

# **East Citrus Soccer League**

## **BYLAWS**

**PROPOSED CHANGES May 2024**

### **Part I – General**

#### **Bylaw 101. Name**

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the East Citrus Soccer League D/B/A Citrus United Soccer League hereinafter referred to as the Local League. The Local League will maintain status as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Florida and shall obtain and maintain tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code of the United States.

Section 2. The Local League shall engage in lawful activity, none of which is for profit, pursuant to Statutes of the State of Florida and §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

#### **Bylaw 102. Purpose**

Section 1. The objective of the East Citrus Soccer League shall be to implant firmly in the children of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and respect for authority so that they may be well-adjusted, stronger, and happier children and will grow to be good decent, healthy and trustworthy citizens of the community.

Section 2. The local league provides opportunities to its youth players, coaches, and officials to learn and experience the game of soccer. This is accomplished through soccer programs as defined by Florida Youth Soccer Association, U.S. Youth Soccer Association, and the United States Soccer Federation. All Directors, Officers, and Members shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of the games is secondary and the molding of future citizens is of prime importance. The local league is therefore dedicated to the concept of recreational and competitive soccer for the community youth, emphasizing the knowledge and enjoyment of the sport, by those involved.

#### **Bylaw 103. Memberships in Other Organizations**

Section 1. The Local League shall be a member of, and comply with the Bylaws and Policies of, Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA). The Club shall also be an affiliate of the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), and the United States Soccer Federation (USSF).

Section 2. The Local League shall maintain its bylaws and policies in compliance with the bylaws and policies of FYSA, USYSA, and the USSF. In the event of any conflict between the bylaws and policies of the Local League and the bylaws and policies of the organizations of which it is a member, the provisions of FYSA, USYSA, and the USSF shall take priority.

Section 3. Members should not be actively engaged in the promotion. and/or operation of any other soccer program, excluding those serving as School System managers or coaches.

#### **Bylaw 104. Authority**

The governing authority of this Local League shall be vested in an elected body known as the Board of Directors (Board), which shall manage all Local League affairs.

#### **Bylaw 105. Laws of the Game**

FYSA Laws of the Game as modified for youth and small-sided games shall apply and be administered by the club and league rules. Bylaw 105. Fiscal and Seasonal Soccer Year

Section 1. The Local League's financial year shall be from June 1 through May 31.

Section 2. The seasonal year will begin in accordance with game schedules as set forth by FYSA and any other local league the Local League deems appropriate for its teams to participate within.

#### **Bylaw 106. Rules of Order**

Section 1. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall guide the Local League in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with the Bylaws and any special rules of order the Local League may adopt.

#### **Bylaw 107. Dissolution of Local League**

Section 1. Should the Local League be dissolved, all monetary and physical assets remaining after payment of all debts shall be turned over to another IRS tax-exempt charitable organization for programs promoting youth soccer in the Local League's general area.

Section 2. Should the league merge with another, all assets shall be transferred to the surviving entity by the end of the fiscal year.

### **Part II – Membership**

#### **Bylaw 201. Equal Opportunity**

The Local League will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, or national origin.

#### **Bylaw 202. Participation**

Section 1. Participation is open to any youth soccer players ages 3 -19, and to coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and volunteers who are not serving a suspension from participation by FYSA or any organization of which it is a member, any of its member clubs or by any amateur soccer organization in its territory.

Section 2. **Youth Participants** - Are registered players under the age of 20. They shall submit an application to the Local League in the format prescribed by the Local League. An annual fee established by, and payable to, the Local League shall accompany all applications, with the exception of players requesting financial assistance who must submit a separate application. Acceptance of the request for financial assistance by the Local League shall not constitute approval

of the application for financial assistance.

Section 3. **Adult Participants** - Are registered adults who are officers, directors, coaches, trainers, managers, and other elected or appointed administrators who work on behalf of the Local League. Acceptance of Adult Participants by the Local League shall be subject to approval of the application and verification by FYSA that the person's risk status is "Approved". The Local League may not accept an individual who is restricted or suspended from participation by any sports organization.

Section 4. Every player, coach, assistant coach, team manager, programs administrator, club officer, board member and volunteer who acts as an official representative of the Local League must be registered with the Local League and FYSA.

Section 5. Both Youth Participants and Adult Participants shall be subject to FYSA's bylaws and policies as well as the Local League's bylaws and policies.

Section 6. All Adult Participants must submit to annual background checks in accordance with FYSA policies.

### **Bylaw 203. Membership**

The members of the club are the persons who are permitted to vote in elections for club officers and other members of the Board of Directors.

Section 1. **Members** - Are the registered officers, directors, and coaches of the Local League.

Section 2. **Voting by Members** - At the Annual General Membership Meeting and any Special General Membership Meetings, all Members shall be eligible to vote on matters that are brought before the meeting, subject to the following limitations:

- A. The President shall chair the meeting and may not vote on any issue before the meeting other than the election of officers and directors or in order to break a tie.
- B. Each voting person is limited to one vote; regardless of the number of offices that person may hold.

## **Part III – Organization and Board**

### **Bylaw 301. Board of Directors**

Section 1. The Board of Directors (Board) shall be the representative governing authority of the Local League. The Board will conduct the business of the Local League and shall be composed of the elected officers, and other elected directors. The number of directors may be modified from time to time, but the number shall never be fewer than 5.

Individuals seeking membership on the Board must be nominated by a current Board member. The nomination must be approved by a majority of the current Board members. Any interested person who is 18 years of age or older, who is committed to the goal and objective of the club is eligible to serve on the Board.

Section 2. The Board shall be comprised of the officers specified in Bylaw 302. All elected officers and

elected directors are eligible to vote on any matter before the Board.

Section 3. A quorum for conducting business at any Board meeting shall consist of 60% of the voting members of the Board, but in no case shall a quorum be fewer than 3 board members. The affirmative vote of a majority of all eligible voting members of the Board shall be required to adopt or amend Club policies.

Section 4. Appointed administrators and other ex officio members of the Board may attend meetings, participate in discussions, make motions and provide advice to the Board but shall not have voting privileges at Board meetings.

Section 5. At each Annual General Meeting the Nominating Committee (consisting of the President and Treasurer) shall present the proposed slate of Board Members up for election that year. Nominations for positions must be submitted to the Nominating Committee 15 days before the AGM for review.

Section 6. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held immediately following the AGM and, on such days, thereafter, as shall be determined by the Board. Notice of each meeting shall be given by the Secretary to each Director/Officer at least 5 days before the time appointed for the meeting to the best point of contact determined by the Board.

Section 7. The Board may adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of its meetings and the management of the Local League as it may deem proper.

Section 8. Coaches or other Adult Participants must submit a request three (3) days prior to any scheduled meeting if they wish to address the Board and the nature of such request.

Section 9. All Board Members are required to pay, in full, any required player registration fees for their eligible participating children during and following the normal registration processes. Board Members in good standing will be compensated up to 3 player registration fees in the form of a refund credit at the end of the season for which they served. The Board member will only receive the value of the actual registration fees they paid at the time of registration. There is no carryover value for any refund credits not used in a seasonal year regardless of whether or not the Board Member remains on the Board of Directors for the following seasonal year.

Eligible players are defined as legally recognized dependents and / or those children that the Board Member is considered the legal guardian thereof.

Section 10. Interpret and enforce the **East Citrus Code of Ethics**.

Section 11. Ensure the employment and supervision of a Director of Coaching (DOC). Also ensure that all positions are supervised by either the board or its designee.

Section 12. All officers and directors are required to attend Regular Board Meetings. Each officer and director is required to attend 75% of the scheduled meetings. Violation of this bylaw may result in the members' disbarment from the board.

Section 13. Officers and directors are required to attend and actively assist at Local League related activities to include but not limited to scheduled games and events at Holden Park and off-site locations as needed.

Section 14. Membership may be terminated by resignation or action of the Board.

C. The Board of Directors, by a two-third vote of those present at any duly noticed meeting, shall have the authority to discipline or suspend or terminate the membership of any Member of any class when the conduct of such person is considered detrimental to the best interests of the Local League and/or Florida Youth Soccer Association.

D. The Member involved shall be notified by phone or email, informing the member of the general nature of the charge and will have three days to schedule a meeting to answer such charges.

### **Bylaw 302. Club Officers and Directors Duties**

Section 1. Officers and Directors

The club shall have the following elected Officers and Directors:

- A. President
- B. Vice President
- C. Treasurer
- D. Secretary
- E. Registrar
- F. Director at Large
- G. Director of Sponsorship and Fundraising
- H. Director of Coaching
- I. Referee Liasion
- J. Concession Stand Director
- K. Field and Equipment Director
- L. Field Marshall
- M. Communications and Media Director
- N. Agent of Records

Section 2. Duties of Officers and Directors

#### **A. President**

The President shall supervise all activities of the Local League and Board. The President shall be the presiding Officer at all Club meetings. The President shall appoint committees as needed or when charged to do so by a majority of the elected officers and shall be an *ex officio* member of all committees. The President shall be the official representative of the Local League in all interactions with the public, except when another person has been given that authority by the President with the approval of the Board. The President shall act as the Risk Management Coordinator for the Local League. The President will present a report of the condition of the Local League at the Annual Meeting. The President will investigate complaints, irregularities and conditions detrimental to the Local League and report thereon the Board as circumstances warrant.

#### **B. Vice President**

The Vice President the duties of the President in the President's absence. The Vice President with also:

1. Develop and carry out the Local League's Recreational Fall Program in compliance with the rules and team formation policies for recreational teams.
2. Communicate information on programs, League policies, and general information relating to League activities and team organization to recreational team coaches.
3. Coordinate the recruitment and selection of coaches with the appointed administrators
4. Coordinate with appointed administrators regarding assignment of coaches to teams.
5. Report to the Board on all matters relating to recreational soccer.
6. Serves as the League liaison with determined league for recreational play, maintaining mutual goals relative to both organizations
7. Represents the League at all recreational league meetings as required
8. Coordinates practice and game schedules with the appointed administrators
9. Maintain official team/league standings.

#### **C. Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall be in charge of the financial affairs and activities of the Local League, shall keep an accurate, informative, timely and verifiable record of all moneys received and disbursed by the Local League, all assets owned or controlled by the Local League and all debts owed by the Local League.

The Treasurer shall also;

1. Maintain checking account(s).
2. Disburse funds for authorized purposes in accordance with authorized procedures, prepare and submit annual financial information to the general membership at the AGM, and shall provide financial statements acceptable to the board at each regular meeting of the Board or as otherwise directed.
3. Prepare, or cause to be prepared, all documents required to allow the Local League to maintain its tax exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code and the laws of the State of Florida.

#### **D. Secretary**

The Secretary shall keep and publish an accurate record of all meetings, maintain the files of the Club and be responsible for the preparation of the annual report, and be a voting member of the Board.

The Secretary shall also;

1. Create and maintain the agenda and minutes for all BOD meetings.
2. Assist the CFO as requested
3. Obtain meeting space required for monthly meetings and Annual General Meeting.
4. Notify all appropriate attendees of all Local League scheduled meetings.
5. Prepare and distribute minutes for such meetings by the next scheduled meeting.
6. Keep a record of all policy decisions of the Board and make such decisions readily available at all meetings.
7. Maintain the Local Leagues Bylaws, Policy and Procedures in a master document.
8. Compile all required documents needed to facilitate the Annual General Meeting.

#### **E. Registrar**

The Registrar shall record all players transaction and maintain an accurate and up to date record there of.

They shall also;

1. Receive and review applications for player candidates and assist the President in checking residence and age eligibility.
2. Under the direction of the President will conduct the player blind draft and/or recruitment/selection process, and all other player transaction or selection meetings.
3. Prepare for the President's signature and submission to Florida Youth Soccer Association Headquarters, team rosters, including players claimed, and the tournament eligibility affidavit.
4. Notify Florida Youth Soccer Headquarters of any subsequent player replacements or trades.

#### **F. Director At Large**

The Director At Large shall actively participate in all events held on behalf of the Club by assisting other officers, directors, coaches, trainers, managers, and other elected or appointed administrators and committees in the implementation of Board approved initiatives. **Board Members must have 3 years of service in order to be eligible for the Director at Large Position.**

#### **G. Director of Sponsorships and Fundraising**

The Director of Sponsorships and Fundraising will reach out to local, regional and national businesses to obtain funds to be deposited into the Local League general fund or a specific fund as agreed to by both the Sponsor/Donor and the Local League. The DSF will work closely with officers, directors, coaches, trainers, managers, and other elected or appointed administrators and committees to create a sponsorship/fundraising plan for each fiscal year. The DSF shall be responsible for carrying out any and all fund-raising activities approved by the Board.

#### **H. Director of Coaching**

The Director of Coaching shall recruit and coordinate the training of eligible candidates and submit a list of same for consideration by President and approval by the Board of Directors

They shall also;

Communicate with all Division Liaisons in matter pertaining to the proper administrator of their respective divisions and/or other matters pertaining to coaching duties and responsibilities.

1. Investigate disputes between coaches and accordingly update the President and Board of Directors.
2. Recommend disciplinary action, and/or refer sensitive situations to the President and Board of Directors as necessary  
Carry at least an E License

#### **I. Referee Liaison**

The Referee Liaison shall establish acceptable qualifications for game officials hired by the Club. The Referee Liaison shall arrange training to develop referees for the club. The Referee Liaison shall be responsible for scheduling referees for Club games and maintaining records for payroll as needed. The Referee Liaison must complete the Assignor Training Course and be certified by USSF. The Referee Coordinator Liaison will report to the Board on all matters and activities concerning referees.

#### **J. Concession Stand Director**

**The Concession Stand Director shall be responsible for the coordination and operation and cleanliness of the concession stand, including proper handling and storage of food products.**

The Concession Stand Director shall be responsible for keeping track of all expenditures and sales related to the operation and maintenance of the concession stand and be able to provide a full report to the Board of Directors. Expenditures shall not exceed what is reasonable for the week to week operation of the concession stand.

Any expenditures must go through the treasurer with a receipt provided. Cash from the proceeds of the concession stand shall not be used for such purposes.

#### **K. Field and Equipment Director**

The Field and Equipment Director shall procure, maintain, and care for the soccer fields and other properties utilized by the Club.

The Field and Equipment Director shall be responsible for the playable condition of the fields for the Club up to game time, at which time it becomes the responsibility of the referee.

The Field and Equipment Director shall be responsible for setting up and tearing down of all game fields.

The Field and Equipment Director shall be responsible for permitting the fields of play for the required dates of each season. The Field and Equipment Director will be responsible for getting an inventory on coaches equipment and signing it out to coaches at the beginning of the season.

#### **L. Field Marshall**

The Field Marshall will ensure the safety of players, coaches and referees at Citrus United hosted events. The Field Marshall will monitor games and will be visible and able to assist coaches, players or referees as needed. The Field Marshall will look out for player, coach and parent issues, confrontations and fighting. Be prepared to settle disputes with diplomacy; if that fails contact local law enforcement. At a natural stoppage in a game they can consult with the referee if they need assistance with any spectators. The Field Marshall however will not interfere with the assigned referees and can not alter or change a referees call.

The Field Marshall will assist in getting care for any injured players, such as an ice pack or bandage.

#### **M. Communications and Media Coordinator**

The Communications and Media Coordinator shall be responsible for the coordination of all public relations in regard to all Club functions and activities including Social Media, website, Fliers, Banners and Signs. The Communications and Media Coordinator will be responsible for communicating updates to parents and spectators of events and schedules.

The Communications and Media Coordinator shall be responsible for all press releases.

#### **J. Agent of Records**

The Agent of Record and/or the President are the primary official representative regarding all issues and transactions with FYSA. No other member in an affiliate may override a decision authorized by the Agent of Record. The Agent of Record and/or the President are the only member of an affiliate authorized to: Complete the online affiliation form and Sign a proxy for credentials at the FYSA AGM.

The Agent of Record and/or the President's duties shall include, but not be limited to: Conducting business with the FYSA office, Authorizing entry into FYSA-sponsored events, • Collection of credentials at the FYSA AGM, and Requesting, in writing, affiliation changes.

### **Bylaw 304. *Ex-officio* Members of the Board**

#### **Section 1. Division Liaison**

The Division Liaison shall serve as a link between the Board of Directors and the coaches. A Division Liaison shall be appointed for each age group. The appointments shall be recommended to the Board of Directors by the Director of Coaching and shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board Members present at a duly noticed meeting. The Division Liaison shall communicate with all coaches in matters pertaining to coaching duties and responsibilities.



## **Bylaw 305. Election of Officers and Directors.**

Section 1. All open Board member positions shall be elected at the AGM.

Section 2. The terms of office for members of the BOD shall be two (2) years. The terms shall rotate as follows:

1. President: Elections will be held in the "even" year at the AGM.
2. Vice President: Elections will be held in the "odd" year at the AGM.
3. Secretary: Elections will be held in the "even" year at the AGM.
4. Treasurer: Elections will be held in the "odd" year at the AGM.
5. Member at Large: Elections will be held in the "even" year at the AGM
6. Registrar: Elections will be held in the "odd" year at the AGM.
7. Director of Sponsorships and Fundraising: Elections will be held on the "even" year at the AGM.
8. Director of Coaching: Elections will be held in the "odd" year at the AGM.
9. Referee Liasion: Elections will be held in the "even" year at the AGM.
10. Field and Equipment Manager: Elections will be held in the "odd" year at the AGM.
11. Communications and Media Coordinator: Elections will be held in the "even" year at the AGM.
12. Field Marshall: Elections will be held in the "odd" year at the AGM.
13. Concession Manager: Elections will be held in the "even" year at the AGM.
14. Agent of Record: Election will be held in the "odd" year at the AGM.

Section 3. No person may serve more than 4 consecutive terms in a single office.

Section 4. Candidates for the Board position of President, Vice President, and Agent of Record, must currently hold a Local League Board position without break for two years or more.

Section 5. A majority of the votes cast in a specific contest shall be required to elect a person to the Board.

- A. If there are more than 2 candidates for a seat on the Board and no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate with the fewest votes shall be eliminated and another round of ballots shall be cast.
- B. Voting shall continue until a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast

## **Bylaw 306. Removal of Officers or Directors**

Section 1. A Board member may be suspended or removed from office for failure to meet responsibilities or for otherwise acting in a manner detrimental to the interests of the Club.

- A. Ex officio members of the Board and Appointed Administrators may be removed from office by a majority vote of the eligible voting members of the Board at any Board meeting unless the terms of an applicable contract or agreement provides for a different method of terminating the services of these positions.
- B. Elected members of the Board may only be removed from office under this section following a disciplinary hearing held in accordance with the procedures of Bylaw 306

## Section 2.

Section 2. If the Board receives a complaint regarding the conduct of an elected Officer or other Board member or otherwise becomes aware of allegations of misconduct regarding a Board member,

- A. The President shall appoint an impartial committee of fact-finders to review allegations within 15 days.
- B. The committee shall conduct a hearing.
- C. The committee will present a report on the findings of the hearing to the Board within 30 days following their appointment.
- D. If the committee's report recommends removal from office, the Board shall vote whether to call a special membership meeting to consider removal of the elected officer / director.
- E. If the Board votes to call for a special meeting of the members, the Board shall set the time and place for the meeting and shall direct the Secretary to send notice of the meeting to all eligible members of the club.
- F. The notice shall be sent at least 7 days prior to the date of the scheduled meeting.
- G. The notice shall state the date, time, and place of the meeting and shall also state that the purpose of the meeting is to consider the removal of the named officer or director from the Board.
- H. The vote of a majority of the eligible voting members present at the special membership meeting shall be sufficient to remove a person from office.

Section 3. If an elected office is made vacant by the removal of a person from the Board in accordance with either Section 1 or Section 2, above, the vacant office shall be filled as described in Bylaw 307.

Section 4. Any Board member who is barred from participation in FYSA or its member clubs as a result of a risk management decision of the FYSA Risk Management Coordinator shall not participate in any activity on the Board during the period of ineligibility. If the banned individual does not resign, the Board shall either remove the non-elected Board member or shall call for a special meeting of the members to remove the person from office in accordance with Section 2 E and F, above.

### **Bylaw 307. Filling Vacant Offices**

Section 1. If a Board position becomes vacant more than 60 days prior to the next scheduled election for that position, the Board shall by majority vote appoint someone to fill that position at the next Regular Board Meeting until the next Annual General Membership Meeting held as provided in Bylaw 402.

### **Bylaw 308. Committees**

Section 1. The Board may create committees for the purposes established by the Board. The duration of such *ad hoc* committees shall be established by the Board. The Board may adopt policies that specify details of committee formation, staffing, and reporting to the Board.

Section 2. The President shall be an *ex-officio* member of all committees established by the Board, although the Board may appoint another person to chair the committee.

## **Part IV – Meetings**

### **Bylaw 401. Board of Directors Meetings**

Section 1. Regular Board Meetings shall be held regularly at the time and place designated by the Board. The Board shall publicize to all club members the time and location of regular Board meetings.

Section 2. Special Board Meetings shall be held at a time and place specified by the President, or by a majority vote of the Board.

Special meetings may be called upon 7-day notice to board members.

Section 3. The President shall set the order of business for all Board Meetings.

Section 4. A quorum for a Regular Board Meeting shall be 60% of the voting members of the board.

Section 5. Any action required by law to be taken at a meeting of the board, or any action which may be taken at a board meeting, may be taken without a meeting if a unanimous consent in writing, setting forth the action to be taken or so taken, is signed by all of the Directors.

### **Bylaw 402. General Membership Meeting**

Section 1. The Annual General Membership Meeting (AGM) shall normally be held at some point during each fiscal year. The election of officers will occur at this meeting. Voting shall be by the eligible voters as specified in Bylaw 203, Section 3.

Section 2. Special Membership Meetings may be scheduled or called by a majority vote of the Board.

Section 3. The Board must provide not less than 7 days' notice to eligible voting members prior to any membership meeting.

Section 4. The Board shall set the order of business for General Membership Meetings. Bylaw revisions shall be submitted to the eligible voting members as provided in **Bylaw 701, Section 2.**

Section 5. A quorum for action at a membership meeting shall consist of the eligible voting members present at the meeting. A majority vote of those eligible members present at any membership meeting shall be required for approval of any issue brought to a vote at such meeting

## **Part V - Administration**

### **Bylaw 501. Policies**

Section 1. The Board may adopt policies to govern the operations of the Local League at any Board meeting. A majority of vote of all eligible voting members of the Board is required to adopt, repeal, or amend a policy.

Section 2. Once adopted, a policy will govern the operations of the Local League until amended or

repealed.

Section 3. The Board shall make appropriate provisions to inform its members of Local League policies or any changes.

#### **Bylaw 502. Financial Policies**

Section 1. The Board shall adopt financial control policies that provide details for the handling of the league's financial affairs.

Section 2. The Board shall establish a budget for each year prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Section 3. The Board shall cause tax reports to be prepared and submitted to the IRS in accordance with IRS rules for non-profit and tax-exempt organizations.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall provide financial statements acceptable to the board at each regular meeting of the Board or as otherwise directed.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall not permit the disbursement of Local League funds for other the conduct of Youth Soccer activities.

Section 6. The Board of Directors will require prior approval for all purchases over \$300 (excluding previously approved reoccurring purchases such as concession supplies, field paint, etc.)

Section 7. The Board of Directors will require 2 signatures on all checks made out from the Citrus United bank account. One signature must be the Treasurer, the second can be any approved board member on file with the bank.

### **Part VI – Grievance, Protest, and Appeals**

#### **Bylaw 601. Complaints**

Section 1. The Local League and its Board of Directors shall follow procedures for handling complaints in accordance with the principles of due process.

Section 2. Submission of a complaint shall be in writing and shall indicate the specific charges or alleged violation, and resolution desired.

Section 3. All club procedures shall comply with Florida Youth Soccer Association policies and procedural manuals.

Section 4. The Board shall adopt policies that specify any additional procedures not provided in applicable FYSA Bylaws and Rules, including any fees that will apply to initiating claims with the Local League.

#### **Bylaw 602. Hearing Procedures**

Section 1. Hearings will be conducted in accordance with the rules of the applicable FYSA Bylaws and Rules.

Section 2. The Board will adopt policies as needed to supplement applicable FYSA Bylaws and

Rules.

Section 3. Grievances will be heard by the Board as scheduled by the President. Procedures for conducting the hearing will be set by the Board based upon the nature of the issues presented in the Grievance.

#### **Bylaw 604. Appeals Process**

Section 1. Appeals of the results from any hearing conducted by the Local League must be submitted to Florida Youth Soccer Association as required by the applicable FYSA Bylaws and Rules. There shall be no appeals of Local League hearing decisions heard by the Local League.

Section 2. The decisions or sanctions imposed shall remain in effect until the time limit of the sanction has expired, or the decision is overturned by an appeal.

### **Part VII – Amendments**

#### **Bylaw 701. Bylaw Changes and Amendments**

Section 1. Changes or amendments to these bylaws may be adopted at any General Membership Meeting upon two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the accredited voting members present. Each eligible person may only cast one vote, regardless of the number of offices held.

Section 2. A proposed change or amendment must be submitted in writing to the President or Secretary of the Local League not later than thirty (30) days before the General Membership Meeting. Such changes shall be transmitted to Board Members and eligible voting members of the Local League not later than fifteen (15) days prior to said meeting.

#### **Bylaw 702. Provisional Bylaw Changes**

Section 1. The Board, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, may create temporary bylaw changes for governing specific cases or occasions not provided for in the Bylaws, but which may be necessary for the Local League to meet required objectives. Provisional changes so adopted will be submitted to the membership in accordance with Bylaw 701 as a proposed Bylaw amendment at the next General Membership Meeting.

#### **Bylaw 703. Severability and Precedence**

Section 1. Any section of these bylaws considered to be in violation of applicable laws shall not affect the remaining sections that are in compliance with those laws.

Section 2. The bylaws and policies of the organizations of which the Local League is a member shall take precedence over these bylaws. The Board shall submit an amendment to these Local League bylaws at the Local League's next General Membership Meeting to eliminate the cause of any conflict.

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

This code of ethics has been developed to clarify and distinguish approved and accepted professional, ethical, and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of the sport of soccer.

### **Players**

- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at all times.
- I will remember that soccer is an opportunity to learn and have fun.
- I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol; and expect everyone to refrain from their use at all soccer games.
- I will do the best I can each day, remembering that all players have talents and weaknesses the same as I do.
- I will treat my coaches, other players and coaches, game officials, other administrators, and fans with respect at all times; regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities, and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- I will concentrate on playing soccer. Always giving my best effort.
- I will play by the rules at all times.
- I will at all times control my temper, resisting the temptation of retaliation.
- I will always exercise self control.
- My conduct during competition towards play of the game and all officials shall be in accordance with appropriate behavior and in accordance with FIFA's "Laws of the Game," and in adherence to Citrus United and FYSA rules.
- While traveling, I shall conduct myself so as to bring credit to myself and my team.
- I shall not possess, consume or distribute before, during or after any game or at any other time at the field and/or game complex alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs or unauthorized prescription drugs.
- I will never use abusive or insulting language. I will treat everyone with dignity.

### **Coaches/Volunteers**

- I will never place the value of winning before the safety and welfare of all players.
- I will always show respect for players, other coaches, and game officials.
- I will lead by example, demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship at all times.
- I will demonstrate knowledge of the rules of the game, and teach these rules to my players.
- I will never use abusive or insulting language. I will treat everyone with dignity.
- I will not tolerate inappropriate behavior, regardless of the situation.
- I will not allow the use of anabolic agents or stimulants, drugs, tobacco, or alcohol by any of my players.
- I will never knowingly jeopardize the eligibility and participation of a student-athlete.
- Youth have a greater need for example than criticism. I will be the primary soccer role model.
- I will at all times conduct myself in a positive manner.
- Coaching is motivating players to produce their best effort, inspiring players to learn, and encouraging players to be winners.
- My actions on sidelines during games shall be in the spirit of "good sportsmanship" at all times. Profanity, profane gestures, arguing, inciting disruptive behavior by spectators and/or players, or any conduct not in the spirit of good sportsmanship, shall require disciplinary action from the affiliate.
- I shall not possess, consume or distribute before, during or after any game or at any other time at the field and/or game complex alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs or unauthorized prescription drugs.
- I will refrain from any activity or conduct that may be detrimental or reflect adversely upon Citrus United and FYSA, its members or its programs.
- I will accurately and completely complete the coach/volunteer application form and by application attest to the accuracy of the information submitted.

## **Parents/Spectators**

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, game officials, and administrators at all times.
- I will place the emotional and physical well being of all players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will support the coaches, officials, and administrators working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- I will remember that the game is for the players, not for the adults.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, game officials, administrators, and fans with respect.
- I will always be positive.
- I will always allow the coach to be the only coach.
- I will not get into arguments with the opposing team's parents, players, or coaches.
- I will not come onto the field for any reason during the game.
- I will not criticize game officials.
- I shall not possess, consume or distribute before, during or after any game or at any other time at the field and/or game complex alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs or unauthorized prescription drugs.
- I will refrain from any activity or conduct that may be detrimental or reflect adversely upon Citrus United and FYSA, its members or its programs.

Failure to comply with any part of the above Code of Ethics may result in ethics charges being filed and may result in suspension from participation in Citrus United and FYSA sanctioned events, for the following periods:

1st offense -- suspension for a minimum of thirty (30) days to a maximum of five (5) years.

2nd offense -- suspension for a minimum of one (1) year to a maximum of ten (10) years.

3rd offense -- suspension for a minimum of five (5) years to a maximum of fifty (50) years.

NOTE: Allegations of a violation of the FYSA Code of Ethics shall afford the individual due process as defined in FYSA's Rule Section 600 before the implementation of any suspension. Suspensions arising from Code of Ethics violations are to be imposed from the decision of the hearing panel, not retroactive.

Code of Ethics violations are separate and apart from game suspensions assessed by the referee for caution, ejection/send off, or post-game reports.

