# BYLAWS OF OHIO YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION NORTH 

ARTICLE I<br>Name

The name of this organization shall be Ohio Youth Soccer Association North.

## ARTICLE II <br> Purpose

The object and purpose of this organization, organized as a non-profit corporation, shall be the supervision, regulation and promotion of youth soccer; to provide competition; and to provide for the development of soccer administration (i.e., leagues and club administrators) and soccer players, both male and female, through coaching, refereeing, and player training programs, to encourage good sportsmanship and fair play among all participants; all within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and pursuant to the laws of the State of Ohio and the United States of America.

## ARTICLE III Federation

The Ohio Youth Soccer Association North, herein known as OYSAN, is a member of the United States Youth Soccer Association, herein known as US Youth Soccer, and a member of the United States Soccer Federation, herein known as USSF. The USSF articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, and requirements take precedence over the rules of OYSAN. In the event of a conflict between these bylaws and the articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, and requirements of the USSF, the articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, and requirements of the USSF govern. OYSAN will abide by all requirements to USSF Bylaw 213 including, but not limited to: submission of membership information, holding hearings and protecting rights of members, registration and all other matters.

The OYSAN articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies and requirements take precedence over and supercede the governing documents and decisions its members to the extent applicable under state law, and OYSAN and its members will abide by the USSF and the OYSAN articles, bylaws, policies and requirements. OYSAN shall be compliant with all rules and regulations of US Youth Soccer and rules and regulations of USSF to maintain affiliation.

## ARTICLE IV Members

Section 1. Classifications. OYSAN shall have the following membership classifications:
A. Affiliate Member. Any properly constituted youth league interested in the promotion of youth soccer and operating within the territory with at least four (4) teams with a
schedule of play against each other or OYSAN members. Membership is granted by fulfilling all the requirements as identified in the policies and procedures.
B. Associate Member. Any entity, club or organization which has $100 \%$ of its membership affiliated with a member league or has $100 \%$ of its membership directly affiliated with OYSAN may join OYSAN as an associate member by fulfilling all the requirements of affiliate members. Associate members have no voting privileges.
C. Direct Member. OYSAN may offer direct membership to any person, and may conduct any program or service, if need can be established by the board of directors. This direct membership can apply to any person or group who participates in any direct program or service of the Ohio Youth Soccer Association North. OYSAN may provide insurance protection to direct members who sign up to participate in an OYSAN program or service; the protection is in effect during the program or service.
Section 2. Eligibility. No member shall be subject to suspension under Section 4 of United States Soccer Federation, Inc. (USSF) Bylaw 241, and to any amateur soccer organization in its territory.

## Section 3. Member Responsibilities.

A. Each affiliate member shall:

1. register their players by submission of member data and payment of fees as required by the state registrar prior to practice or playing of games. Members may request an extension in the deadline, which may be granted by the executive director;
2. ensure a current copy of their bylaws is on file with the state office at all times. Such governing document must not contain material injurious to the purposes and policies of OYSAN or USSF or youth soccer in general; and
3. attend the annual general meeting.
B. Each associate member shall:
4. pay an annual fee; and
5. ensure a current copy of their bylaws is on file with the state office at all times. Such governing document must not contain material injurious to the purposes and policies of OYSAN or USSF or youth soccer in general.
Section 4. Good Standing. A member in good standing is one whose current OYSAN fees are paid and who complies with the provisions of the USSF Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and policies and bylaws and standing rules of OYSAN. The board of directors may review the status of any member. If any member fails to meet membership qualifications, the board of directors may make recommendation revoking their membership.

## ARTICLE V <br> Fees and Finance

## Section 1. Fees

A. Annual fees for members shall be as determined by the board of directors. Annual fees for associate members shall be four times the fee for affiliate members.
B. Annual fees shall be due and payable to the OYSAN office as determined by the executive director or board of directors.
C. Registration fees shall be determined by the board of directors. The board of directors shall determine when these fees are to be submitted by each member.

Section 2. Budget. The board of directors has the power to establish and approve the budget and to establish such financial policies that will insure proper management of the finances of the organization.
Section 3. Audit. The financial records shall be audited every two years at the end of the fiscal year, by an independent auditor, and such other times as requested by the board of directors. The full audit report shall be presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting.
Section 4. Compensation. No volunteer member of the board of directors, committee chairman, or voting committee member shall receive compensation (other than reimbursement for expenses) for services or goods provided through a binding obligation unless the binding obligation is specifically approved by the board of directors. Any board member having a financial interest in the contract, letter of agreement, or verbal understanding shall abstain from voting.
Section 5. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year shall be from September 1 through August 31.

## ARTICLE VI Officers

Section 1. Officers. The elected officers shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer, and four district commissioners.

## Section 2. Qualifications.

A. A candidate for elected office shall:

1. Be in good standing with USSF, USYS and OYSAN for the past year;
2. Not be a paid employee of the organization;
B. A candidate for the office of president shall have served at least one preceding year on the board of directors.
C. Any person elected, appointed, or hired in the office or position of president, executive director or director of coaching must divest themselves from serving as a board member or employee and from other soccer clubs or leagues prior to taking office or prior to the first date of hire unless there is consent from the board of directors to do otherwise.

## Section 3. Term of Office.

A. All officers shall serve for a term of two (2) years commencing January $1^{\text {st }}$ or until their successors are elected or appointed.
B. Elected officers shall assume their respective offices on January $1^{\text {st }}$.
C. Officers may be removed, with cause and/or failure to attend meetings or failure to perform the duties of that office. Members are removed by a two-thirds vote of the voting members at an annual meeting, board of directors meeting, or a special meeting called for that purpose. The officer has a right to a hearing and appeal rights. The hearing will be by the board of directors with the officer who is the subject of the hearing not having a right to vote.
Section 4. Duties of Officers. The elected officers shall perform the duties provided in this section and such other duties as are prescribed for the office in these bylaws, by the board of directors, by the executive committee, by the president, or in the adopted parliamentary authority.
A. Duties of the President. The president shall:

1. be the chief executive officer in the handling of the day to day business through the Executive Director of OYSAN;
2. preside at all meetings of the board of directors, executive committee, annual general meeting, and other meetings of the organization;
3. appoint all committees serving OYSAN;
4. serve as an ex-officio member of all committees;
5. serve as a US Youth Soccer delegate, a Midwest Regional US Youth Soccer delegate, and a delegate to USSF;
6. serve as the immediate supervisor and conduct annual performance reviews of the executive director and director of coaching; and
7. serve as a signed approver on OYSAN checks.
B. Duties of the Vice-President. The vice-president shall:
8. perform the duties of the president in the absence of the president; and
9. succeed to the office of president for the unexpired term in the event of a vacancy in that office.
C. Duties of the Secretary. The secretary shall:
10. record the proceedings and maintain records of all board of director meetings, executive committee, and annual general meeting; and
11. maintain all correspondence and communications essential to the conduct of business of the board of directors meetings.
D. Duties of the Treasurer. The treasurer shall:
12. be custodian of all funds and responsible for all the financial affairs of OYSAN;
13. oversee, through the executive director, adequate systems for controlling, recording and reporting of all income, expenses, assets, and liabilities;
14. oversee the preparation of financial statements on a monthly basis and send them to the board of directors;
15. shall be responsible for meeting all statutory financial requirements, including the filing of State and Federal returns;
16. submit an audited annual financial report every two years and a financial review every other year completed by an independent auditor, for presentation at the annual general meeting.
17. serve as a signed approver on OYSAN checks.
E. Duties of District Commissioners. The district commissioners shall:
18. reside in the district;
19. represent the district in matters addressed by the board of directors;
20. coordinate activities within the district;
21. be responsible for and ensure that the policies of OYSAN, US Youth Soccer, and USSF are carried out in their districts;
22. hold two (2) district meetings per year;
23. be able to hold an office concurrently in a member organization;
24. attend their respective member organizations' annual general meetings by invitation;
25. review, with the executive director, all bylaws received from new and existing member organizations within the district;
26. review, with the executive director, a new member organization application for proposal to the board of directors for approval;
27. review tournament sites within the district.

## Section 5. Nomination and Election of Officers.

## A. Nominations.

1. In order to be considered for office, nominations documenting the qualifications for the nominee with their written consent to serve and the written endorsement of any two officers of their member organization, shall be submitted to the OYSAN Headquarters postmarked no later than thirty (30) days prior to the annual general meeting. (Refer to OYSAN Rules for qualifications.)
2. The names and qualifications of candidates meeting eligibility requirements shall be sent to the member organizations no less than 14 days prior to the annual general meeting.
3. Nominations from the floor shall not be allowed.

## B. Elections.

1. Officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual general meeting. If there is but one (1) nominee for office, the vote may be taken by voice.
2. The president, treasurer, district 2 commissioner, and district 4 commissioner shall be elected by a majority vote in the even-numbered years.
3. The vice-president, secretary, district 1 commissioner, and district 3 commissioner shall be elected by a majority vote in the odd-numbered years.
4. To be eligible to be elected, a district commissioner must be nominated by one of the member organizations assigned by the board of directors to that district.
5. The district commissioners shall be elected by a majority vote during a district meeting. Such meeting shall be held no less than two weeks prior to the annual general meeting in the year of the election to elect the district commissioner. Each affiliated member organization shall receive one (1) vote during the election of the district commissioner. Election shall be by ballot unless there is but one (1) nominee for office, when the vote may be taken by voice.

## Section 6. Vacancy in Elected Office.

A. A vacancy in the office of president shall be filled by the vice-president.
B. A vacancy in the office of a district commissioner shall be filled by a vote of the board of directors until the next regular election of the district commissioner.
C. Any other vacancy in elected office shall be filled by a vote of the board of directors until the next annual general meeting. At the next annual meeting, a person will be elected to fulfill the remainder of the term.

## ARTICLE VII Meetings

Section 1. Parliamentarian. A parliamentarian shall serve in an advisory capacity while in attendance at any meeting.

## Section 2. Annual General Meeting.

A. Annual general meetings shall be held between November 1 and November 30 at a time and location determined by the board of directors.
B. Meetings shall be for the purpose of electing officers; receiving reports of the officers and committees; approving the actions of the board of directors since the previous annual general meeting; and such other business as may properly come before it.
C. Notice shall be sent to all members in writing through U.S. or electronic mail at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
D. Voting for the annual general meeting is per Section 5 of this Article.
E. Affiliated leagues or members who fail to attend the annual general meeting or provide a proxy as indicated in Section 6A2(a) of this article shall be assessed a fine as established by the board of directors.

## Section 3. Special Meetings.

A. Special meetings of OYSAN may be called by the president or by the majority of the board of directors or upon petition by at least 25 affiliate members.
B. No business other than that stated in the meeting notice may be transacted.
C. Notification of the meeting shall be sent to all members through U.S. or electronic mail at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
Section 4. Quorum. The quorum at any annual general meeting shall be a majority of the voting members who have been registered with the credentials committee as in attendance, provided that at least 5 members in good standing and at least 5 elected officers are represented. To transact any business at any special meeting, there shall be a minimum of 25 members in good standing and at least 5 elected officers present to constitute a quorum.

## Section 5. Voting Body.

A. The voting body shall be composed of the following:

1. Members of the board of directors who receive 1 (one) vote each;
2. Affiliate members, in good standing, shall have voting powers as set forth herein:

| 1-249 players | 1 (one) vote |
| :--- | :--- |
| 250-499 players | 2 (two) votes |
| $500-749$ players | 3 (three) votes |
| $750-999$ players | 4 (four) votes |
| 1000-1499 players | 5 (five) votes |
| 1500-1999 players | 6 (six) votes |
| 2000-2499 players | 7 (seven) votes |
| $2500-2999$ players | 8 (eight) votes |
| 3000-3999 players | 9 (nine) votes |
| $4000-4999$ players | 10 (ten) votes |
| $5000-5999$ players | 11 (eleven) votes |
| 6000 or more players | 12 (twelve) votes |

(a.) If unable to attend, a proxy declaration as to who is entitled to vote must be received by the state registrar at least five (5) days prior to the annual general meeting. The proxy statement must be notarized, or must be on a statement with the league president's name and original league stamp mark imprinted. For the entire meeting, the votes for every decision are given to the person carrying the proxy.

## 3. Direct members may cast one vote collectively.

Section 6. Cancellation. In the event of a national or local emergency, the executive committee by an affirmative vote of three (3) members in a meeting, by mail or telephone, may dispense with any meeting of OYSAN. Notice of cancellation of a meeting must be made 24 hours before the scheduled meeting. Notification can be made by mail, electronically, or by phone. The meeting shall be rescheduled in a reasonable amount of time.

## ARTICLE VIII

## Board of Directors

## Section 1. Composition.

A. The members of the board of directors shall be:

1. elected officers
2. state director of coaching (ex officio non-voting)
3. state youth referee administrator (ex officio non-voting)
4. executive director (ex officio non-voting)

Section 2. Duties. The board of directors shall:
A. have full powers and authority as set forth in these bylaws, rules, and policies of OYSAN;
B. be the policy making body of the organization;
C. promulgate and enforce rules governing the activities of the organization;
D. have authority to appoint standing or special committees of the organization as deemed necessary;
E. fill vacancies, except for the office of president or vice-president. A majority vote shall elect;
F. adopt standing rules as needed to carry out the business of the board of directors;
G. ensure that the bylaws and other policies of the OYSAN are not in conflict with the policies of the USSF;
H. elect persons to fill other delegate votes to USSF, US Youth Soccer, and other organizations other than the delegate vote automatic with the president. The board may direct the president to cast all votes and may direct the will of the association in casting votes;
I. establish dues, fees, charges, and fee schedules, giving notice to all member organizations, as authorized under Article V;
J. approves the membership/affiliation of leagues and determine what district such new leagues will be placed in;
K. have the power to establish and approve the budget and to establish such financial policies that will insure proper management of the finances of the organization;
L. report notice of actions and policies adopted by the board to the members at the annual general meeting for ratification; and
M. have authority to bar completely, suspend, or otherwise discipline, any player, coach, manager, team assignment, member organization officer, state board member, team, league, or other organization affiliated with or representing OYSAN for unacceptable behavior conduct either in carrying out the duties of their position or while holding aforementioned offices and/or position, by a two-thirds vote of the board of directors.

## Section 3. Meetings.

A. Regular. A regular meeting of the board of directors shall be held immediately following the annual general meeting for the purpose of adopting any bylaw amendments. Other regular meetings shall be held at least monthly as determined by the board of directors with meeting notice published to the members.
B. Organizational Planning Meeting. A meeting for planning the ensuing year and approving the appointments of the president shall be held annually in July. Committee
appointments may be made at other times during the year as deemed appropriate with approval of the Board of Directors. Committee Chair appointments shall be confirmed by the board of directors, and the yearly calendar will be approved.
C. Special. Other meetings may be held as may be determined by the president or majority of the board of directors. At least five days but notice of meetings shall be given to the members of the board of directors.
Section 4. Quorum. A majority of the board members shall constitute a quorum for all meetings of the board of directors.

## ARTICLE IX Executive Committee

Section 1. Composition. The executive committee shall consist of the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and executive director (ex-officio/non-voting).

## Section 2. Duties.

A. The executive committee shall:

1. be empowered to act for the board of directors when it is not feasible to call a meeting of the board of directors;
2. have the authority to employ the executive director and director of coaching; and
3. be aware that all actions of the executive committee are subject to ratifications by the board of directors at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
Section 3. Meetings. Meetings shall be at the call of the president or any two (2) members and shall require a notice to the members of at least three (3) days.
Section 4. Quorum. A majority of the executive committee shall constitute a quorum for all meetings. A member of the executive committee may participate in a meeting by means of a conference telephone or similar communication equipment, by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other, and their participation shall constitute presence at the meeting.

## ARTICLE X Committees

Section 1. Composition. The board of directors may establish standing and special committees as authorized under Article VIII, Section 2D. Upon establishment, the duties are assigned by the president or board of directors. The committee chairmen are appointed by the president and approved by the board of directors.
Section 2. Term. Committee members serve for one year with the committee chairperson serving at the discretion of the president and/or board of directors.
Section 3. Ex-officio Members. The president and executive director shall serve as an exofficio member of all committees who may advise and facilitate the committees as needed and supervise the committees on fiscal responsibility and OYSAN policies.
Section 4. Committee Chairpersons. Committee appointments are made by the president with the approval of the board of directors.
Section 5. Special Committees. In addition to the regulations prescribed in this Article, appointments of the president to special committees and approval by the board of directors may happen any time during the year. Special committees may be appointed for a specified period
of time to perform various assigned committee functions. The terms of special committee members and chairpersons expire at the will of the board of directors.

## ARTICLE XI <br> Geographic Boundaries

Section 1. Boundaries. The territorial boundaries of OYSAN shall include all northern counties of the State of Ohio, separated from the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association by the southern boundaries of the counties of Mercer, Auglaize, Hardin, the eastern boundary of Hardin, the southern boundaries of Wyandot and Crawford to the Morrow County line, the western and southern boundary of Morrow, Knox, Coshocton and Tuscarawas, the southern boundary of Harrison to the Belmont line, the western and southern boundaries of Belmont County. The United States Soccer Federation can change these boundaries.
Section 2. Districts. The territorial boundaries shall be divided into four districts-they are generally the eastern area of the state, the eastern part of Cuyahoga County and the Akron/Canton area, the western part of Cuyahoga County and the Mansfield area, and the western part of the state.

## ARTICLE XII Insignia

Section 1. Colors. The official colors of the OYSAN shall be red, white and blue.

## ARTICLE XIII Discipline

Section 1. Revocation of Membership. Any affiliate, associate or allied member with registrations and all fees paid, may be removed for not following the OYSAN and/or USSF bylaws, and rules, and by not enforcing disciplinary judgments on members. A hearing by the board of directors will be held to remove a member. Notice must be given at least 30 days in advance of the board of directors meeting to the affected organization. The member has all rights pertaining to a hearing, and rights of appeal to the USSF. A three-fourths vote of the board of directors is needed to remove a member.
Section 2. Hearings. Hearings held in OYSAN for disciplinary or other purposes will be held in accordance with the USSF rules for hearings.

## ARTICLE XIV Administrative Operations

Section 1. Headquarters. The headquarters shall be located at an office designated by the board of directors and shall be within the territory of the organization.
Section 2. Executive Director. The management of the day-to-day operations at headquarters shall be under the direction of an executive director.
A. Accountability. The executive director shall be hired by the executive committee. The president shall be the immediate supervisor of the executive director. The executive
director shall consult with and be responsible to the president between meetings of the executive committee.
B. Duties. The executive director shall:

1. be responsible, in consultation with the president, for the employment and supervision of such personnel, except the director of coaching, as required to carry out the duties of the headquarters office provided that such employment falls within the constraints established by the adopted budget and personnel policies established by the executive committee;
2. be responsible for managing the day to day business and carrying out the policies of the organization as assigned by the president, executive committee, or board of directors;
3. manage a board-approved budget and handle financial responsibilities in coordination with the treasurer;
4. provide reports on all aspects of the administration and programs of OYSAN to the board of directors and members;
5. serve as an ex-officio members of all committees; and
6. perform such other duties as stated in the bylaws and other governing documents of OYSAN.
Section 3. Director of Coaching. The director of coaching shall be hired by the executive committee. The president shall be the immediate supervisor of the director of coaching. The director of coaching shall consult with and be responsible to the president between meetings of the executive committee.
Section 4. Policies. OYSAN shall have policies on registration, travel and tournaments, discipline and appeals, finance, sexual and physical abuse, and health and safety of players. Other policies may be established as deemed necessary by the board of directors, executive committee or executive director.
Section 5. Written Reports. All written reports will be kept in the state office and by the appropriate administrators.

## ARTICLE XV

## Electronic Meetings

The board of directors, executive committee, standing committees, and special committees are authorized to meet by telephone conference or through other electronic communications media so long as all the members may simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting.

## ARTICLE XVI Discrimination and Conflict of Interest

OYSAN will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex or national origin. OYSAN will not join any organization that has requirements that conflict with the USSF articles, bylaws, policies and requirements. Registration with OYSAN is registration with USSF.

## ARTICLE XVII <br> Indemnification

Any director, officer, employee, or agent of OYSAN who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceedings, shall be indemnified for all expenses and liabilities actually and reasonably incurred in connection therewith to the extent permitted by the Revised Code of Ohio.

## ARTICLE XVIII <br> Dissolution

In the event of dissolution of this organization, the assets of the organization shall be distributed to the United States Soccer Federation, or any other eligible non-profit organization as directed by the majority of the board of directors. Three-fourths (3/4) vote of member leagues/clubs and board of directors is required to dissolve and end this organization.

## ARTICLE XIX

## Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization is all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws, any special rules of order that OYSAN may adopt, and any statues applicable to the organization that do not authorize the provisions of these bylaws to take precedence. The parliamentary authority of OYSAN shall be adopted by each member organization.

## ARTICLE XX <br> Amendments

Section 1. Correlation with the Articles of Incorporation. Article I and Article II of these bylaws shall be identical to the corresponding articles of the Articles of Incorporation.
Section 2. Correlation with United States Soccer Federation. Any amendment to these bylaws or OYSAN policies necessitated by amendments to the articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, and requirements of USSF shall be automatically effected by the board of directors and reported to the members at the annual general meeting following the adoption of such amendments by USSF.
Section 3. Amendment with Notice. By two-thirds vote of the voting members, these bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting or duly called quarterly meeting provided that the amendment:
A. has been submitted by the board of directors and adopted by a two-thirds vote of the entire board;
B. has been submitted by any affiliate member and submitted to the board of directors on or before 30 days prior to the annual meeting; and
C. has been mailed to all voting members no less than 30 days prior to such meeting in which the proposed amendments will be voted upon together with identification of proposer(s)

Section 4. Board Action. Any amendment or revision to the bylaws adopted at a meeting under Section 2 of this Article must thereafter be approved by the board of directors by an affirmative vote of a majority of those present immediately after the meeting at which the amendment(s) were voted upon. All members of the board of directors present must sign a dated ratification page.
Section 5. Effective Date. Any revised bylaws and/or any amendments become effective after the adjournment of the meeting upon which it was voted providing there is no other specified effective date.

