

**ATLANTA DISTRICT AMATEUR SOCCER LEAGUE**

**CONSTITUTION**

**AND**

**BY-LAWS**

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# ADASL CONSTITUTION

## **Article I            Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Atlanta District Amateur Soccer League, Inc.

## **Article II            Purpose**

The purpose of this League shall be the control, regulation, promotion, and the development of competitive, adult amateur soccer in the Atlanta area.

## **Article III           Territory**

The territory shall be the Metropolitan Atlanta area. Teams in the ADASL must utilize home fields that do not exceed 30 miles outside of I-285.

## **Article IV           Headquarters**

The headquarters shall be in the Metropolitan Atlanta area.

## **Article V            Affiliation**

This League shall be affiliated with the Georgia State Soccer Association and thereby, with the United States Soccer Federation, and shall at all times recognize the authority, rules, and the laws of those bodies.

## **Article VI            Definitions**

The following sections define certain terms used throughout this constitution.

### *Section 1.*

**MEMBER:** Any League officer, appointed or elected committee Chairman, registered player or team/club official shall be deemed a member of this League.

### *Section 2.*

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** This committee shall consist of the officers of the League.

### *Section 3.*

**LEAGUE COUNCIL:** This Council shall consist of the Executive Committee and one representative, or a designated alternate, from each League team or club in good standing.

## **Article VII           Membership**

*Section 1.*

Any team or club interested in the promotion of amateur soccer and operating within the territory described in Article III may apply for membership.

*Section 2.*

Application for membership must be made in writing to the League by the Secretary of the group desiring affiliation. Application must contain:

1. Club or team name.
2. Club or team colors.
3. Address and directions for location of home playing field.
4. A list of club or team officers with addresses, phone numbers and valid e-mail addresses.

**Article VIII Administration**

*Section 1.*

The authority of this League, except that which is herein otherwise delegated, shall be vested in the League Council.

*Section 2.*

In all matters which are properly presented to the League Council, each League Officer and each team or club representative, or his designated alternate, in the case of his absence, shall have the right to cast one vote. No person shall have more than one vote on any matter. It is required that the person be present at the meeting in order to cast his vote.

*Section 3.*

The League shall have jurisdiction over all teams or clubs, their officials and players affiliated with it.

**Article IX Board of Trustees**

*Section 1.*

The Board of Trustees shall consist of three (3) persons who are League members in good standing.

*Section 2.*

The Board of Trustees shall act as a long range planning group.

*Section 3.*

The Board of Trustees shall act only in an advisory capacity to the League officers.

*Section 4.*

No League Officer shall serve on the Board of Trustees.

*Section 5.*

Trustees shall serve staggered three (3) year terms with a new member joining the Board each June 1, unless he declines to serve. If an opening exists, the Board shall recommend a nominee and the Council shall vote to fill the vacancy. If a vacancy occurs before the completion of the 3 year term, a nominee shall be recommended by the Board and a vote taken at the next Council meeting to fill the remainder of the term.

*Section 6.*

The Board of Trustees shall serve as the League nominating committee for the election of Officers.

*Section 7.*

An annual report shall be given in writing at the Annual General Meeting.

**Article X                    Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall:

*Section 1.*

Transact all business of this League.

*Section 2.*

Delegate, for any endeavor, its authority to such person or persons whom it may from time to time designate.

*Section 3.*

Enforce the rules of this League and those of the GSSA and the USSF.

*Section 4.*

Call a general meeting of the League Council for the purpose of annual election of officers of the League and shall fill any vacancy in those positions which may occur during any current term in the manner herein provided.

*Section 5.*

Appoint a delegate and an alternate to the Council of GSSA.

*Section 6.*

Appoint a Schedule Chairman who shall be charged with the task of giving permission, in certain cases, with the approval of GSSA, for all games under the jurisdiction of this League.

*Section 7.*

Appoint a registration chairman or may employ a person as League Administrator/Director. The salary for this position will be provided by seasonal team assessments, outside sponsorships, player fees, or a combination of such. The position will be responsible for the day-to-day management of League affairs in accordance with the ADASL Constitution, Bylaws and rules, and decisions of the Executive Committee. Duties shall include maintenance of all team and player registrations, processing of all travel requests, providing League information to potential teams and players as requested, scheduling Council meetings

and League sponsored events, and other duties which may be assigned by the Executive Committee not in conflict with the ADASL Constitution and By-Laws. The selection of the candidate for the position rests with the Executive Committee with advice from the Board of Trustees. The Council will be asked to confirm the selection by a simple majority vote. Dismissal, if needed, shall follow a similar procedure. (An annual hiring period from June 1 to May 31 is recommended to give an overlap with the election of officers. This will allow a smoother transition in case the Administrator/Director changes as well as the officers. It will allow a wrapping up of the Major Season by the same person, and the relatively slower start of the Summer season for the new, if any.)

*Section 8.*

Have the authority to arrange games of any nature whatsoever in its own name, and to that end it may marshal and demand the support of every club or team of this League and/or its personnel.

*Section 9.*

Have the authority to demand access to such papers, books, documents and accounts of the clubs or teams and personnel for the Executive Committee's review which it may from time to time require.

*Section 10.*

Have the authority to suspend, expel, and/or impose penalties upon any club or team and/or person under its jurisdiction guilty of violation or breach of the rules of this League.

*Section 11.*

Have the authority to settle all disputes between two or more clubs or teams of this League.

*Section 12.*

Have the authority to investigate and correct and demand to be corrected, conditions which are detrimental to the operation or reputation of the League.

*Section 13.*

Have the authority to act on matters of controversy subject to appeals of the ADASL Discipline and Protest Committee and the GSSA and/or USSF.

**Article XI            Officers**

*Section 1.*

The officers of the Executive Committee shall take office on June 1 of each year.

*Section 2.*

The officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual general meeting of the League Council. They hold office for one (1) year. It shall be necessary for any one person, to be elected to office, to receive a majority of the votes cast. Nominees shall be in good standing with the League and GSSA.

*Section 3.*

The President of the League shall preside at all meetings. He shall pass upon and approve

bills incurred by the League. He shall appoint all committees and be an ex- officio member of these bodies. He shall have one vote in each committee. He shall render a written report at the last annual general meeting of his term of office.

*Section 4.*

The Vice President shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the President in the latter's absence. In the event the President resigns or is unable to complete his term of office, the Vice President shall succeed to that position and shall with the Executive Committee's approval appoint another person to fill the unexpired term of the Vice President.

*Section 6.*

The Secretary shall deliver an agenda to each member of the Executive Committee and to each club or team prior to each meeting. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings, and attend to the correspondence.

*Section 7.*

The Treasurer shall keep records on all the property of the League and maintain a detailed account of the income and expenditures thereof. He shall deposit all funds upon receipt in a bank account in the name of the League. He shall submit quarterly, a full report of all financial transactions of the League and of the balance which is on hand. He shall sign all checks of the League which must be countersigned by one other officer on the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall be bonded at League expense by a recognized bonding company.

*Section 8.*

Any League officer or appointed Chairman or committee member absent from three consecutive meetings of the appropriate committee, Executive Committee or League Council at which his presence would normally be required may thereby forfeit his right to hold his office for the unexpired term.

*Section 9.*

If a vacancy occurs in any office other than that of President, the President may appoint a temporary successor until the next quarterly meeting when the League Council shall fill the position in the manner herein prescribed for the election of officers at the annual general meeting.

*Section 10.*

A League officer may be a member in good standing with any club or team, but in the event of any grievance involving said organization, he may not act in its behalf or be entitled to vote on the grievance.

**Article XII            Meetings**

*Section 1.*

The annual general meeting of this organization shall be held before May 1 and other

meetings shall be held quarterly.

*Section 2.*

Special meetings of this organization may be called at any time by the President or upon written demand of one-third or more of the League Council. The special meeting shall be called within two (2) weeks of such demand. In case of a special meeting, the purpose of the meeting shall be embodied in that notice of demand, and no matter other than that specified shall be considered. For all meetings, the Secretary shall give notice, including agenda to all parties concerned.

**Article XIII            Disaffiliation**

Any club or team disbanding or withdrawing from this League shall give written notice of such intent to the League Secretary. Failure to comply shall be referred to the Executive Committee for appropriate action.

**Article XIV            Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members of the ADASL. Notice and discussion of proposed amendments shall be given at any regular meeting of the ADASL and voting shall not take place until the next general meeting.

# ADASL BY-LAWS

## **Article I            Meetings**

### *Section 1.*

The order of business at all meetings of the League Council shall be as follows:

1. Roll call
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
3. Communications
4. Report of the Executive Committee
5. Reports of other committees
6. Financial report of the Treasurer
7. Unfinished business
8. New business
9. Miscellaneous items
10. Adjournment

### *Section 2.*

Minutes and the financial report will be presented in written form, with copies for each team.

### *Section 3.*

A majority of those eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum to conduct business of this meeting.

### *Section 4.*

Any team that fails to have a team representative attend two consecutive meetings in a year shall lose its vote until they have attended two consecutive meetings.

## **Article II            Finances**

Purpose - The accounts of this League shall be managed to support the League's short and long range plans.

### *Section 1.*

Debts to this League shall be collected before they are due in order to prevent circumstances where participating groups dissolve or become unavailable so as to cause uncollected debts to be borne by the remaining members. Accounts shall be arranged to reveal the League's status from the date of one report to the next.

### *Section 2.*

Financial arrangements shall be finalized before they apply, e.g. referees' fees throughout an entire season shall be known before the season begins, although they may be scheduled to

change at some date during the season.

*Section 3.*

In compliance with Article I, Section 2, the Treasurer shall submit a written financial report and shall provide copies for every team. The report must include but not need to be limited to the following headings:

1. Assets (non-cash) described by name and cash value.
2. Cash on hand.
3. Credits due the League.
4. Debits owed by the League.
5. League's net worth.
6. Corresponding totals from the previous report will be listed for comparison, and an explanation of any unusual conditions shall be included.
7. The effective date of all totals shall be within one month of the meeting at which the report is presented.
8. Current team financial status.

*Section 4.*

The President shall appoint one or more independent auditors who shall audit all records of the Treasurer at the discretion of the President. A written audit report shall be provided at each annual general meeting. It shall comply with Section 3, and include a statement of agreement or disagreement with the Treasurer's report. An explanation of any unusual conditions shall be included where necessary.

*Section 5.*

The President shall authorize all purchases prior to the expenditure of funds for any amount in excess of \$50.00, and any expenditure made in excess of this amount by any League official shall not be reimbursable. The authorization must include a maximum figure and may not be a grant of blanket authority to purchase without a fixed monetary maximum.

*Section 6.*

Reimbursement shall be in accordance with proper auditing procedures and shall be paid only upon presentation of receipt, and notice of approval for purchase amounts over \$50.00 by the President.

*Section 7.*

If this League dissolves for any reason, its assets shall become property of the Georgia State Soccer Association.

*Section 8.*

For accounting and income tax purposes, the fiscal year of this League will be September 1 to August 31.

*Section 9.*

At the end of the fiscal year the Treasurer shall prepare the following:

1. An Income Statement for the year ended August 31.

2. A Balance Sheet as of August 31.
3. All necessary papers for submission to the IRS.

## **Article III                    Playing Season**

### *Section 1.*

The official playing season of this League will run from September 1 to August 31. The official season will consist of a Major Season and, if the Executive Committee so desires, a Summer Season.

### *Section 2.*

Games are scheduled on Sundays. Game start times can begin at 10 AM and no later in the day that allows the game to be concluded with sufficient daylight. Only teams with artificial turf fields as their home field will be allowed to schedule 10 AM start times. Games can be played at other times, with mutual consent of the teams involved. The designated League official can direct the teams to play postponed games on a specific date.

### *Section 3.*

The Major Season will commence on the third Sunday in September and end by the last Sunday in May, exclusive of playoffs and championship games. If final games are rained out this last Sunday, they will be played on the next available Sunday.

### *Section 4.*

Games affecting League or local cup standings will not be scheduled on the Sunday nearest Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day, July 4th, or on Easter Sunday, except make-up games by the mutual consent of the managers.

## **Article IV                    Promotion and Relegation**

### *Section 1.*

At the end of each season, teams within a division shall be ranked by the highest number of points. When teams have the same number of points, the following tie-breakers, in order, will determine rankings: head-to-head competition, goal differential, and goals for. When being used for division championship, only head-to-head competition will be considered; if still even, a single game play-off with overtime (2-15 minute), and penalty kicks as in FIFA law will be used.

### *Section 2.*

The League shall have two (2) open age divisions. The top division, henceforth called the First Division, will consist of no less than 10 teams. The next highest division shall be named the Second Division. Divisions may be further divided into sections (or conferences). The Executive

Committee shall make this decision, with guidance from the Council.

*Section 3.*

Teams shall be promoted and relegated throughout the divisions, based on the number of teams in the HIGHER division. The number of teams relegated/promoted (in each division) shall adhere to (\*) a table as follows:

# of Teams	# of Teams Relegated Promoted
10 - 11	2
12 - 14	3
15+	4

(\*)The Executive Committee shall have the power to increase the number of teams being promoted to increase the size of the First Division and promote competitiveness and parity but shall not relegate more than the number allowed in the table without approval from the Council prior to the start of the Season.

A team cannot decline promotion, with the exception of an existing club reserve team. The League shall not force the dissolution of a club system. If the club reserve team declines promotion, the third place team will be offered promotion; if the third place team declines, the fourth place team will be offered promotion, if the fourth place team declines, the highest relegated team will be allowed to remain in the upper division.

*Section 4.*

Teams which disband, withdraw, or are expelled during the season will forfeit all succeeding games. Teams that are suspended will forfeit games scheduled during the period of suspension. League standings will reflect the above forfeitures.

*Section 5.*

New teams entering the League will start at the bottom division. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Thus the only entrance to the higher divisions will be through promotion according to Section 2 or 3. New teams that meet the requirements may enter the Masters' Division. Existing Masters' Division teams changing to another division at the beginning of a Major Season must start at the bottom division.

*Section 6.*

The Major Season alone counts for promotion and relegation. Results of a Summer Season have no effect on these. The placement of teams for the optional Summer Season is the same as defined for the Major Season except as follows. Some teams may elect not to participate in summer play, creating unusual opportunities for promotion for the summer. Teams which do not want to play in the division to which they would normally be assigned must so indicate when registering for the Summer Season. These requests will be honored subject to the rights of existing teams and limitations of the summer schedule. If sections are used in the summer, the division winner may be determined by playoff rather than intersectional play.

Teams that entered as a club in a prior Summer Season will be permitted to do so again and be placed in separate divisions.

*Section 7.*

A team which does not compete during any Major Season forfeits its place in the League.

*Section 8.*

A separate Masters' Division can exist within the League. Each team within this division must have a minimum of eleven players 35 years of age or older duly registered at all times during the playing season.

*Section 9.*

Each Masters' Division team is allowed a maximum of three players ages 31-34 registered at any time during the season. The USSF age control date of December 31 of the first half of the Major Season shall continue to be the Masters' Division control date. At least six teams must be registered to constitute a viable Masters' Division. Depending on the number of teams in the Masters' Division, games may be interscheduled with the lowest playing division. For Masters' Division only: unlimited substitution will be allowed during dead ball situations.

## **Article V            Player Registration**

*Section 1.*

When a team disbands, withdraws or is expelled from the League, all players are automatically released. These players become free agents provided their share of debts to the League are determined by the Treasurer to be satisfied and they are not under any disciplinary suspension.

*Section 2.*

No teams shall have more than 25 nor less than 11 registered players at any one time. Teams not having a minimum of 11 registered players at any one time will forfeit all scheduled games until they meet this minimum registration.

*Section 3.*

No more than 25 players may be listed on the line-up sheet, and no more than 18 players may be eligible.

*Section 4.*

A team using an ineligible player shall forfeit the game or games in which such violations took place, automatically be deducted one (1) point, if the player is not registered in the League the team will register the player, and may be suspended from the League.

*Section 5.*

No player may be registered so as to enable him to play in the last two(2) scheduled games of any subsequent League competition before the next season. The registration period may be extended when a substantial number of make-up games are played after the last two scheduled games. The Executive Committee may establish specific dates for cutting off registration.

*Section 6.*

The designated League official has custody of all records pertaining to the registration, transfer and release of all players under the jurisdiction of this League, and shall administer the rules and regulations pertaining to such matters. For identification purposes, a player, when registering, will present one clear photograph to be used on his new player pass.

*Section 7.*

Once a player has signed for a team, no club or person shall attempt to induce such a player to leave his club during the official season without at least 14 days notice in writing to the club or team for which said player has signed.

*Section 8.*

The registration of an amateur player with any club or team may be terminated only by mutual consent or by the authority of this League. A player may not register for another club or team until his release form, properly executed in ink or typed, is in possession of the registration chairman, or the Executive Committee has authorized the release of the player in the event of conflict. Such players cannot help with any other club or team in League competition until 16 days have elapsed. In release and re-registration with his former team, the player must wait 10 days. Any club or team executing a release form must forward the same to the League registration chairman, with a copy to the player, within 2 days of its execution.

*Section 9.*

Players who have debts outstanding from previous teams, regardless of which season is involved, may not sign with any other team until these debts have been resolved. The registration chairman will keep a list of such debtors, as he is notified by the team managers, and consult this list before registering players. The Executive Committee will decide the validity of such debts in cases of dispute.

*Section 10.*

A maximum of 2 professional players may sign for a team in this League and only two(2) may play for one team in a game.

*Section 11.*

The registration chairman shall inform the team involved of the receipt of all registration and release forms and acknowledge waiver requests.

*Section 12.*

This League recognizes registrations and releases of other State Associations within USSF. If an amateur or professional player moves into the jurisdiction of this League, it shall be necessary for him to obtain a release from his former association in order to register with this League in the State of Georgia.

*Section 13.*

Youth players may play on teams in this League in accordance with regulations of the USYSA and GSSA.

*Section 14.*

All passes (which are non-transferable) issued by this League shall be recognized by all teams of this League except as otherwise designated by the Executive Committee.

*Section 15.*

In order to retain the division status attained by a team during the prior Major Season, a team must retain at least 6 of the players registered at the conclusion of the preceding Major Season, along with the manager of the previous season. If this is not satisfied, then the largest number of players, minimum of six, claiming the spot will retain the spot. In the event of a tie, the Executive Committee shall decide.

*Section 16.*

Any player suspended by the D & P Committee must serve the suspension (games) while on the active roster of his team line-up sheet. Only games where the suspended player is listed on the game-day lineup sheet will count toward suspension served, even when the player changes teams during or between seasons.

## **Club System**

### *Section 1.*

To qualify for club system(two or more teams) status, each of the associated teams shall at all times during the playing season maintain a minimum of eleven(11) active registered players per team.

### *Section 2.*

The maximum number of active registered players on any of the associated teams is 22.

### *Section 3.*

If at any time during the playing season an associated team falls below the minimum active registered player requirement, it will forfeit the right to operate within the club system until such time as the minimum requirement is met.

### *Section 4.*

The club system will consist of a primary team and an associated team or teams of different divisions that do not compete with one another. Where more than one associated team is involved in interdivisional promotion and relegation, the primary team shall be designated as that of the higher competitive division.

### *Section 5.*

Associate team players are permitted to play "up" to any club system team for which they meet League and divisional eligibility requirements and providing that they do not play for two teams within a 7 day period. There must be sufficient room on the primary team's roster, to bring up a player.

### *Section 6.*

Club system player movements to a higher competitive division are immediate (and the laminated USSF pass from the lower division may be used). Although movement down between competitive divisions or to a non-competitive division will also be immediate, an official transfer action through the League Registrar must be properly executed and the pass returned with the transfer request (a temporary League pass may be used for the following two weeks until the new laminated USSF pass is issued). There must be roster space available on the official listing of registered active players to facilitate transfer down. Additionally, a sixteen(16) day waiting period will be required before the player can again "play up".

## **Article VI            Game Officials**

### *Section 1.*

Only officials in good standing with USSF, GSSA and this League shall be permitted to officiate. If because of unforeseen circumstances an affiliated referee is unable to officiate, teams may agree upon some other person to act in the emergency.

### *Section 2.*

The referee shall be the sole judge as to the playing conditions of the field and players' equipment, with the exception the field manager (i.e. the person responsible to the owner or administration regarding the use of said field), may declare the field unusable if, in his opinion, it may harm the field and thereby cause withdrawal of permission to use it in the future. Every effort should be made to ascertain the field condition in ample time (3 hours prior to kick-off) and the opposing manager and league should be notified in case it is considered unplayable by the field manager. If this is not possible, the field manager still retains final authority on the use of the field.

### *Section 3.*

The game officials' fees and traveling expenses shall be set at the annual general meeting of the League Council. Fees will be required only for games actually played or those forfeited on the field in accordance with these By-Laws. Method of payment by teams to the League shall be decided at a League meeting prior to the season.

### *Section 4.*

The referee should submit a report on all games under the jurisdiction of this League, on the form provided, to the League within 2 days after the game has been played. The League will not pay full referee fees for any games for which a report has not been postmarked by 2 days after the event. Penalties for late reports shall be set as proposed and voted by the Council.

## **Article VII            Rules for Games**

### *Section 1.*

It shall be the responsibility of the Home Team to prepare the field for play. Line marking shall be clear and goals erected and equipped with nets suitably secured, and corner flags shall be erected at each corner of the field and shall be a minimum of five feet in height. Failure to comply shall result in the forfeit of the game, but nevertheless, a friendly game may be played.

### *Section 2.*

All players on a team except for the goalkeeper shall wear identical shirts or jerseys, each with an easily distinguishable unique number thereon. Where both team colors are similar, as decided by the referee, it is the responsibility of the Home Team to change.

### *Section 3.*

Team uniforms (color and design) shall be registered with the League Secretary. This registry shall be published, and copies supplied to all new teams on entry to the League. Team colors should be selected, not only to avoid confusion, but to give teams identity.

### *Section 4.*

The referee shall be the sole judge of the suitability of the players' equipment; and subject to the field manager, of the playing conditions of the field. The referee shall be guided by the requirement of the League that each player be properly suited in identical shirts or Jersey's as registered by the league and like colored shorts.

### *Section 5.*

A completed line-up sheet (GAME REPORT) must be submitted to the referee prior to the

game. This sheet will include names and numbers of all players participating in the match. Any players serving suspension will be noted on the report and their status as serving a suspension written by their names or in the margin. A duplicate copy for the opposing manager will be provided. Any number of players within this list may be substituted except that any player substituted during a half may not return during that same half. Any player not listed BY NAME AND NUMBER by kick-off shall not be permitted to play.

*Section 6.*

Each player must present an official Player Pass to the referee for identification purposes before he will be allowed to play in any game. The referee after comparing the passes to the line-up sheet (GAME REPORT), will return all passes except those of the starting eleven players to the manager. Each manager shall have the right to inspect the player passes of the opposing team which are presented to the referee; the referee may postpone such inspection until half-time, if, in his opinion, such inspection will delay the start of the game. Upon substituting, a player shall present to the referee the substituting player's pass. The same procedure shall be used for the second half of any game. All player passes with the exception of the one(s) for an ejected player shall be returned to the team manager after the conclusion of the game. If a team has sufficient players, but does not have the required player passes, it shall forfeit the game. In the event the age of a player participating in a Masters Division match is challenged, the player must submit proof of age (driver's license with photo) to the opposing team manager in the presence of the referee. If the player is unable to produce evidence of age, the referee shall note this on the Game Report. The player will have one week to submit verifiable picture identification to the League. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of the match by the team of the player in question.

*Section 7.*

The referee shall allow any team a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes beyond starting time to have the field prepared to his satisfaction, to field the team and furnish appropriate player passes. The referee shall either declare a forfeit, following Section 9, or start the game no later than fifteen minutes after scheduled game time. Fielding a team means having the minimum number of players on the field, properly equipped and ready to play.

*Section 8.*

If a team fails to field at least 8 players within the grace period of fifteen minutes, the game shall be forfeited.

*Section 9.*

In the event a team forfeits a game, the deficient or absent team shall forfeit the game by a score of 3 - 0. All expenses related to the game shall be paid by the forfeiting team, including referee fees and any field costs incurred.

*Section 10.*

Each team shall take all precautions necessary to prevent disorder at games. Failure to do so shall be referred to the Executive Committee for appropriate action.

*Section 11.*

In the event that a game is terminated by the referee after the beginning of the 2nd half, but prior to the normal duration for any reason covered under Law 5, FIFA, the game's score at that time shall stand unless the game was terminated for misconduct and the team causing the

misconduct was leading or tied in scoring. In the event that such team is leading or tied in scoring, the matter will be subject to D&P review to determine the game result.

## **Article VIII            Discipline and Protest**

### *Section 1.*

The Discipline and Protest Committee shall consist of members drawn from a pool of all active league members or their representatives. All managers or their representatives will be required to serve on the D&P Committee at least once during the league year. The scheduling of the Committee shall be done by the Chairman with the President's approval. If a manager or their representative fail to appear, a \$100 fine shall be assessed to the manager's team. The D&P Chairman shall not be a member of the Executive Committee, unless an Executive Committee member is needed as a temporary fill in, except in cases where there is a protest of an Executive Committee Decision. The Committee shall sit with from 3 to 5 members maximum at a session. The Committee shall act on all disciplinary cases, appeals, and protests within its jurisdiction.

### *Section 2.*

No dispute, claim, protest, or appeal shall be presented to or defended in this League, except by a bona fide member of the club or team concerned.

### *Section 3.*

The D&P Committee shall meet on a day, time, and place set by the Chairman.

### *Section 4.*

In the case of a caution of a player during a game the referee shall file his report online via the system in use by the League. This is to be submitted to the League within 24 hours of the game. In the case of an ejected player from a game, the referee shall file his report online via the system in use by the League. This is to be submitted to the League within 24 hours of the game. The ejected player's pass shall be mailed along with the line up sheets to the League. The ejected player's manager shall inform the D&P Chairman within 48 hours of the game concerned and shall indicate at that time if an appeal of the referee's decision is desired. In the event the D&P Chairman is not available, the manager shall notify the League Administrator and provide the necessary information. Managers may be suspended for failure to execute this responsibility. The D&P Chairman shall notify the manager within the same week when and where an appeal hearing will be held subject to the availability of the complete report from the referee. This will be deemed sufficient notification.

### *Section 5.*

An ejected player is automatically suspended from all League sanctioned play until he receives a ruling from the D&P Committee. After the ejection notification (Section 4), at the discretion of the D&P Chairman, the ejected player may be required to appear before the D&P Committee. It is recommended that an ejected player receive a one game suspension and possible fines. If no hearing is required, the D&P Chairman shall enforce the recommended suspension and possible fines.

### *Section 6.*

If required by the D&P Chairman, the ejected player must attend a hearing or be represented by his team manager with permission of the Chairman. The pertinent sections of the Complete Report shall be read aloud, and any questions may then be asked of the ejected player, or other witnesses. The Committee shall then retire to reach a decision, which shall be communicated immediately to the player and teams involved, and a copy given to the D&P Chairman or League Administrator, and to the proper ADASL representative. This decision shall be communicated and distributed by means of the standard ADASL D&P form. It is the obligation of League members to appear as witnesses at D&P meetings when called upon to do so by the Committee. If unable to appear, the member will advise the Chairman and must then respond to specific questions concerning the incidents, if asked.

Written, signed responses to these questions shall be provided promptly if requested by the Chairman. The D&P Committee is empowered to suspend a member from all activities of this League until this obligation is fulfilled, subject to review by the Executive Committee.

*Section 7.*

Decisions of the D&P Committee can be appealed to the GSSA and/or USSF by payment of the appropriate fees and in accordance with the regulations of these bodies.

*Section 8.*

No Committee member shall sit on any case if he was directly or indirectly involved in the incident. Committee members will not discuss cases outside of the committee room, either before or after the meeting, with any person not a member of the same committee.

*Section 9.*

Any player accumulating 5 cautions, for any reason, per playing season as defined in Article III, Section 1, shall be suspended for 1 game. A subsequent accumulation of 5 cautions per playing season shall result in a suspension of 4 games.

*Section 10.*

A protest of a club or team, or a game referee shall be submitted in writing in duplicate to the D&P Committee within 7 days of such grievance. The protesting party shall send a copy of the protest to the other party or parties involved. This protest shall be accepted by the D&P Committee only if the time/date stamp or postmark is no later than the 7th day and with the \$35.00 protest fee. It shall then hear and rule on such a protest within 10 days. All parties involved shall be notified in writing of the Committee's decision.

*Section 11.*

No legal action may be instituted by any player, club or team unless and until all avenues of recourse have been exhausted within this League, the GSSA and the USSF.

*Section 12.*

This League shall recognize suspensions and other rulings of other leagues Within the GSSA and other State Associations of which it has been officially notified and which are sanctioned by the USSF.

*Section 13.*

A team using a non-registered or suspended player or players shall forfeit every game in which the non-registered or suspended player or players participated, and may also be suspended from the League. Any player violating the terms of his suspension is subject to further action by the D&P Committee.

*Section 14.*

Postponements for reasons other than weather or field conditions or for reasons as approved by the Executive Committee are prohibited.

*Section 15.*

Teams playing against suspended clubs or teams may be themselves suspended from the League.

*Section 16.*

The manager of a team that forfeits 2 games for any reason must contact the D&P Chairman within 48 hours of the 2nd forfeit and arrange to appear before the D&P Committee to show cause why that team should not be suspended from further League play. If the manager fails to fulfill this responsibility, or the Committee determines the team's continued participation is not in the League's best interest, the team shall be suspended. The League Council shall be advised of this suspension at its meeting held to initiate the next Major Season. At this time a vote shall be taken on continued membership of the team. If the team is not suspended, each subsequent forfeit within the season shall be handled in a similar manner.

*Section 17.*

Suspension period for a problem player:

1. It is recommended that any player who incurs, during the span of any one year (12 months from the date of the first ejection) 2 upheld or unprotested ejections be suspended for a minimum period of 4 scheduled games.
2. It is further recommended that any player who incurs a further (3rd) upheld or unprotested ejection during the same 12 month span from the date of the first ejection shall be suspended for a minimum of one year from the date of the last (3rd) ejection.

*Section 18.*

At the discretion of the D&P Committee, in addition to the normal suspensions, the following fines may be imposed:

1. A maximum \$25.00 fine for an un-protested or upheld ejection or the accumulation of 3 cautions in a season.
2. A maximum \$35.00 fine for a second ejection in one year (12 month span).
3. A maximum \$50.00 fine for a third ejection in one year (12 month span).

The collected fines shall be placed into the general funds to be used at the discretion of the Executive Committee for the betterment on the League.

*Section 19.*

All competitions under ADASL authority shall count equally in regards to red and yellow cards.

**Article IX                      Penalties, Debts, and Assessments**

*Section 1.*

A debt of any club or team, or person to this League shall be paid within 15 days of such notification. Failure to comply shall result in suspension.

*Section 2.*

No team may knowingly play any game so as to incur a debt. Consequently, the team must either pay in advance of a game or have sufficient deposit with the League to cover the expenses incurred.

**Article X                    Exhibition and Benefit Games**

*Section 1.*

All games, except National Amateur, Open and Over-30 Cup, must have the permission of the Executive Committee of this League to be played. A request for permission to play an interstate game must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee at least 20 days prior to such a game. Requests to play an inter- association game must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee at least 30 days prior to the game. Failure to comply may result in suspension from the League. (Inter-association matches are between associations or clubs of different nationalities. They can only be played with permission of the USSF and the other National Association in accordance with the rules of both of these bodies.)

*Section 2.*

Teams affiliated with the ADASL, Inc. playing non-affiliated teams, without permission of the President, or his designated representative, may be suspended.

*Section 3.*

The Executive Committee shall, on behalf of any club seeking permission to play an interstate game or inter-association game within the State of Georgia, request such permission from the GSSA.

*Section 4.*

This League may, upon obtaining permission from GSSA, designate a certain date(s) for the playing of a game(s) for the benefit of this League or any other benefit that this League may designate. On this occasion all players, clubs or teams shall be at the disposal of this League and no player, club or team shall participate in any other games on such date, except as may be authorized by this League. A club or team violating this rule may be suspended from the League.

**Article XI                    Amateur Status**

An amateur player shall not be compensated for his service as a player. Any player who receives payment other than duly justified expenses for dress, travel or hotel charges, shall be declared a professional. Duly justified expenses are those necessary for participation in matches and training. Payment for broken time shall not be made (Loss of wages due to absence from employment). In case of accident, he may benefit from insurance, the premiums of which may have been paid by the League or his club or team. If injured, he may (when he is insured or when his insurance does not cover the expense) receive from the

League or his club or team a pecuniary assistance provided consent therefore has been obtained from this League. If any amateur player is a paid employee of any club or team, he must prove on every demand that his services as a player are not a part of the wages paid to him in the capacity of an employee. Any player who participates in soccer competition for money or merchandise of considerable value is a professional. When an amateur player is injured while playing soccer he shall, with the consent of this League, be entitled to reimbursement for the payment of medical bills without the loss of his amateur status. Any sum in excess of the amount of these expenses received by benefit or by other means except insurance must be paid to this League which shall hold such surplus in trust as a common fund for the payment of bills which may accrue by reason of injuries to other players. The fact that a player is a dealer in sporting goods does not make him a professional. An amateur player loses his status as such when a decision of this League, GSSA, or USSF declares him a professional.

## **Article XII            Awards to Winning Teams**

It is left up to the discretion of the Executive Committee to decide on what awards are given to winning teams and players for the various competitions.

## **Article XIII            Amendments**

Amendments to the By-Laws of this League shall be made only at a League Council meeting and by a 2/3 majority vote of the voting members present. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of this League at least 2 weeks prior to a League Council meeting. Each club or team shall be given 1 week notice in writing of the proposed amendment.

# CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS (since Jan. 1992)

## April 24, 1992 Annual General Meeting:

1. By-Laws Article VIII, Section 17: From mandatory suspensions to recommended suspensions. *Reason: to allow the D&P Committee to exercise its own discretion based upon game reports and witnesses' statements as to the severity of the infraction to assess a fair suspension period.*

## August 28, 1992 Fall Business Meeting:

1. By-Laws Article V, Section 15: Clarifying definition of a team with no manager from previous season on claiming spot in League.
2. By-Laws Article VIII, Section 5: From mandatory suspension to recommended suspension. *Reason: to avoid having to "overturn" ejections when no suspension is appropriate and to allow the D&P Committee complete discretion in determining suspensions warranted.*
3. By-Laws Article VIII, Section 6: To remove the conflict between the number of copies requested and the number of copies in the standard form and to remove redundancy in copies needed.

## September 18, 1992 Major Season Registration & Business Meeting:

1. By-Laws Article IV, Sections 2 & 3: To give the League only two divisions so as to decrease the effect of weak or poorly managed teams in Division 3, and to give the incentive of new teams having a 1 year minimum path to Division 1.
2. Constitution Article XI, Section 5: Deleted. With the addition of a paid administrator duties of officers were lessened making the 2nd VP position with no responsibilities, therefore not needed.

## September 17, 1993 Major Season Registration Meeting:

1. By-Laws Article V, Section 3: To re-insert language requiring a minimum 16 day period on Inactive Reserve. The language had been inadvertently deleted during a prior revision process.
2. By-Laws Article IV, Section 1: To establish tie-breaking procedures in season-ending standings so as to avoid some potential play-off games.

## September 16, 1994 Major Season Registration Meeting:

1. By-Laws Article V, Section 8: To allow players who are eligible to compete in more

than one National Cup Competition with more than one team.

2. By-Laws Article V, Section 16: To prevent teams from moving a suspended player off the active roster while serving a suspension. The team has discipline responsibilities and therefore shares the penalty of an individual on the team.
3. By-Laws Article VII, Section 5: To document suspensions being served for team and League record keeping and referee public relations.

### **September 15, 1995 Major Season Registration Meeting:**

1. By-Laws Article IV, Section 3: To re-insert language deleted inadvertently when this section was re-written in 1992
2. By-Laws Article V, Section 6: The need to maintain duplicate passes did not justify the effort required. To delete language requiring such.

### **August 26, 1998 Major Season Organizational Meeting:**

1. By-Laws Article V, Section 3: To allow teams more flexibility on game day line-up and to eliminate administrative paperwork.
2. By-Laws Article V, CLUB SYSTEM, Section 5: To bring Club System in line with new Art. V, Section 3 proposal and to eliminate club reserve team's penalty of losing players to benefit 1st team.

### **June 6, 2000 Major Season Organizational Meeting:**

1. By-Laws Article IV, PROMOTION & RELEGATION, Section 4 (Forfeitures): Made teams which are disband, withdraw, or are expelled forfeit all games.
2. By-Laws Article V, PLAYER REGISTRATION, Section 2: Changed roster size from 18 to 22
3. By-Laws Article V, PLAYER REGISTRATION, Section 3: Removed reference to reserve roster to bring it in accordance to Section 2 above.
4. By-Laws Article V, PLAYER REGISTRATION, Section 4: Changed non-registered player to ineligible player to incorporate the broader scope of offenses which can cause a forfeit.
5. By-Laws Article V, PLAYER REGISTRATION, Section 8: Eliminates reference to National Cup Competition so as to close a special loophole made for one player.
6. By-Laws Article V, PLAYER REGISTRATION, Section 16: Emphasizes suspended player must show up on the game-day lineup sheet as opposed to regular (22 Man) roster.
7. By-Laws Article V, CLUB SYSTEM, Section 2: Changes roster size from 18 to 22 in accordance with Article V, Section 2 under PLAYER REGISTRATION.
8. By-Laws Article V, CLUB SYSTEM, Section 5: Removed reference to reserve roster to bring it in accordance to Section 2 above.

9. By-Laws Article VII, RULES FOR THE GAME, Section 2: Changed like-colored shirts to Identical shirts to eliminate teams using mismatched jersey's on the field.
10. By-Laws Article VII, RULES FOR THE GAME, Section 3: Eliminates reference to teams having to select colors and patterns different from those of other teams.
11. By-Laws Article VII, RULES FOR THE GAME, Section 4: Changed the word uniform to shirts in accordance with Section 2.
12. By-Laws Article VII, RULES FOR THE GAME, Section 6: Eliminates mention of substitution slip since they are no longer in use.
13. By-Laws Article VII, RULES FOR THE GAME, Section 9: Removes mention of referees blowing the whistle to indicate a forfeit and changes reference of offending team to forfeiting team.
14. By-Laws Article XII, AWARDS FOR WINNING TEAMS: Changed language so it is similar for both Full season and Summer season.
15. Constitution Article III, TERRITORY: Added Coweta County to stay in step with the ever growing population of the Metro Atlanta Area.

**August 24, 2001 Fall Business Meeting:**

1. By-Laws Article IV, PROMOTION & RELEGATION, Section 2 (Divisions): Allowed for the creation of a third division.

**August 26, 2002 Fall Business Meeting:**

1. By-Laws Article IV, PROMOTION & RELEGATION, Section 3 (Promotion & Relegation): Created table for promotion/relegation between divisions. Eliminated Playoff System.

**April 26, 2004 Spring Annual General Meeting:**

1. By-Laws Article IV, PROMOTION & RELEGATION, Section 8 (Masters' Division): Changes the minimum age of the Masters' Division to 35
2. By-Laws Article IV, PROMOTION & RELEGATION, Section 9 (Masters' Division): Allows for 3 "under-age" players in the Masters' Division and requires at least six teams.
3. By-Laws Article V, PLAYER REGISTRATION, Section 6: Removed the language "inactive reserves" which should have been removed when rosters went to 22.
4. By-Laws Article VI, GAME OFFICIALS, Section 2: Removed reference to Division Commissioners.
5. By-Laws Article VI, GAME OFFICIALS, Section 4: Removes the word Secretary and

requires officials submit reports to the league.

### **August 13, 2004 Fall Pre-Season Meeting:**

1. Constitution Article VII, MEMBERSHIP, Section 2: Removed reference to requiring Team Budget, added reference requiring valid email addresses.
2. Constitution Article XI, OFFICERS, Section 2 : Removes all language regarding Division Commissioners including the entirety of Section 11.

### **August 18, 2005 Fall Pre-Season Meeting:**

1. By Law Article IV, Section 4: Changed wording "forfeit all games" to "forfeit all succeeding games"
2. By Law Article IV PROMOTION AND RELEGATION, Section 3: adds the word "promoted" to the Promotion/Relegation table to clarify its meaning

### **July 30, 2014 Fall Pre-Season Meeting:**

Bylaws Article IV, Section 2 to provide a quicker path to possible Division 1 status for new teams, thereby encouraging new teams of potential D1 status to form and join, enhancing the competitive status of the League; to allow for the potential formation of geographic groups within the divisions encouraging rivalries and possibly reducing drive distance to games for specific area-based teams; and to remove the uncertainty of League divisional make up and subjectivity of team placement if the number of teams drops below 28 members in any one year.

### **August 27, 2014 Fall Registration Meeting:**

Bylaws Article IV, Section 3 to clarify promotion/relegation process and to provide method for more than the 2 up - 2 down number of teams.

### **May 19, 2015 Annual End of Season Meeting:**

1. Bylaws Article IV, Section 2 to reverse the modification of July 30, 2014 and revert to 3 open divisions.
2. Bylaws Article IV, Section 3 to reverse the modification of August 27, 2014 and revert to the previous promotion relegation guidelines.

### **January 19, 2016 Winter Meeting:**

Bylaws Article III, Section 2: For several years now, the league has been scheduling games at 11 AM, 1 and 3 PM on Sundays. This section stated that games are scheduled on Sunday

afternoons. This change is to remove this contradiction by removing “afternoon” from the time when games are scheduled on Sundays, and to allow for games to start at 10 AM when playing on artificial turf fields.

**April 21, 2016 Annual End of Season Meeting:**

Bylaws Article VII, Section 9 to change the score of a forfeited game from 1 - 0 to 3 - 0.

**August 8, 2016 Major Season Organizational Meeting:**

Bylaws Article VII, Section 9: All game-related expenses to be paid by the forfeiting team, including referee fees and any field costs involved.

Bylaws Article V, Section 2: Increase maximum number of registered players per team from 22 to 25.

**May 22, 2017 Special Meeting to Elect Officers:**

ADASL Constitution Article III, TERRITORY: Clarify meaning of Metropolitan Atlanta area.

**July 24, 2017 Fall Pre-Season Meeting:**

1. Bylaws Article VIII, Section 4 to address change in reporting procedure with newly established online method.
2. Bylaws Article VIII, Section 9 to address the issue of players receiving multiple cautions overlooked.
3. Bylaws Article VIII, Section 10 to bring in line with submission via email and online payment potential, and to update fee from that originally set in 1967 based on inflation.

**September 05, 2018 Team Registration Meeting:**

1. Bylaws Article IV Promotion and Relegation Section 2 and 3 to address change in Divisional Structure of the ADASL from the potential of two Divisions to the maximum number of Divisions to two.

**January 07, 2019 Winter Meeting:**

1. Bylaws Article IV Promotion and Relegation Section 2 and 3 to address concerns from previous bylaw change and add protection for teams earning promotion or avoiding relegation and other housekeeping related to previous change.
2. Bylaws Article III Playing Season start changed from first week in October to third

week in September.

3. Bylaws Article IV Section 4 to increase penalties for playing an ineligible player.

**April 07, 2018 Spring Annual General Meeting:**

1. Bylaws Article VIII to add Section 19 to clarify the policy and eliminate inconsistent D&P rulings.
2. Bylaws Article VIII Section 1 to delete the term “in good standing” from the first sentence as the definition of “good standing” was not clear, and to allow the members of the Executive Committee to fill in as temporary D&P Chairman when needed, except in cases where there is a protest of a Executive Committee decision.
3. Bylaw Article XII to delete Items 1 and 2 which were guidelines for trophies and clarify that the Executive Committee has the ability to offer awards of more value than trophies.
4. Bylaw Article V Section 3 to change the number of players listed on the line-up sheet from 18 to 25.