

CONSTITUTION OF THE TORONTO SOCCER REFEREES' ASSOCIATION

Draft

1. Name

The name of the organization shall be the Toronto Soccer Referees' Association.

2. Objectives

- a) Promoting the maintenance and improvement of standards of refereeing within the jurisdiction of Toronto Soccer Association.
- b) Promoting the improvement of the welfare of referees within the Toronto Soccer Association soccer community and beyond.

3. Definitions

- a) "Association" shall mean the Toronto Soccer Referees' Association.
- b) "Governor" shall mean a member of the Executive Committee.
- c) "Board" shall mean the elected Executive Committee.
- d) "Member" shall mean a local referee that has applied for and has been accepted into membership by the Executive Committee.
- e) "Director" shall mean an elected member of the Executive Committee in addition to the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar.
- f) "Chairperson" shall mean the President, Vice President or a member of the Executive Committee chosen to chair a meeting of the Executive Committee.

4. Head Office

The head office of the Association shall be located in the City of Toronto, province of Ontario.

5. Affiliation

The Association may maintain any affiliation to the Ontario Soccer Referee Association, Toronto Soccer Association and with other organizations if the Executive deems that affiliation will promote the objectives of the Association.

6. Membership

Subject to the approval of the Board, membership in the Association shall be available to local referees in the City of Toronto and province of Ontario which support the objectives and agree to comply with the constitution of the Association.

Ordinary Member

- those who have qualified as referees under the examination of the Ontario Soccer Association (O.S.A.);
- have registered with the Ontario Soccer Association for the current year; and
- have paid the required Association membership fee;

Special Members

Those who have paid the fees as required by the constitution and are admitted by the Board as special members.

Honorary Life Members

- Those who have been nominated by an ordinary member, recommended by the Board and elected by a 51% majority of those present and voting at an Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.).
- Nomination for Honorary Life Member can be made at the pre-Season General meeting but can only be voted upon at Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.).

Youth Members

Those who have qualified as referees and at least (16) years of age and not over (18) years of age and have paid the membership fees required.

Termination/Suspension of Membership

Termination or suspension of membership may occur when, in the opinion of the Board, the objectives and aims of the Association have been violated. Any such decision may be appealed by a submission, in writing to the Association Secretary, within 30 days of the date of the official notification of the decision, and must be accompanied by a fee of \$50.00 (fifty dollars). (In the event that the appeal is upheld, then the appeal fee shall be refunded in full.)

The rationale for the appeal must be detailed and a hearing specifically requested. Such appeals will be heard at a general meeting which the Secretary shall call within 30 days of the receipt of the appeal. A majority of those votes cast by members present at the meeting shall be necessary to uphold any appeal.

Membership Year

The annual membership year shall be from January 1st to December 31st

Membership Fees

- a) The annual membership fee shall be established by a resolution of the Board from time to time.
- b) The fee for renewal of membership is due no later than the beginning of the membership year.
- c) The membership fee for a new member is due upon approval of membership and is not to be prorated for a partial year.

9. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Association shall be elected at the annual membership meeting of the year by the individuals who have membership with the Association. The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- a) The Executive members (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar and;
- b) At least two (2) Directors.

Executive Committee members shall attend all Executive meetings. The Executive

Committee shall have the authority to conduct the business of the Association during intervals between annual membership meetings.

Executive Members

The executive members of the Association shall:

- a) be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, Registrar and two (2) Directors;
- b) be elected at the Annual General Meeting for a two year term by a majority of the members present and voting;
- c) hold office until the Election of Officers at the Annual General Meeting at which they would normally seek re-election or resign, or earlier, upon vacating the office for any reason;
- d) be eligible for re-election as long as they qualify individually under these rules;
- e) include the Immediate Past President as a member of the Executive Committee for one year only, following his/her Presidency;
- f) be elected as follows: President, Secretary, Registrar and one (1) Director in even numbered years; Vice-President, Treasurer and one (1) Director in uneven numbered years.

A member may be nominated for office in his/her absence, provided that the Secretary has been informed, in writing, before the Annual General Meeting, of those office(s) for which the nominee is willing to stand.

10. Elections

- Elections shall take place at the A.G.M. by secret ballot. A Returning Officer shall be appointed by the retiring Executive to conduct the elections at the A.G.M.

Vacant Positions

- The following positions shall be filled by nomination from amongst members at the A.G.M. and elected by a majority of members present and voting
- the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Registrar and the Treasurer – plus two directors – total seven (7)
- Three auditors shall be elected for term of one (1) year at each Association (A.G.M.)

Term of Office

The term of office of all elected positions is two years. Members may be re-elected for subsequent terms.

- a) The President, Secretary, Registrar and 1 Director shall be elected in even years.

b) The Vice President, Treasurer and 1 Directors shall be elected in odd years.

Election at the A.G.M.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall present to the A.G.M. a list of candidates willing to serve the Association. In addition, nominations shall be accepted from the floor.

A member may be nominated for office in his absence, provided that the secretary shall, before the A.G.M., have been notified in writing by the nominee for which office(s) he/she intends to stand. Prior to seeking office at the time of election, a member shall declare his/her membership of any board or executive of any soccer related organization. Should any member of the Association Board subsequently become part of any board or executive of any soccer related organization, he shall advise the members through the Branch Secretary.

Candidates for the position of President shall be provided with the opportunity to address the membership prior to the voting.

Vacancies

- In the event of a vacancy during the term of office, the Board may appoint a replacement from among its members to hold office until the next A.G.M.

Holding Office/Meetings

- Members elected to office shall not accept subsequent referee appointments on dates set for any general meeting of the Association.
- Board Members elected by the Board as delegates of the O.S.R.A. Board of Governors shall not accept referee appointments on dates set for any meeting of that Board.

11. Finances

All funds of the Association shall be deposited into an account in the name of the Association in a Canadian financial institution authorized by the Board. All payments are to be made by cheque, with cheques to be signed by two members of the Executive Committee, one of whom must be an Executive Officer. Upon resolution of the Board, surplus funds of the Association may be invested in trustee securities offered by a Canadian financial institution. Such securities may, by similar resolution, be liquidated. The financial year of the Association shall be from November 1st to October 31st.

12. Auditors

Two individuals who have membership with this association shall be appointed at the Annual Meeting to audit the accounts of the Association:

- a) At any time without notice;
- b) Upon request of the Board;
- c) Each year as of October 31st and before the Annual Meeting. The

Auditors shall present a signed statement of Audit at the Annual Meeting.

13. Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held no later than the end of November. The agenda for the Annual Meeting shall include the following:

- Roll Call – Members and Governors for the year ending
- Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting
- Matters arising from the Minutes
- Financial Report and Statement of Audit
- Appointment of Auditors for the upcoming year
- Committee Reports
- Amendments to the Constitution
- Receipt of Credentials – Members and Governors for the upcoming year

14. Quorums

At Board meetings and the Annual Meeting, one third of the Governors shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, the meeting shall be reconvened within thirty (30) days. At each meeting of the Executive Committee, a quorum shall consist of four members.

15. Voting

At Executive meetings and the Annual Meeting, each Executive Member in attendance, with the exception of the Chairperson, shall be entitled to one vote. The Chairperson of the meeting may exercise a casting vote. At all meetings of the Executive Committee, each member in attendance is entitled to one vote. Decisions require the approval of a majority of those members of the Executive Committee in attendance.

16. Conduct

The Executive shall regulate and govern the professional conduct of the members of the Association by imposing penalties for the contravention of the by-laws, rules and/or standards of the Association including suspension or expulsion from the Association.

17. Interpretation

Interpretation of this Constitution as well as questions in dispute shall be referred to the Executive Committee. The singular shall include the plural tense and vice versa. The masculine and feminine shall be interchangeable.

18. Indemnification

Every Executive Officer and any employee or volunteer of the Association, shall be indemnified by the Association against all costs, losses and expenses incurred by them respectively in or about the discharge of their duties, except those which happen as a result of an individual's own neglect or default.