must meet all specified membership obligations in order to remain in good standing and retain the specified right and privileges of this type membership.

6.3.5.1 The Associate Members Rights are:

6.3.5.2 To be present and be allowed to be heard at all membership business meetings.

6.3.5.3 To be included on the SSA Mailing list and receive SSA member information.

6.3.5.4 To participate as an appointed Member on any SSA committee except the Protest and Appeals Committee and the Rules and Revisions Committee.

6.3.5.5 The Associate Members Obligations are:

6.3.5.6 To pay all dues and fees as set by the Executive Council.

6.3.5.7 To comply with the Constitution, By-Laws and rules and regulations of USSF, U.S. Youth Soccer Association, MSA AND SSA.

6.4 Meetings

6.4.1 Annual General Meeting (AGM): SSA shall hold one (1) General Membership meeting each year. This meeting shall be called prior to the end of the Spring Season.

6.4.1.1 The Rules and Revisions Committee is a Standing committee of SSA in accordance with the SSA By Laws. The committee shall be appointed by the President and shall consist of the Past President or appointed chairperson and four non-Council members. The committee will review and make a recommendation on each proposal to be presented to the AGM prior to the submission of the proposal for consideration by the AGM. The committee is empowered to submit its own proposals to the AGM.

6.4.1.2 All AGM proposals must be submitted in compliance with these established procedures. Any submitted proposal which does not meet the process requirements, shall not be considered by the Rules and Revisions Committee and the AGM membership.

6.4.1.2.1 Proposals may be submitted by any member of the Association.

6.4.1.2.2 Proposals must be submitted in writing, citing the current sections to be changed, the exact wording on the change being submitted, and the justification for the proposed changes. Additional documentation may be attached to the proposal if necessary.

6.4.1.2.3 All proposals must be postmarked e-mailed, or hand delivered to the Chairman, Rules and Revisions Committee, not later than fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled date of the AGM. Proposals postmarked or delivered after this date will not be considered by the Committee or the AGM.

6.4.1.2.4 Copies of each proposal may be obtained from the Committee.

6.4.2 Special Meetings: This type of meeting may be called at any time by the President or upon written demand of one third (1/3) or more of the total membership-in-good standing. The SSA President shall call any properly demanded membership meeting within two weeks of receipt of the mandatory registered demand letter legibly signed by at least the required number of members.

6.4.3 Executive Council Meetings: The Executive Council shall meet monthly or as directed by the president or majority of the Council, during the Fall and Spring playing seasons and once during each off-season, i.e. winter and summer. Should the Council need to meet more often, it shall have the authority to do so. Council Members will be notified of meetings by the Secretary. A quorum of 2/3 of the Council must be in attendance for voting purposes.

6.4.4 Meeting Policies: All meetings shall conform to the following policies except for the appointment of an AGM Parliamentarian should one be appointed:

6.4.4.1 The Secretary shall give written or published notice one (1) week in advance of the special called meeting, to all concerned parties. In the case of a Special Meeting, its specified purpose shall be embodied in the required notice, and no other matter shall be considered at the meeting.

6.4.4.2 The President or a majority of the Council may allow guests to attend and/or speak to them, provided said guests provide 48 hour prior written notice of their desire to address the Council, including an itemized agenda and list of the guests to attend.

6.4.4.3 The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order will be used to conduct them.

6.4.4.4 The President may appoint a Parliamentarian for the AGM to serve as an advisor on the application of Robert's Rules of Order.

6.4.4.5 The following order of business shall be followed at all regular meetings of the Association and the Council.

6.4.4.5.1 Roll Call.

6.4.4.5.2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

6.4.4.5.3 Communications.

6.4.4.5.4 Report of the President and other Council Members.

6.4.4.5.5 Financial Report of the Treasurer.

6.4.4.5.6 Reports of Other Committees.

6.4.4.5.7 Age Divisional Reports.

6.4.4.5.8 Unfinished Business.

6.4.4.5.9 New Business.

6.4.4.5.10 Adjournment.

7.5 Discipline & Protest

7.5.1 Policy: The objective of the SSA Disciplinary and protest process is to equitably and justly consider and resolve every properly filed disciplinary and protest action at the lowest possible level of SSA while protecting the rights of the involved individuals. In order to achieve this objective, SSA shall:

7.5.1.1 Require the existence of a Disciplinary and Protest Committee to conduct Administrative Disciplinary and/or Protest Hearings for appropriate actions and/or protests as outlined herein. Such actions and/or protests do not include the defined automatic violations and/or penalties contained within the SSA Constitution, By-Laws and Rules and Regulations.

7.5.1.2 Have appropriate and equitable membership on a Standing Discipline and Protest Committee.

7.5.1.3 Ensure a documented fair and impartial hearing and resolution process by the Discipline and Protest Committee

7.5.1.4 Maintain an equitable and timely documented appeals process for an individual or team who is adversely affected by a decision of the Executive Council. The decision and/or imposed penalties are in full force and binding on all interested parties until overruled by the next higher level of the established Discipline and Protest Appeal Committee structure.

7.5.1.5 Require an individual or team to exhaust all administrative remedies through USSF before pursuing legal action. A violation of this requirement shall constitute an immediate and automatic expulsion from SSA and MSA of the party instituting the legal action personally or through an attorney.

7.5.1.5.1 Any expelled or removed party:

7.5.1.5.1.1 Shall forfeit all moneys paid to SSA for committing the act which led to expulsion, removal, or cancellation of SSA membership.

7.5.1.5.1.2 May apply for reinstatement at any time as provided in Section 6.3.3 of these By-Laws.

7.5.1.5.1.3 Require the pursuit of all administrative remedies of the circumstances including the existence of a serious emergency situation which threatens irreparable injury to the party; the lack of adequate time to exhaust the prescribed administrative remedies; and/or any other reasons.

7.5.2 Discipline & Protest Committee: This standing Committee shall adhere to the following operational policies:

7.5.2.1 The Discipline & Protest Committee shall:

7.5.2.1.1 Consist of any individual Association members.

7.5.2.1.2 Only act on all appropriate disciplinary cases and protests which involve this Association.

7.5.2.1.3 Each committee member shall have full participatory rights and one vote in all matters except any action involving themselves or their team. The President or an appointed Executive Council Member shall only vote to break a tie vote of the committee. A simple majority vote of the committee is sufficient to take action on any considered matter.

7.5.2.1.4 Follow the SSA committee operating procedures (Section 7.5.3).

7.5.3 Committee Operating Procedure: These elements include the following requirements:

7.5.3.1 Appeal to the Executive Council

7.5.3.2 Appeal to the Discipline & Protest Committee

7.5.4 Protest and Appeals Procedures: These procedures must be followed in order to either initiate a protest or a disciplinary action hearing. Protestable and/or disciplinary actions are violations of the USSF, U.S. Youth Soccer Association, MSA and SSA Constitutions, By-Laws and Administrative Rules or Rules and Regulations, a SSA officer Decision; and established organizational committees decisions except in the resolution of league or tournament game protests. These game protest decisions by the Executive Council are a final resolution of the issues.

7.5.4.1 The following procedures apply to initiate a protest, hearing, and/or disciplinary action at the Executive Council level, the initial level with responsibility for the requested action:

7.5.4.1.1 All protestable violations and proposed disciplinary actions shall be received in writing by the SSA Head Referee within seven (7) calendar days of the alleged violation (s) with a \$25 hearing fee, refunded if the appeal is won. The submitted letter shall include the alleged violation; a detailed discussion of the incident; the identity of all involved parties; the appropriate citation of the violated USSF, U.S. Youth Soccer Association, MSA and/or SSA document and/or administrative rules and regulations; and any appropriate, necessary documents. If necessary, the Executive Council shall conduct a fair and impartial hearing within (14) days to determine the merits of the charge. All involved parties shall be present at this hearing which is the subject to the documentation requirements herein. If the Executive Council elect to discipline the involved party, their decision is subject to appeal to the Discipline and Protest Committee.

7.5.4.2 The following procedures apply to initiate a protest, hearing, and/or disciplinary action at the Discipline & Protest Committee level, the second level with responsibility for the requested action.

7.5.4.2.1 All protestable violations and proposed disciplinary actions shall be received in writing by the SSA Head Referee within seven (7) calendar days of the Executive Council Hearing with a \$50 hearing fee, refunded if the appeal is won. The submitted letter shall include the alleged violation; a detailed discussion of the incident; the identity of all involved parties; the appropriate citation of the violated USSF, U.S. Youth Soccer Association, MSA and/or SSA document and/or administrative rules and regulations; and any appropriate, necessary documents, including the action of the Executive Council. If necessary, the Disciplinary and Protest Committee shall conduct a fair and impartial hearing within (14) days to determine the merits of the charge. All involved parties shall be present at this hearing which is the subject to the documentation requirements herein. If the Disciplinary and Protest Committee elect to uphold the decision of the Executive Council, their decision is subject to appeal to the District Discipline and Protest Committee.

7.5.5 Hearing Participant Rights: The utmost objective in either SSA Administrative Disciplinary or Protest Hearing on the Executive Council or Discipline and Protest Committee level is to reach a just and equitable resolution to the alleged actions and/or violations while protecting all participants' rights in a fact finding meeting by a body of fair and impartial knowledgeable and experienced soccer volunteers. To this end, the following participant rights shall be observed by the hearing body members.

7.5.5.1 Any party, who must defend themselves against protest and/or alleged misconduct actions, shall be entitled:

7.5.5.1.2 To participate in any and all levels of SSA hearings to the allegations against them.

7.5.5.1.3 To present pertinent and applicable documents, personal statements, and witnesses at any such hearings.

7.5.5.1.4 To have an advisor participate with them at any such hearing. This advisor cannot be an attorney or any other member of the legal profession. The same requirement exists for any soccer volunteer or paid association employee who serves in this advisory capacity.

7.5.5.1.5 To question the party who requested the disciplinary action or initiated the protest. The party referred to herein may have a representative in the case of a team or organization.

7.5.5.1.6 To have all rules and procedures outlined in these By-Laws observed by the hearing committee.

7.5.5.2 Any aggrieved party, who loses a protest or is disciplined for misconduct actions, shall be entitled:

7.5.5.2.1 To participate in any and all levels of SSA and MSA appeal hearings pertaining to the allegations against them.

7.5.5.2.2 To present pertinent and applicable documents, personal statements, and witnesses at any such hearings.

7.5.5.2.3 To have an advisor participate with them at any such hearing. This advisor cannot be an attorney or any other member of the legal profession. This same requirement exists for any soccer volunteer or paid organization employee who serves in this advisory capacity.

7.5.5.2.4 To have all rules and procedures outlined in these By-Laws observed by the hearing committee.

7.5.5.2.5 To appeal a final SSA Executive Council decision to the District Disciplinary and Protest Committee.

7.5.5.2.6 To appeal through the following line of Soccer Authority with the appropriate established MSA, USSF and U.S. Youth Soccer Association fees. These fees are currently:

7.5.5.2.6.1 MSA Protest & Appeals Committee (\$100.00).

7.5.5.2.6.2 U.S. Youth Soccer Association Region III Appeals Committee (\$100.00).

7.5.5.2.6.3 U.S. Youth Soccer Association National Appeals Committee (\$150.00).

7.5.5.2.6.4 U.S. Youth Soccer Association Executive Committee (\$150.00).

7.5.5.2.6.5 U.S. Youth Soccer Association National Youth Council (\$150.00).

7.5.5.2.6.6 USSF Board of Directors (\$150.00).

7.6 Operational Policies

7.6.1 **Standing Committees:** The President with Council approval shall appoint standing committees as he/she deems necessary.

7.6.2 **Players Right:** Neither this Association nor any member may prevent any high school student from SSA participation because of the individual is playing school soccer or another sport.

7.6.3 **Game permission:** The Executive Council must approve all games played in Oktibbeha County. Any teams intending to play out of SSA territory must notify the Second Vice-President of its intention to travel (this may be done by e-mail notice). The Second Vice- President is empowered (Section 3.2.4.3) to approve all travel plans and assist each team in obtaining the appropriate travel permits, when required

7.6.4 **Automatic Disciplinary Actions:** The Council may automatically discipline a team which violates established SSA and MSA policies within the prescribed disciplinary action(s). The following penalties have been established for the stated violations.

7.6.4.1 Any team playing non-affiliated teams without SSA/MSA permission following Council notification of this team's status may be fined up to fifty dollars (\$50.00).

7.6.4.2 Any team who plays knowingly against suspended teams or clubs may be fined fifty dollars (\$50.00).

7.6.4.3 A team who knowingly uses a suspended player or players may be fined up to fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each such player and shall forfeit every game in which the player or players participated.

7.7 Every member shall take every precaution to prevent disorder at games. The failure to comply with this requirement shall be referred to the Executive Council for appropriate action.

7.7.1 Miscellaneous Policies: This Association shall abide by the following operating policies:

7.7.1.1 The reimbursement of SSA Council members and SSA committee members shall be reimbursed for official business expenses.

7.7.1.2 A majority of full voting members present shall constitute a quorum to conduct SSA business. This requirement may be waived for the Annual General Meeting, when public notice including but not limited to e-mails, local newspaper announcement, and SSA website posting has been made beginning two weeks prior to the meeting.

7.7.1.3 This Association's dissolution for any reason shall result in its assets distribution to the MSA

7.7.1.4 A bonafide member of concerned MSA teams or individuals shall not participate in the decision making process of a SSA dispute, claim, protest, or appeal. The decision making process includes the deliberations and votes of the SSA responsible resolution body.

7.8 Savings and Amendments

7.8.1 If any word, phrase, sentence, or other provision of these By-Laws or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, this finding shall not affect the other words, phrases, clauses, sentences, or provisions and/or applications of these By-Laws, and to this end, the provisions of these By-Laws are declared to be severable.

7.8.2 Amendments: Amendments to these By-Laws shall be made only at an AGM by a simple majority of the votes allowed under a duly constituted quorum. Proposed amendments must be submitted in accordance with established SSA Rules and Revisions Process.

8.0 Section for future use

General Policies

9.1 Purpose and Objectives

9.1.1 Purpose: SSA General Policies exist to define the provisions which are applicable to all SSA members and which are not covered elsewhere in the SSA Constitution and By-Laws.

9.1.2 Objective: These policies are designed to provide sound administration and management of the various SSA programs.

9.2 Divisions of Play: SSA will offer Division III (Recreational) soccer in the Under 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and Adult Divisions. Adult, Girls, Division I (State Division) and Division II (Intermediate and U19) playing divisions will be formed by SSA whenever sufficient interest would permit formation of those divisions and, in the opinion of the Executive Council, not adversely impact SSA. The rules followed in these divisions will be the same as in all age divisions of SSA with noted variations for small sided and adult games.

9.3 Division I - Select Teams: Division I teams are formed by trial or coach selection for the purpose of competitive play and travel.

9.3.1 Division I Limits: SSA will allow Division I teams at the U12 level and above only.

9.3.2 Division I Trials: Division I teams must hold trials in advance of Division II & III (Recreation Division) registration so that players not selected for Division I can be included in the player pool for Division II & III teams.

9.4. Division II Challenge Teams:

9.4.1 Definition: Division II is the MSA Intermediate playing division for Boys and Girls Under-10 through Under-19 teams. It is a combination developmental and all-star division designed to result in movement toward competitive level of play. Organizations must maintain recreational soccer program, in each age/gender group in which it intends to form a

Division II team, to remain a full member of MSA.

9.4.2 Description: The MSA Division II Program is organized into two categories. The first category includes permanent-rostered teams consisting of primary-registered players or secondary-registered recreation players. Division II teams shall not be formed until after Division I teams are rostered or August 1st whichever comes first. The second category is developmental player pools that consist of secondary-registered recreation players and are established for the purpose of player development through training and match experience. The players in the developmental pools may be named to interim match or event rosters during the course of the developmental period in order to gain match experience. To become eligible to compete with other permanently-rostered Division II teams in the MSA President's Cup, permanently-rostered team(s) must be named from the player pool by March 1st, the deadline specified in the spring season. There is no player age variance required. There is no requirement that the composition of teams be adjusted to insure a competitive balance between multiple teams. Division II is played in dual age groups: U10, U12, U14, U16, and U19.

9.4.3 Organizational Deadlines and Responsibilities: If a member organization (e.g., SSA) considers or intends to form Division II Teams, it must submit by board resolution documentation (this document) of the process for team formation and a Letter of Intent, Exhibit A to the MSA Office no later than September 1st of the new seasonal year. The Division II Letter of Intent will describe the possible age/gender divisions in which the teams may be formed and whether the teams will be primary-registered or secondary-registered or will be secondary-registered developmental pools. It is recognized that secondary-registered teams or pools will form after recreational teams are formed; however, SSA must immediately upon formation of Division II rosters, properly register the teams/pools with the MSA State Office through the SSA Registrar. Each player must have a player pass for ALL games. Section 6 of the MSA Administrative Manual, describes the procedures for obtaining player passes.

9.4.5 Co-operation with Recreation Teams: MSA requires that member organizations (e.g., SSA) shall try to facilitate cooperation between coaches of Recreational Division III Teams and Secondary-registered Division II Teams or Pools to ensure that the players have the opportunity to compete at both levels; however, in the case of a conflict, players must play with their primarily registered (Division III) team.

9.4.6 Penalties for Violation of Primary Team Participation: Any violation of the requirement to play with the primary team or written report documenting coercion against a secondary-registered Division II player shall result in suspension of the violating team for the two calendar months following the month of the violation. The team will be considered not in good standing during the suspension. Repeated violation shall be referred to the MSA State Level Disciplinary and Protest Committee, who shall act and impose additional penalties as they determine, are appropriate.

9.4.7 MSA Disciplinary Reporting System: Division II teams shall, in all matches, report caution and ejections pursuant to the MSA policy for Division I teams as found in MSA Administrative Manual, Section 16. Players that are secondary-registered to Division II pools or teams shall serve cautions or ejections only in the Division in which they earn them.

Boundaries: SSA Division II teams may only be formed with players from within the boundaries of the member organizations within the MSA Northern District. SSA policy with regard to boundaries shall conform to current MSA rules.

9.4.8 SSA Statement of Policy regarding Primary-Registered Division II

SSA Policy for Primary-Registered Division II teams: SSA recognizes the importance of offering multiple levels of play. SSA provides Recreational (Division III), Intermediate (secondarily-registered Division II pools and/or permanent teams), and periodically Competitive (Division I) levels of play for its membership. SSA does not offer, encourage, or support Division II primarily-registered teams.

9.4.9 SSA Division II, Secondary-Registered Program

Selection of Coaches: Individuals interested in becoming the head coach or assisting with a Division II player pool in a particular age group should submit their request to the SSA Executive Council via the Director of Coaching. The Director of Coaching, in consultation with the Executive Council, will be responsible for assigning coaches for each Division II pool and/or team. Cooperative agreement is encouraged between multiple, interested coaches for the good of the program. Coaching assignment decisions will be based on several factors including but not limited to:

- a) Appropriate Coaching Licensing / Certification for the requested age group
- b) Observed quality of training sessions
- c) Overall ability / willingness to properly train / develop the player pool
- d) Overall reputation in working with youth / SSA players / etc.
- e) Feedback / recommendations from the respective Head Coach

9.4.10 Selection of Team Manager: Upon assignment by the Director of Coaching, each challenge team coach should submit the name of a prospective “team manager.” The duties of the team manager will be to assist the coach with administrative chores (paperwork, communications, scheduling, etc). The SSA Executive Council must approve the assignment as team manager.

9.4.11 Team/Pool Formation: SSA supports and encourages the establishment of secondary-registered Division II player pools and/or permanent-rostered teams in age groups whose participants have significant interest in seeking additional training and/or match play opportunities over and above those offered by the SSA recreational program. SSA strongly encourages the creation of developmental player pools if at all possible within those interested age groups. SSA recognizes that in some instances, due to the limited number of players interested in participating, the “player pool” may be only sufficiently large for the creation of a single, secondary-registered Division II team. Even then, the pool concept is recommended initially rather than registering as a permanent-rostered team at least until after the start of the spring season. In instances where the pool is sufficiently large to effectively support multiple, viable teams, the pool should be formed in accordance with the MSA Division II guidelines as stated in MSA Administrative Manual, Section 10, for “week-to-week” or “event” rosters during the developmental period or for the final, permanent roster(s) to be submitted by March 1, etc.

9.4.12 Approval to Form Division II Pools or Teams: Prior to or upon formation of recreation teams for the fall season, the SSA Executive Council will entertain requests for the formation of a secondary-registered Division II player pool and/or permanent team in a particular age/gender group. The request to form a Division II program may be offered as follows:

- a) From participants in the age group,
- b) From a coach or age group coordinator in the age group, or
- c) As general interest from the SSA Executive Council to support organizational development.

Upon approval by the SSA Executive Council to proceed, all eligible players in the age group will be invited to an organizational meeting conducted by the age group coordinator, assigned coach(es), and the SSA Director of Coaching. This meeting will cover an overview of Division II including its objective of developing players interested in moving towards a more competitive level of play, costs/commitments required for participation, practice schedule/logistics, team selection processes / playing time considerations, etc.

9.4.13 Size of Player Pools by Age Group: Maximum player pool sizes specified by MSA are as follows:

- a) Under-10: 20 players
- b) Under -12: 25 players
- c) Under-14 and above: 30 players

9.4.14 Pool/Player Selection and Registration: Should the number of interested players exceed the maximum allowed by MSA rule, additional pools may be formed, if deemed viable by the assigned coach(es) and the SSA Director of Coaching. If additional pools are not formed, the assigned coach(es) along with the SSA Director of Coaching will trim the player pool based upon the performance of the players as they train with the pool. The assigned coach(es) and SSA Director of Coaching should allow for an ample observational period to include at least two (2) training sessions before making final pool selections. Once the player pool has been trimmed up to or below the maximum size allowed by MSA, the assigned coach(es) will present the pool’s roster to the SSA Registrar who will administer secondary-registration of the pool with MSA. This will include issuance of picture player passes. The pool roster must be officially registered with MSA prior to competing in ANY match events. The effective dates for the player pools are between September 1 and the date that permanent rosters are submitted from the pool to the MSA Office or March 1st of the current seasonal year, the deadline for submitting permanent rosters to the MSA Office, which ever comes first.

9.4.15 Pool Developmental Opportunities, Training, and Matches: Upon secondary-registration of the pool with MSA, the assigned coach(es) will have the flexibility to “create” a team roster or multiple team rosters as needed from the available player pool as specified by MSA for each pool “event.” The MSA will provide facilities for “on-line” submittal of “event” rosters for EACH match or tournament in which pool teams participate during the developmental period to meet the event roster requirements. The “event” teams may compete against other teams from the same pool, against teams

from the player pools of other organizations, against other Division II teams not in a pool, against Division I teams, or participate in any other event (e.g., tournament) that is not in conflict with the Division III teams from which the pool is primary registered. Assigned coach(es) are encouraged to provide optimal developmental opportunities in both training and match play for the players in the pool, recognizing that some pool participants may not play in as many matches or get as much playing time as some others. Individual coaches and/or team managers are responsible for initiating contacts and scheduling games with teams outside of Starkville. The SSA 2nd Vice President and Referee Assignor will assist with reserving fields and coordinating officials for games played in Starkville. SSA will post contact information for area soccer organizations to help facilitate this process.

9.4.16 Cost of Participation: The entire cost of participation in the SSA Division II program shall be borne by the participants. These costs include, but are not limited to, per-player secondary-registration with MSA, player passes, practice and match uniforms, referee fees for matches, tournament entry fees, and professional trainers. It is recommended that recreation team uniforms be used to the fullest extent possible. SSA does permit any team to request sponsorship to help defray these and other necessary expenses, and the SSA Sponsor Committee can aid in that process. The SSA Executive Council reserves the option of contributing to the challenge program generally, but is under no obligation to do so.

9.4.17 Permanent Team Selection/Registration: One or more permanent team roster(s) may be submitted to MSA by the assigned coach(es) by March 1 as specified by MSA Division II policy to qualify for participation in the MSA President's Cup. Should the pool be of greater size than necessary to form a single team and the formation of either a single or multiple, viable teams for Presidents Cup is desired, the assigned coach(es) with the assistance of any assigned trainers and/or the SSA Director of Coaching will confer for final team selections. The SSA Registrar or SSA President shall sign and designate the final roster for each team by the method specified by MSA. Upon receipt of the final rosters, the MSA Office will provide a method for identifying the player passes as applicable for each permanent team.

9.4.17 Administration of Developmental Player Pools, Interaction with Recreation Program, training: When well-planned, secondary-registered teams may be expected to grow SSA's numbers, help the recreational league, develop the player base, and ultimately create superior Division I players. To provide widest expectation of success, administration of SSA Division II secondary-registered player pools or secondary-registered permanent teams will require planning in advance as well as cooperation of and consultation with coaches of recreation teams not involved with the pool or teams. The recreation teams as well as the participants in the Division II pools or teams program will benefit from the Division II program. If requested, the SSA Director of Coaching will provide liaison between the Division II coaches and MSU soccer staff or other equally qualified personnel, to arrange for a trainer. The age group coordinator, and SSA Director of Coaching will provide other appropriate assistance, oversight, and support as needed or specified herein.

9.5 Division III - Recreation: Division III is the least competitive recreational level of soccer in SSA. Emphasis should be placed on skills development and soccer for fun.

9.5.1 Placement of players: SSA will use a blind draft system for team placement of Division III players. All youth wishing to play Division III soccer must enter SSA through the blind draft. Coach's children will be assigned to each team before further assignments are made. All further assignments will be made in accordance with proper age-leveling considerations. Ability and previous coaches ratings may be considered, but assignment to teams may not be made with the presence or involvement of any coach of that particular age group.

9.5.2 Order of selection: The order of selection in the draft for the Fall season will be determined by a blind draw or computer random sort. In the spring, team rosters will be supplemented with the strongest player(s) going to the team(s) having the least number of wins in the Fall season. Subsequent spring assignments will be made in a similar manner to supplement team rosters short of a full complement and add new teams if required. If a computer sort is not used, the Executive Council will assign players to each team in a manner designed to maintain age leveling within the age division.

9.5.3 Protected Players: A head coach's child count as the team's 4th draft choice. One assistant coach's child will count as the team's 3rd draft choice. If the coach/assistant coach has two children on the team, they will count as the second and third draft choices. Once a team is awarded a player by virtue of his parent being chosen as an assistant coach, no other player will be so assigned as long as the original player remains on that team. The computer sort requires that all coaches' children be assigned to the team prior to the running of the program. For protected players in Division III, see Section 9.4.1.

9.5.4 Disbanded Teams: Returning players on a team that has been disbanded will return to the draft.

9.5.5 Elimination of team prior to draft: If, due to the number of players participating, a team has to be eliminated prior to the draft, a team with a head coach returning takes precedence over a team without a head coach. If they both have head coaches, the team with more players will remain. If further tie breaking procedures are needed, the Executive Council will determine the remaining team.

9.6 Registration Fees/ Dues: The Executive Council will set the registration fees/dues each season.

9.6.1 Player registration: A youth is considered registered only when the Executive Council has received the required fee and the completed registration form, including the name of the primary insurance carrier, signed by the youth's parents or legal guardian.

9.6.1.1 Registration Form: A registration form must be signed. Originals will be kept by the Executive Council and a copy is given to the coach. Parents or legal guardians must note their primary insurance carrier on the registration form.

9.6.1.2 Enrollment in SSA: All Division III players must be entered into the draw/draft for team placement when entering SSA each year or when moving from one age division to another. (No player nor parent/legal guardian may choose which team a youth will play on). A coach will have the opportunity to select his/her child in the draft.

9.6.1.2.1 Re-enrollment of an inactive player: If a youth does not participate during a soccer year (8/1/A-7/31/B), the youth must re-enter SSA through the draft.

9.6.1.3 Siblings: Siblings have the opportunity to play on the same Division II or III team. If a player moves up to an age division in which they have a sibling, the parents/legal guardian must decide, prior to the draft, if they want their children playing on the same team. If so, they must also determine, prior to the draft, if the children will play on the team of the older child or if they will enter the draft.

9.6.1.4 Requirements to play up in a higher age division: Any youth desiring to "play up" to their next age division must present a written request signed by their parent/legal guardian when registering to play in SSA soccer, prior to the close of the registration period. No youth will be allowed to "play up" into a higher age division unless it is determined by the Executive Council that such action would be in the best interest of the child and/or the Association. No youth will be allowed to "play up" more than one (1) calendar year. The youth may be required to pass a skills test administered by an Executive Council appointed committee. The Executive Council may waive the skills test if it feels that the transfer is appropriate, in the best interest of the player, and is sufficiently convinced of its necessity. If the youth is allowed to play up he/she must remain in that age division for the entire year, unless the older age team is disbanded.

9.6.1.5 Requesting off a team: A youth may request to be transferred off of a team following the fall season. Any youth desiring to be transferred to another team following the fall season must present a written request signed by his or her parent/legal guardian. The youth must be placed on another team through the draft system. Once the request is honored, the youth must remain on the new team until the end of the current season. The youth may not be redrawn by the team from which he/she requested to be removed.

9.6.1.6 Consequences for requesting off a team: A player requesting off of a team for the Spring season will be required to pay a registration fee adequate to cover the cost of a new uniform.

9.6.1.7 Eligibility of new players for District/State tournament: A child may play in the District and/or State tournaments only if they are on a team roster for two weeks or play in at least two league games with that team prior to tournament play.

9.6.2 Refunds: Refunds are made on the following scale:
50% before draft
No refund after draft

9.6.3 Administration of Funds: SSA will administer all funds to the clubs, leagues and organizations in which its teams participate in outside of Oktibbeha County and Fall, District and State Tournaments. Said funds will be collected from the teams before being paid by SSA. Fees for other invitational tournaments will be paid directly by the team(s) wishing to participate. With prior Executive Council approval, Division I teams may make specific payments to MSSF for Referee, bond and membership fees.

9.6.4 Sponsorship Fees: Sponsorship fees will be set by the Executive Council.

9.6.5 Fee to Starkville Parks and Recreation: SSA shall pay to Starkville Parks and Recreation a One Dollar (\$1.00) per player fee each season until such time as SSA receives notification from Starkville Parks and Recreation that this fee is no longer required.

9.7 Uniforms and Players Equipment:

9.7.1 Uniform: SSA will provide all uniforms for Division III teams. This will include a jersey designated as a goalkeeper jersey for each age division where such a jersey is required.

9.7.1.1 Uniform Insignia: Only the SSA logo, any manufacturer's insignia and player number will be allowed on uniforms; Sponsor and team names may be added without cost to the team, at the direction of the Sponsor Committee and with approval of the Executive Council.

9.7.1.2 Shin guards: All players in SSA/MSA must wear shin guards. Anyone not wearing shin guards will not participate. Parents are responsible for obtaining shin guards.

9.7.1.3 Sliding Pants: Sliding pants may be worn only if they are manufactured of material that is a solid color that is the predominate color of the players uniform shorts. Players not complying with this USSF/MSA/SSA policy will be sent off the field of play until the uniform is corrected.

9.7.1.4 Shoes: Players must wear shoes that are manufactured for field or turf use. While tennis shoes are acceptable, baseball or football shoes may not be worn.

9.7.1.5 Casts and/or splints: No player may participate in a game or practice wearing any type of hard splint or cast, however, padded or "soft" casts may be permitted by the referee pursuant to MSA guidelines.

9.7.1.6 The ball sizes used will be:

- U6 thru U8 - size #3
- U10 thru U12 - size #4
- U14 thru Adult - size #5

9.7.2 Patches: Participation patches may be given to each player if the Executive Council deems that this is appropriate.

9.8 League Standings and Tournament Eligibility:

9.8.1 SSA Scoring System: Each age gender/group game will be scored:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| A. Win = 6 points | D. 1 point for team goal (Up to 3) |
| B. Tie = 3 points | E. 1 point for shutout |
| C. Loss = 0 points | F. 10 points maximum per game |

9.8.2 Exemptions:

A. Teams participating in play outside of SSA will count points only for games played against other SSA teams in that age/gender division.

B. Games played against "non-legal" SSA, dissimilar age division or other teams not defined as normal league play, will not be scored for League Standings.

9.8.3 Tie Breaking Procedures: In case of a tie between teams eligible for championship and runner-up standings, tie breakers would be applied in the following order:

- A. Winner of head-to-head competition
- B. Winner of mini-game (U8-U10, two 5 minute halves, U12 & above, (two 10 minute halves);

C. Kicks from penalty spot (FIFA application)

* It is the responsibility of each team to know if they are involved in a TIE BREAKER game, to know the time and place, AND to be at the game site ready to play at the scheduled time.

9.8.4 Selection of Champions and Runners-Up: In Division III, the competitive (i.e., U10+) teams for each age and gender group which win first through fourth place in the Spring are eligible to represent SSA as top through fourth seeds respectively, in the MSA Northern District Tournament. Additional teams may be chosen at the discretion of the Executive Council to replace those eligible, should any team choose not to participate. Teams must declare their intent to participate in the MSA Northern District Tournament at a point designated by the Executive Council. Eligibility to participate in the Northern District Tournament is contingent on prior declaration to the Director of Coaching, that said team intends to participate in the designated MSA state tournament, should they be eligible to advance after the Northern District Tournament. SSA teams and their coaches will be sanctioned for violation of this policy, per MSA policy.

9.8.5 Participation in U.S. Youth Soccer Association sanctioned tournaments: Any team wanting to participate in a U.S. Youth Soccer Association tournament must receive Council approval. If a limited number of teams are able to participate, the Council will determine which teams will be eligible to participate. All fees and entry forms should be submitted to the Second Vice-President two weeks prior to the tournament deadline. All teams are responsible for submitting travel permit requests, tournament requests & player passes within proper time limits. Any costs associated with these requests when submitted late, will be assumed by the requesting team. The Executive Council may appropriate tournament fees to SSA teams wanting to participate in U.S. Youth Soccer Association tournaments as funds are available provided that funds are available equitably to all teams in a given age group. This provision allows for equitable use of funds by U-12 and above teams because of the limited number of teams in those age groups and the limited use of funds by those age groups for local referees.

9.9 Coaching and Coaches responsibilities:

9.9.1 Application to Coach: Applications for SSA coaching positions will be taken during the registration of players. Following registration the Director of Coaching will be responsible for filling all coaching positions.

9.9.2 Council Approval of Coaches: The Executive Council will review all applications and either approve or disapprove. Only approved coaches may be on immediate sidelines and act in a coaching capacity. No person may serve on more than two teams in an official coaching capacity. No Division I Coach may serve as Head or Assistant & Coach on more than one team. No Division II coach may serve as Head or Assistant & coach on more than two teams (one recreational and one intermediate). An exception to the above is that the Director of Coaching may be listed as an assistant coach on multiple rosters if needed.

9.9.3 Familiarity with Rules: All coaches must become familiar with, and follow the Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules and Regulations of SSA. Coaches will be told of this provision at the initial coaches meeting, and directed to read the current rules posted on the official website of SSA. It is the coach's responsibility to encourage parents of players at the first team meeting to view the rules and regulations, as well as other league information at the website.

9.9.4 Coaches Training: All coaches should attend at least one coaches or referee clinic/seminar each year. SSA encourages attendance at "in house" as well as certified and sanctioned training courses.

9.9.5 Assistant Coaches: Only one assistant coach may have their child protected in the draft.

9.9.6 Team Roster: The Executive Council will provide the coach with a team roster that will include the players name, address, birthdate, and phone number.

9.9.7 Travel Permits: All Division II and III coaches must notify the Second Vice-President and obtain proper travel permits when playing non-SSA affiliated teams, pursuant to current MSA policy.

9.9.8 Coaches License: Division I coaches should have, or obtain by the start of the fall season, a minimum class E coaching license. Division II coaches should have appropriate minimum licensure required to coach at their age group, prior to the start of their seasonal year. Division III coaches should attempt to obtain appropriate Level II or III licensure prior to the end of the spring season to ensure team eligibility for Northern District Tournament play.

9.9.9 Games and Practice Scheduling: Games and practices for all Divisions must be scheduled by the Executive

Council or its designated appointee. Use of SSA designated fields shall be approved by the Executive Council or its designee.

9.10 Playing Rules

9.10.1 FIFA Laws: Unless otherwise noted, rules established by FIFA will be followed.

9.10.2 Field Specifications: The playing field sizes will be scaled down according to the MSA and U.S. Youth Soccer Association short sided modified playing rules as adapted by SSA and MSA.

9.10.3 Fifty per cent playing time guaranteed: Each youth U8 through U14, except those absent, ill or suspended, participating in Division III soccer will play at least one half of each league game. The only exception will be in the case of disciplinary reasons, which must be reported to the referee prior to the start of the game by the coach. Punishment for not adhering to this rule is:

1st offense - forfeiture of game by team. If the team lost the game, two (2) team points will be taken from the team's league standings.

2nd offense - the same as 1st offense plus 1 game suspension of coach active in head capacity.

3rd offense - the same as 1st offense plus termination of the coach from SSA for the remainder of the soccer year.

9.10.4 Playing times: Playing times for Division III play are as follows:

U6 and U8 - Four 8 minute quarters	(total playing time = 32 minutes)
U10 - Four 12 and 1/2 minute quarters	(total playing time = 50 minutes)
U12 - Four 15 minute quarters	(total playing time = 60 minutes)
U14 - Two 35 minute halves	(total playing time = 70 minutes)
U16 - Two 40 minute halves	(total playing time = 80 minutes)
U19 - Two 45 minute halves	(total playing time = 90 minutes)
Adult - Four 20 minute quarters	(total playing time = 80 minutes)

The referee shall have discretion in U8 through U19 to break each half at a dead ball situation or such other playing situation which will allow a break without advantage to either team.

The Executive Council has discretionary power to limit playing times as necessary.

9.10.5 Injury re-starts: Anytime a referee stops play for an injury and the game is restarted with a drop ball signifying that there was no foul.

9.10.6 Any player who receives an injury and it is deemed by the referee that the injury caused the player unconsciousness, regardless of how brief, will not be allowed to re-enter that game.

9.10.7 Any player who receives an injury which causes bleeding will be removed from the game until such time as the bleeding ceases.

9.10.8 Violation of rules: Any player, coach, SSA official or parent determined to have violated the Constitution, By-Laws, and/or General Policies of the Starkville Soccer shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Council of this Association.

9.10.9 Team Conduct: Each team and its coaches are responsible for the actions and personal conduct of their team members coach, parent and spectators and is additionally responsible to ensure that its actions on and off the field do not bring discredit upon the team or the Starkville Youth Soccer Association.

9.10.10 Coaches and substitute area: Coaches and player substitutes must remain on the bench or within twenty yards of the center line while the game is in progress. The coaches must remain at least 1 yard behind the touchline so as not to impede the movement or vision of the linesman.

9.10.11 Mechanical Devices: Coaches or parents may not use mechanical devices, such as bullhorns, amplifiers, or megaphones during the game.

9.10.12 Manner of Coaching: Coaches may provide limited direction to their players in a manner that is solely intended to be instructional and informative as to player positioning or team strategy during games. Critical, humiliating, and punishing threats or language shall not be directed towards any players by any coach.

9.10.13 Judgment of field conditions: The First Vice-President or his/her designee will decide when weather and field conditions are such that games and/or practices should be cancelled. If at all possible, this decision will be made before 2:00 p.m. and Starkville Parks and Recreation will be notified, and posting made prominently to the official SSA website. If it is not possible to make this decision in advance, then there will be an Executive Council member at the fields prior to game time and the decision of the Executive Council member will be final.

9.10.14 Referee's Judgment: The referee's judgment with regard to the actual game and occurrences relating to the conduct of the game, and to those prerogatives or judgments inherently granted to the referee by FIFA shall not be challenged.

9.10.15 Use of Profanity: Coaches, players and substitutes shall not use profanity or make insulting or otherwise derogatory remarks or gestures directed to their own team, or to the opposing team or to the referees or spectators, nor shall they incite disruptive behavior.

9.10.16 Disciplinary Actions for Misconduct by players and coaches: For misconduct by players and coaches, certain disciplinary actions will be instituted as follows:

9.10.16.1 Players found to be guilty of:

9.10.16.1.1 Using profanity, either by word or gesture directed at himself or other players, referees coaches, SSA officials or spectators will be sent off (ejected) and receive a 1 game suspension (red card). Profanity shall be defined as racial slurs, invocations of damnation by a deity, comments regarding personal body parts or bodily functions not generally used in genteel company, comments regarding one's ancestral background or any variation of words describing the act of intercourse.

9.10.16.1.2 Making threats or threatening gestures against other players, referees, coaches, SSA officials or spectators will receive a one to two game suspension.

9.10.16.1.3 Physically striking or fighting with another player, before, during or after the game will receive a one to three game suspension.

9.10.16.1.4 Physically pushing or striking any referee, coach or SSA official will receive a one year suspension and/or legal action.

9.10.16.2 Coaches, assistant coaches, or team managers determined to be guilty of making threatening gestures or using profanity:

9.10.16.2.1 1st offense: Letter of reprimand and one game suspension.

9.10.16.2.2 2nd offense: Letter of reprimand and six month suspension.

9.10.16.2.3 3rd offense: Letter of reprimand and indefinite suspension as determined by the Executive Council.

9.10.16.2.4 Coaches, assistant coaches or team managers determined to be found guilty of striking or fighting with another coach, player, referee, SSA official or spectator shall be suspended indefinitely until the Executive Council determines the length of the suspension.

9.10.16.3 Disciplinary Actions

9.10.16.3.1 Cautions - A "running total" of all Cautions shall be maintained on a "per season basis". With respect to Cautions, a "season" shall be defined as either August 1 to December 31 or January 1 to July 31. Each period shall be considered as separate and distinct from the other for purposes of applying disciplinary actions as outlined more specifically herein below. Cautions shall result in the following actions:

No. of Cautions	Action to be Taken
1st - 3rd	Report to MSA (Division I only)
4th	Report to MSA (Division I only); count as an Ejection; individual disqualified from participating in next regularly scheduled game, unless, when added to any other Ejections which may be outstanding, then follow disciplinary actions outlined hereinbelow for "Ejections", including the probationary and suspension rules.
5th - 7th	Report to MSA (Division I only)
8th which	Report to MSA (Division I only); count as second Ejection; individual disqualified from participating in next 2 regularly scheduled games, unless, when added to any other Ejections may be outstanding, then follow disciplinary actions outlined hereinbelow for "Ejections", including the probationary and suspension rules.
9th - 11th	Report to MSA (Division I only)
12th	Report to MSA (Division I only); count as third Ejection; individual disqualified from participating in any MSA - Sanctioned event for the duration of season.

9.10.16.3.2 Ejections - A "running total" of all ejections shall be maintained on a "per season" basis. With respect to Ejections, a "season" shall be defined as a twelve (12) month period commencing on each August 1 and terminating on the following July 31. Ejections shall result in the following actions:

No. of Ejections	Action to be Taken
1st	Report to MSA (Division I only); individual disqualified from participating in next regularly scheduled game.
2nd	Report to MSA (Division I only); individual disqualified from participating in next 2 regularly scheduled games, and placed on probation for duration of season.
3rd	Report to MSA; individual disqualified from participation in any MSA Sanctioned event for duration of season.

9.10.16.4 Complaints and Grievances - The Executive Council will formally address only complaints and grievances that have been submitted in writing and signed by The complainants. Appeals may be made in accordance with the SSA Constitution and By-Laws.

9.11 Awards Program

9.11.1 Championship and Runner-Up Awards: Championship and Runner - Up honors (patches, trophies, balls, etc.) may be awarded in each age division with at least 3 teams (except U6).

9.11.2 Sportsmanship Awards: Sportsmanship honors (patches, trophies, balls, etc.) may be awarded in age divisions as

determined by the Executive Council. The award will be based on the sportsmanship of the players, coaches, and parents of each team as well as the involvement of the teams in miscellaneous SSA activities.

9.11.3 Coach of the Year: Each year SSA may select a Coach of the Year for Boys and Girls who will represent SSA in District Competition. The Council will select a Coach of the Year for each age group from nominations submitted by SSA members.

9.11.4 Youth Referee of the Year: Each year SSA may select a Youth Referee of the Year for Boys and Girls who will represent SSA in the District competition. The SSA Head Referee will select the appropriate candidate after considering assessments, observations and feedback from coaches evaluations.

9.11.5 Player Sportsmanship of the Year: SSA may recognize one player from each team in SSA with a Player Sportsmanship of the Year Award. Each team will select its candidate.

As adopted by the Membership April 17, 1993, and amended by the Membership March 24, 2005 and March 29, 2007.