

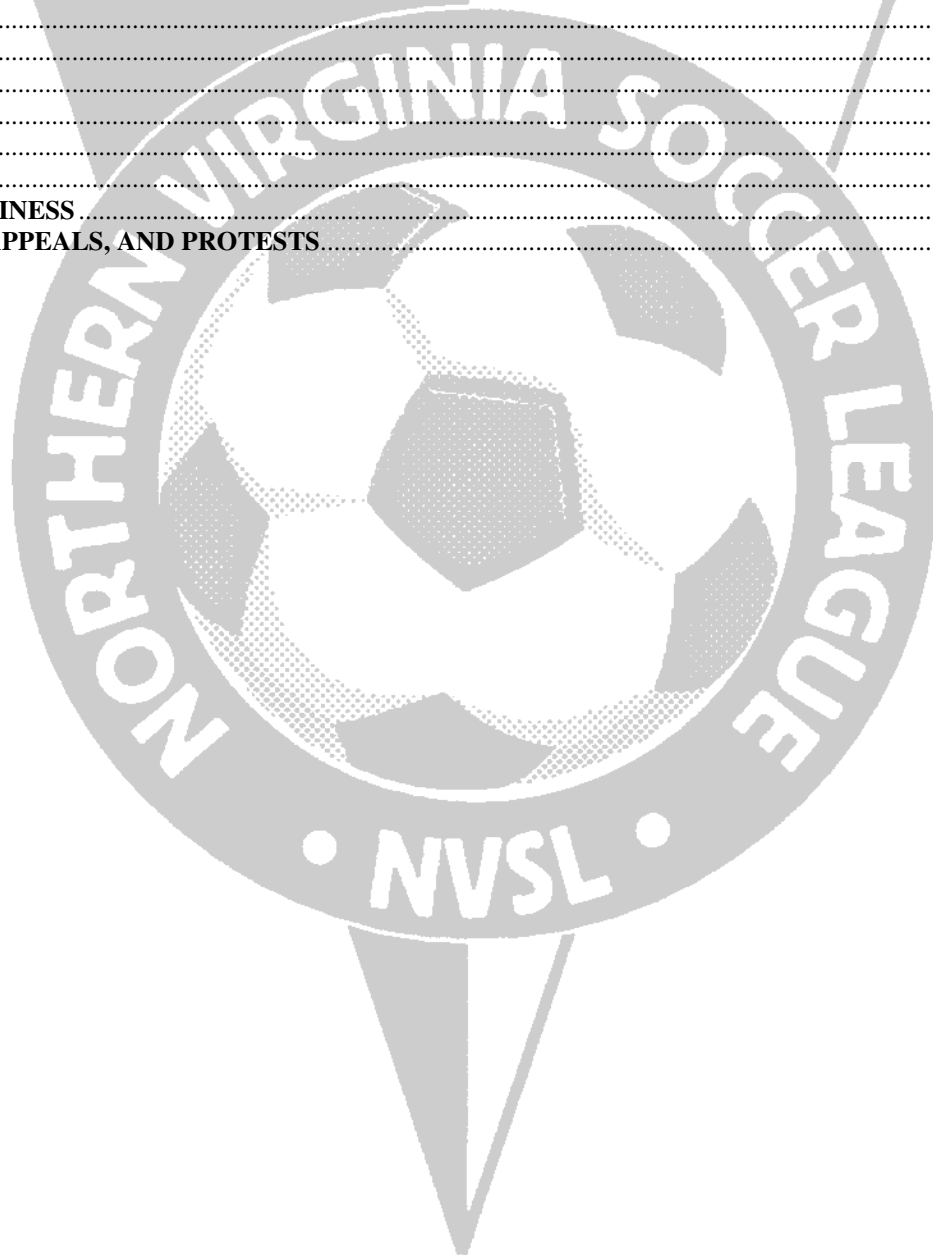
**NORTHERN VIRGINIA SOCCER LEAGUE BYLAWS  
AND OPERATING RULES**

August 1998

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At its meeting of August 5, 1981, the Council of the Northern Virginia Soccer League, an unincorporated association, voted to dissolve the League and in its place form the Northern Virginia Soccer League, Inc., a Virginia non-profit corporation. Thereafter, it was voted to adopt the Constitution and Rules of the NVSL as the Bylaws and Operating Rules, respectively, of the NVSL, Inc. The following documents are the August 1998 revised edition.

### **1. NAME**

The name of this league shall be the Northern Virginia Soccer League, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the League). It shall be affiliated with the Metropolitan DC - Virginia Soccer Association (hereinafter referred to as the Association), with the United States Soccer Federation, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the USSF) through the Association, and with the Federation Internationale de Football Association (hereinafter referred to as FIFA) through the USSF.

### **2. AIMS**

The aim of the League shall be to operate an amateur soccer league in the Northern Virginia area.

### **3. HEADQUARTERS**

The headquarters of the League shall be in a county or city of Northern Virginia, as designated by the NVSL Executive Board and accepted by the Council.

### **4. COLORS AND OTHER EMBLEMS**

The representative colors of the League shall be red and gold. The Council may also adopt other emblems.

### **5. MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Players, clubs, club officers, and League officers shall be called members of the League.
- B. Any amateur team properly constituted and playing under the Operating Rules as promulgated by the USSF may apply to become a member of the League, and shall become a member of the League upon acceptance by a majority of those present and eligible to vote at a meeting of the Council, provided:
  - 1. That it establish and maintain continuously a player residence ratio (hereinafter referred to as 'player ratio') of at least 67 percent (two-thirds), said player ratio to be calculated by dividing the total numbers of the club's duly registered players into the total number of those who are residents of the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William and Loudoun or any contiguous city;
  - 2. That waivers to this player ratio requirement may be granted only upon a vote of two-thirds of the NVSL Executive Board as ratified by a vote of a majority of the Council;



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3. That it is the teams responsibility to maintain its player ratio at the proper level;
  4. That violation of these minimum player ratios shall render the team ineligible to compete in the League and, at the discretion of a majority of the League Council may be cause for expulsion from the League;
  5. That the number of League teams conforming to this 67 percent (two-thirds) player ratio at any time must be equal to at least 75 percent (three-fourths) of the total number of member teams represented in the League.
- C. All teams must submit in writing to the Secretary the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of at least two team officers that will represent the team at League Council meetings, together with their official team playing colors at the Pre-Season Council meeting.
- D. The designated team officers agree to be personally liable for payment to the League of all dues, fees, charges, assessments, and fines levied upon the club. An affidavit will be signed by the duly designated team representatives.
- E. Teams, clubs and other organizations, upon being accepted as members of the League, shall be furnished with one copy each of the Bylaws, Operating Rules, and the Organizational and Operational Policies of the League, which shall be sufficient notice of their responsibilities.

#### 6. MEMBERSHIP DUES

- A. Member teams shall pay seasonal fees, in an amount to be specified by the NVSL Executive Board in full by dates fixed by the NVSL Executive Board. A teams duly designated representatives shall not be entitled to vote unless the team fees are paid in accordance with the schedule set by the NVSL Executive Board. If at the beginning of the League's season, a team has not paid in full its last season's monetary balance, it will forfeit the following rights:
1. Participating in any tournament sanctioned by the NVSL, the Association, and/or the USSF
  2. Competing in the NVSL Championship competition for the current season and may be relegated to the lowest division for the following season.
  3. Gaining NVSL division promotion.
- B. If a team cannot meet the proposed payment plan as proposed by and accepted by the League Council, the team must submit in writing its proposed plan on how it intends to pay its monetary liabilities. This proposal must be submitted to the President, appropriate Division Director, or Treasurer, who will then present it to the entire NVSL Executive Committee Board for approval. If the proposal is not approved, the club will have to modify the proposed plan or be removed as a member of the League.



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### 7. THE NVSL COUNCIL AND ITS POWERS

- A. The Council, composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Registrar, Schedule Director, Recruiter, Division Directors, Treasurer, Statistician, and duly designated representatives of each affiliated club, shall transact the business of the League. A representative of the Referees unit shall be invited to attend in an advisory capacity. Registrar, Schedule Director, Treasurer and Statistician are appointed non-voting members of the NVSL Executive Board.
- B. The Council shall have the power to:
1. Enforce the Laws of the Game and rulings of the USSF and any affiliated body.
  2. To declare persona non grata any person or organization who, in the opinion of the majority of the Council, acts in any way detrimental to the best interests of soccer and the League.
  3. Declare vacant the office of any officer who fails to carry out his duties effectively and diligently or who without good cause absents himself from three consecutive meetings without being excused by the Council.
  4. Fine any member club which does not have a representative at a Council meeting.
  5. Call upon any member to produce books, letters, documents, photographs, or any evidence it may desire.
  6. Expel from the League any member guilty of violating any of the Operating Rules or for any other misconduct, or suspend such members for a stated period.
  7. Deal in a way that it may deem proper with any member competing with offenders while under suspension.
  8. Be privileged to publish in the press or to publicize in any other manner it may deem proper, reports of proceedings, acts or resolution, even if they reflect unfavorably on the character of any member.
  9. Appoint committees with full powers to enforce the provision of this paragraph.



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### 8. OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

- A. The President shall preside at all meetings, shall be an ex officio member of all committees, shall appoint all committees not required to be elected, and shall cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie vote at any meeting of any committee.
- B. The Vice President shall assist the President and the Registrar in the performance of their duties, shall exercise all the powers of the President in his absence, shall assume the Office of the President if it becomes vacant before the Annual General Meeting, shall receive and record all reports of the referees, referring reports to the NVSL Executive Committee Board which indicate disciplinary action on members greater than the NVSL Organizational and Operating Policies give the Vice President authority for, and shall be a member of the Council, entitled to vote.
- C. The Secretary shall receive communications and conduct correspondence, shall maintain the minutes of the League, shall have charge of the property of the League except for the financial records and monies, shall arrange for all new teams to be provided with one copy each of the Bylaws, Operating Rules, and Organizational and Operational Policies of the League, shall arrange for all teams to be provided with any other materials required for participation in the League, shall publish a current listing of all member teams and League officers each time it is updated, shall record the minutes of all Council meetings, shall notify all Council members of seasonally scheduled meetings at least three weeks in advance. Shall provide copies of the minutes of the previous meeting, shall attend and record the minutes of committee meetings at the request of the committee chairman or the President, shall prepare an annual report of the League's activities at the conclusion of each season, and shall be a member of the Council, entitled to vote.
- D. The Registrar shall supervise the registration of players in the League and shall be a member of the Council. The Registrar will be appointed by the NVSL Executive Board and is a non-voting member.
- E. The Schedule Director shall prepare and distribute schedules of games to all members of the Council, Referee Commissioner, and the person(s) responsible for marking and mowing the fields, coordinating the scheduling of state and national tournament games with the appropriate authorities of USSF and Association, shall obtain the necessary permission for the use of fields from whatever authorities are involved. The Schedule Director will be appointed by the NVSL Executive Board and is a non-voting member
- F. The Recruiter shall be the NVSL point of contact for parties outside of the NVSL interested in finding teams to play on and in entering a team into the League. The Recruiter shall employ mechanisms to attract players and teams to the League and place players on teams in a fair and consistent manner. The Recruiter shall be a member of the Council. The Recruiter will be appointed by the NVSL Executive Board and is a non-voting member



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- G. Each Division Director shall be responsible for the conduct of League play for a specific division, including, but not limited to, monitoring and coordinating payment of team dues, coordinating the rescheduling of matches postponed with both teams and the Schedule Director, resolving issues and making rulings based upon League Bylaws, Operating Rules, and Organizational and Operational Policies; and shall be a member of the Council, entitled to vote.
- H. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining the League checking account, maintaining current team balances, receiving team payments, maintaining the Ledger of Accounts, assisting the President in the preparation of a budget, and shall be a member of the Council. The Treasurer will be appointed by the NVSL Executive Board and is a non-voting member
- I. The Statistician shall be responsible for maintaining a record of League results, updating the League tables, maintaining all statistical data agreed upon by the Council for the current season, and shall be a member of the Council. The Statistician will be appointed by the NVSL Executive Board and is a non-voting member.
- J. In the case of a vacancy occurring among the officers, the President shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the Council, at which time the Council shall accept or reject the appointment. If the vacancy shall occur in the Presidency, the Vice President shall succeed to the title and powers of the President during the remainder of the unfinished term of office.
- K. Any officer is subject to removal from office upon proper charges being preferred and proven. Such removal must be accomplished by a vote of at least two thirds of the members of the Council present at the meeting. Any officer removed from office under this clause may not run for office for a period of two years.

### **9. ELECTIONS**

- A. The officers of the League shall be elected by a majority vote of the Council at the Annual General Meeting (hereafter referred to as AGM). They shall hold office until the next AGM. All officers shall take office immediately after the close of the AGM.
- B. If any office is not filled at the AGM, the duties of the office shall be assumed by other officers in a manner to be decided by the NVSL Executive Board, until the office is filled.
- C. Those entitled to vote are: those enumerated in Article 8; and representatives of each member team and affiliated organization as submitted in writing by member teams and affiliated organizations and maintained by the NVSL Secretary according to Article 5.C.



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**10. COMMITTEES**

- A. The NVSL Executive Board consists of each of the officers established in Article 8 and elected in accordance with Article 9. Unresolved issues shall be presented by the NVSL Executive Board to the Council for decision.
- B. The President shall appoint committees as required to facilitate the operation of the League.

**11. FINANCE**

- A. Any monies accumulated by the League as a result of fines, penalties, game receipts, contract overages or any other means shall become the property of the League.
- B. All major expenditures shall require the prior sanction of the Council. The Council shall designate what constitutes a major expenditure.
- C. The League checking account will require two signatories to complete a transaction. Signing privileges are limited to the following officers of the League: the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary, who shall be bonded annually.
- D. The NVSL Executive Board shall recommend a review board of three individuals from the Council (none of whom are officers), one month prior to the AGM, to review and report on the League accounts for the previous administrative year. Upon approval of the Council the independent accountant will prepare a report for distribution to each member of the Council at the AGM.

**12. MEETINGS**

- A. The AGM shall be held no later than the month of August each year, at a time and place designated by the NVSL Executive Board.
- B. Council meetings shall be called by the President. Special or general Council meetings may be called at the request of the President or of a majority of the members of the Council within 14 days of such request.
- C. Absent officers or absent Council members or alternates may not be represented by vote of proxy at any meeting.
- D. Team attendance at Council meetings will be established by the presence of representatives as limited by and in accordance with Article 9.C.
- E. A majority of the vote cast shall decide all questions except removal of officers and amendments to the Bylaws and Operating Rules of the League.



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### **13. AMENDMENTS**

The Bylaws and Operating Rules of the League shall be amended only by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Council present at a League meeting and eligible to vote. Two weeks notice of any proposed amendment or rule change shall be given to the Secretary in writing, unless this requirement is waived by unanimous consent of the members of the League present at the League meeting.

### **14. QUORUM**

A quorum shall be formed by the attendance of at least one half of the members of the Council at any properly announced meeting. The President or Vice President must be in attendance. At least one half of the members of the NVSL Executive Board must be in attendance.

### **15. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The order of business at all meetings shall be (unless otherwise defined by the President):

1. Roll Call
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Report by the Treasurer
4. Report from the Referee Commissioner
5. Unfinished business
6. Report of activities of members of the NVSL Executive Board
7. Reports of committees
8. New business
9. Communications and bills
10. Good of soccer
11. Adjournment



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### 16. DISCIPLINES, APPEALS, AND PROTESTS

- A. The NVSL Executive Board shall consider reports of the conduct of players ejected from the game or cautioned for infractions of FIFA Law 12, rowdy threatening or violent behavior by players not in the game, team officers and team supporters, dishonest and misleading behavior by team officers and other serious misconduct. Its findings shall be submitted to the League as conclusive, to be rebutted only by a filing of an appeal and complying with the provisions of © through (M below. It shall act expeditiously on each report of misconduct referred to it. It shall make recommendations for penalties.
- B. The NVSL Executive Board shall impose penalties based on its findings, except in those cases where it chooses to require the Council to do so at a regular meeting or at a special meeting to be called for that purpose.
- C. Protests and appeals shall be classified as being generated directly by a game or otherwise.
- D. If a protest or appeal is generated directly by a game, it must be sent directly to the Secretary in preliminary form within forty-eight hours of the conclusion of the game as attested by the postmark or otherwise demonstrated convincingly, and within five days in final form.
- E. If a protest or appeal is generated directly by an NVSL Executive Board decision or League administrative action or other events or conditions not stemming directly from the game, it must be sent to the Secretary within one week of the action, unless the NVSL Executive Board sets a different length of time.
- F. A fee, of an amount specified by the Council, must accompany a protest or appeal. The fee shall be returned if the protest or appeal is upheld.
- G. A copy of any subsequent appeal or protest to higher authority must be sent to the Secretary of the League at the same time.
- H. A copy of a protest or appeal and all correspondence relating to it must be sent to all interested parties.
- L. No member of the NVSL Executive Board shall participate in a disciplinary proceeding arising from an incident or game involving a team with which he is affiliated.