

CINCINNATI UNITED SOCCER LEAGUE, INC.

Article I - Name

The name of the organization shall be the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. (CUSL). The League shall be a non-profit, educational organization incorporated under the Non-Profit Corporation Law of the State of Ohio. CUSL shall apply for and maintain a IRS a 501 C 3 (tax exempt) status.

Article II - Purpose

- A) The purpose of the League shall be to teach and develop skills in the playing of soccer among youth 19 years of age and under, to promote the growth of competitive amateur soccer, and to encourage good sportsmanship and fair playing among the participants therein. To offer and participate with team programs in the programs of the United State Youth Soccer Association (US Youth Soccer) including sanctioned tournaments, State, Regional and National Championships. To participate in individual Olympic development programs offered by the Ohio Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (OSYSA) and the US Youth Soccer for the development of players for State, Regional and National teams and the development camps that will lead to player selection for teams to represent the United States in the Olympic, Pan American games and other National and International Competition.
- B) To achieve the purposes, the League shall:
- 1) Organize a league or leagues to provide and regulate OSYSA and US Youth sanctioned competition between teams of its member Clubs.
 - 2) Provide opportunities for instruction and training of players, coaches and referees.
 - 3) By its rules and regulations of play, promote the practice of good sportsmanship and fair play.
 - 4) Provide the opportunity for competition with teams from other states and countries, by participating in the organization and operation of US Youth Soccer sanctioned tournaments.) Participate in such other educational activities of the US Youth Soccer as may be deemed appropriate and consistent with the goals of the League.
 - 6) Participate in the US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program.
 - 7) Participate in State, Regional and National Championships.
 - 8) Require that all teams of all member Clubs participate in sanctioned US Youth Soccer programs.
- C) No part of the revenue of the League shall inure to the benefit of, nor be distributed to its members, officers or other private persons; except that the League shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II A and II B hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the League shall be the carrying of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The League shall not participate in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. The League shall not carry on any other activity not permitted by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 (c) (3) or a corporation to which contributions are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.
- D) In the event of the dissolution of CUSL, the Governing Body shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all of the liabilities of the League, dispose of all the assets of the League exclusively for the purposes set forth in Article II A and II B hereof or to such organization or organizations as shall qualify as exempt under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Code).

Article III - Affiliation

This League shall be a member of the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. and a member of the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (US Youth Soccer) and through it shall be affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation, and Federation International de Football Association (FIFA). All teams of all Member Clubs of the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. shall be entered into play within sanctioned competitive programs of the US Youth Soccer. If any of the teams of any member Club(s) do not enter into a sanctioned competitive US Youth Soccer program, the club's membership in the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. shall be immediately canceled. If any team of any member Club(s) does not honor its commitments to any US Youth Soccer competitive program, the team(s) membership within Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. shall be immediately canceled. The first order of priority for all Clubs and their teams is to meet all of the requirements of the sanctioned programs of the US Youth Soccer. Teams of member Clubs may concurrently play in any other program sanctioned by US Soccer. However, as outlined above, their first priority is to the sanctioned programs of US Youth Soccer.

Article IV - Founding Members

The following Soccer Clubs are Founding members of the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc.

Centerville United Soccer Club	Girls Southeast Cincinnati Soccer Association, Inc.	Tri State Futbol Alliance
Cincinnati United Soccer Club	Fairfield Optimist Soccer Club	Classics Hammer FC
Cincinnati West Soccer Club		

As a founding member, these Clubs (as long as they remain a member) are entitled to permanent representative on the Governing Body with one vote per representative. Each of these Clubs will be responsible to elect/select one member to serve in this position on the Governing Body.

Article V - Membership Qualifications

Application for membership in the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. (CUSL) is only by invitation. Only Clubs invited by the Governing Body of CUSL may submit an application for membership. However, Clubs sponsoring and operating competitive youth soccer program in the area supported by CUSL may submit a letter outlining their interest in being given the opportunity to submit an application. Based on the Club's request, if the CUSL Governing Body has the reasons to believe that the Club may meet the entry standards, based on a 50% vote of the Governing Body, the Club will be invited to submit an application for entry in CUSL as Full Member Club (provisional or permanent membership). Based on the Constitutional requirements as established below, the Club's application will be considered for entry into CUSL and admission will only be offered if the Club is in full compliance with the standards and requirements of the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc.

- A) Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. will only invite Clubs for Full Membership if they are in full compliance with the following standards and requirements:
 - 1) All competitive teams of the Club must be entered into a competitive US Youth Soccer Program. The basic OSYSA rule of determination of a competitive team is used to meet this requirement. However, this rule is subject to being interpreted by the Governing Body of the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. as it relates to the teams of any Club seeking admission.
 - 2) Only Clubs and teams that have (even prior to the establishment of the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc.) followed the rules and standards promoted by the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. may be considered for admission to the program. This includes both the spirit and letter of the Constitution, bylaws and rules, regulations and goals of the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc.
 - 3) Clubs will not be invited to apply for membership nor accepted for membership if they have ever taken action that is detrimental to the well being of the other members of or the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. (CUSL). The Governing Body has the sole right to determine if any actions have been detrimental to its members or CUSL.
 - 4) Since this is a club-based organization, it is important that Clubs be of the size needed to support the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc.
 - 5) Clubs cannot be considered for admission if they operate against the concept of League Teams in the U15 and older age groups.
 - 6) Clubs must have an organizational strength necessary to be able to contribute the volunteers needed to support the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc.
 - 7) Only Clubs that have demonstrated that they have, can and will be able to collaborate with all other member Clubs to benefit the players, the league and their club can be accepted for Full Membership.
- B) Eligible Clubs who have been invited and wish to join the League shall make application to the Governing Body and shall accompany said application with a one-time Entrance fee established by the Governing Body. Copies of all Club rules and regulations may be requested by the Governing Body for use in their consideration for membership.
- C) The Governing Body has the authority to evaluate the qualifications of Clubs that has submitted an application for membership. Clubs cannot submit an application unless they have been invited to submit. Any Applicant who has been invited to submit an application for membership must agree that they will be able to enter teams in both the spring and fall seasons and provide the support as required to operate the program. The Governing Body shall have the final vote on membership. Clubs may be accepted on a provisional basis as a Full Member Club for a period of one year, after which the Governing Body shall change the status of Full Member Club to permanent, or terminate, or extend on a provisional basis for up to one additional year. Full Member Club(s) who are on a provisional status shall have all the rights and responsibilities of Founding and Full Member Clubs except the right of voting and representation on the Board of Trustees or serve as an elected member of the Governing Body (except if elected President of the Governing Body).
- D) The decision of the Governing Body on membership is final. This decision cannot be appealed to the Board of Trustees. However, this decision may be appealed as established in other sections of this constitution.
- E) Acceptance as a Full Member Club (provisional or permanent) is to be by the 2/3rds affirmative vote of the members of the Governing Body in attendance at that meeting.
- A) All member Clubs (Founding and Full Member) shall follow all rules set forth by the Governing Body and/or the Operations Committee and/or the Board of Trustees. At least 50% of the members of the Governing Body must be in attendance in order to have a quorum. All member Clubs shall follow all articles of this constitution and Bylaws. Violation of any of the above can lead to punitive action (up to and including dismissal from the League) by a 2/3rds vote of the members of the Governing Body in attendance at that meeting.
- B) Member Clubs must continue to be of such a size and organization so that they can contribute the volunteers needed to support the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. If the club size and/or organization ability changes to where they can no longer support the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. as required, they can be dropped from membership based on 2/3rds affirmative vote of the members of the Governing Body in attendance at that meeting. All Clubs dropped from membership may be considered for a future re- invitation. Any club that reapplies for membership must meet all requirements of the Constitution as of the date of re-application.
- C) The Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. may accept Clubs from Northern Kentucky and a club from Centerville area (based

on continued approval of OSYSA) for membership in Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. for Founding or Full Membership. Membership of the Northern Kentucky Club(s) shall be conditional on approval, and the continued approval each year of the US Youth Soccer State Commissioner for the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association.

D) Conditions of Membership

1) Financial

Member Clubs (Founding and Full Member) shall assume full responsibility for all financial obligations incurred by teams entered into the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. and their club. This shall include fees for registration and referees as well as the costs of any damages caused by a team.

2) Activity Support

Member Clubs shall furnish appropriate support for league competition, which shall include, but not limited too:

- a) Provision of adequate playing fields for half of the Member club's teams to be able to have home games each week. (Said fields to be of adequate size, equipped with markings, nets and flags, and in acceptable condition for play).
- b) Provision of enough trained referees and linesman to cover their home fields. (It shall be understood that at Leagues discretion, referees and linesman may be assigned to adjacent areas in order to provide "neutral officials").
- c) Encouragement of their coaches and members to participate in appropriate training, such as coaching and referee clinics.
- d) Encouragement of their members to become qualified referees.
- e) Provision of personnel to become members of the Operations Committee and other functions deemed necessary by the Governing Body. The purpose will be to provide for League activities.
- f) Such assistance for other League activities as may be appropriate or requested from member Clubs by the Governing Body.
- g) If sufficient numbers of volunteers are not available to provide the assistance needed to operate the League, the Governing Body may require a Founding or Full Membership Club(s) to appoint an individual to handle the needed responsibility for the League. Failure to provide the number of individuals required will result in termination of the Club's membership based upon 2/3rds vote of the Governing Body.
- J) In the event of changes in a CUSL member club such as, but not limited to, the merger of member club with non-member club, the joining of member club and a non-member club, the purchase of member club by a non-member club, the takeover of member club by a non-member club, the reorganization of a non-member club to include part or all of a member club, the absorption of a member club or many of its teams by a non-member club, or member Clubs who provide entry into CUSL for Clubs or teams of non-member club or organization(s), requires a membership review by the Governing Body. The purpose of this paragraph is to prevent an entry of Clubs teams from non-member organizations into CUSL without Governing Body review as required by this Constitution.

Article VI - League Government

A) Board of Trustees

The base unit of the League's government shall be the Board of Trustees of the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc.

1) Board Membership:

The Board of Trustees shall consist of one Representative elected or appointed by each member club (both Founding and Full Members). The number of votes for each club shall be determined by the number of teams from that Member club (Founding and Full Member) which participated in CUSL leagues during the spring season immediately preceding the semiannual meetings of the League. The number of votes allocated to the Club's Representatives shall be as follows:

Number of Teams from Club Number - Votes per Club			
1- 10	6	11 - 20	12
21-30	18	31-40	24
41-50	30	51-60	36
61 -7 0	42	71-80	48
81- or more	54		

Each Club (Founding and Full Members) shall cast the number of votes specified above on all issues brought before the Board of Trustees requiring a vote of its members.

2) Certification of Membership on Board of Trustees

Member Clubs shall notify the League of the name of its Representative who will serve as a member of the Board of Trustees. Notification shall be a letter (or email) to the League Operations Secretary, signed by the Club President or Secretary stating the individual listed has been elected/appointed as the club's Representative on the League's Board of Trustees (use of email address is acceptable as the authorized email address counts as the individual's signature). Said notification must take place before the start of any scheduled meeting at which the Trustees plan to vote. Only a certified Representative(s) physically present at the meeting shall be authorized to vote the number of votes awarded to their club based on teams entered into the spring league. The certified Representative(s) shall function as the recognized club Representative(s) until such time as the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. shall be notified in writing by the Club President or Secretary of the change.

B) Duties of the Board of Trustees

- 1) The Full Member Clubs on the Board of Trustees shall elect Five(5) individuals to serve on the *Governing Body*. All members of the *Governing Body* who are elected must be members of Full Member Clubs. All Five (5) shall be elected each year at the semiannual meeting held in December/January and shall serve for the period of one year. No individual elected by the Board of Trustees can serve two consecutive terms. They can however, by re-elected at the following years Board of Trustees Meeting. If a member of the *Governing Body* was elected to fill an un-expired term, he/she may be elected at the next semiannual meeting in December/January to a full term. Only Full Member Clubs can vote in elections to these Five (5) positions
- 2) The Board of Trustees shall vote upon constitutional amendments for Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. Such a vote requires a 2/3rds majority of the votes of those Clubs in attendance to be approved. Clubs representing at least Fifty percent (50%) of the votes must be present in order to vote on a constitutional amendment.
- 3) A meeting for the Board of Trustees may be called by the President of the *Governing Body*, The Executive Director, or the Operations Committee Secretary, or by any two members of the *Governing Body* who represent different Clubs or any four members of the Board of Trustees.

C) Governing Body

The Management Direction of the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. shall be assigned to the *Governing Body*.

- 1) The *Governing Body* shall consist of the one member from each of the Founding Clubs plus five (5) additional members elected from the membership of the Full Members Clubs by the Full Member Clubs on the Board of Trustees. Only individuals who are members of Full Member Clubs (those Clubs that are not a Founding Member Club) can be elected to these *Governing Body* positions. Those Individuals elected from Full Member Clubs can serve for a period of one year. Full Member Clubs may not have a representative serve on the *Governing Body* for two consecutive years. The two consecutive year prohibition is waived if there are fewer than 8 Full Member Clubs. All representatives from the Founding Club members and representatives elected by the Full Member club members of the *Governing Body* are entitled to one vote each at all *Governing Body* meetings.
- h) All elected members of the *Governing Body* may also be members of the Board of Trustees and are entitled to one vote at all Board of Trustee meetings. However, members of the *Governing Body* cannot represent their club and the *Governing Body* at the Board of Trustees meeting. If any *Governing Body* member is also the representative of his/her club, he/she may vote the vote(s) for his/her club or his/her *Governing Body* vote.
- i) The *Governing Body* shall direct the Operations Committee to form and operate a league (or leagues) to regulate competition between teams of its member Clubs.
- j) The *Governing Body* shall direct the Alliance Committee to form and operate teams in the U 15 and older age groups.
- k) Duties of the *Governing Body*
 - a) The *Governing Body* shall have the responsibility for the Management Direction of the League.
 - b) The *Governing Body* shall evaluate the qualifications of Clubs applying for Full Membership in the League and accepting and/or rejecting membership as permanent or provisional Full Member Clubs.
 - c) The *Governing Body* shall establish the Bylaws of the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc.
 - d) The *Governing Body* shall investigate charges of improper conduct by member Clubs and/or their failure to meet financial obligations to the League. The *Governing Body* will make decisions concerning the results of the investigation.
 - d) The *Governing Body* shall have the authority to change/revoke any action of the Operations Committee.
 - e) The *Governing Body* shall have the authority to set league fees based on the recommendation of the Operations Committee.
 - f) The *Governing Body* shall have the authority to change/revoke any action of the Alliance Committee.
 - g) The *Governing Body* shall elect an individual to the position of the Chairman of the *Governing Body*. Any individual who is interested in promoting youth soccer can be elected to this position. Membership on the *Governing Body* is not a requirement.
 - h) In the event of the absence of the President of the *Governing Body*, the Chairman shall conduct the *Governing Body* meeting.
 - i) The Chairman shall run all Board of Trustee's meetings. The Chairman cannot take a position for and/or against any item of discussion. If the Chairman wishes to take a position, he/she must appoint a temporary replacement and seek speaking rights from the floor.
 - j) The Chairman, upon request of the President of the *Governing Body*, may replace the President either permanently or for individual meetings as an ex-officio member of any CUSL Committee. If the Chairman is replacing the President, he/she has the same attendance, discussion and voting rights on the committee as the President of the *Governing Body*.
- 6) The *Governing Body* may authorize the Operations Committee to sponsor and operate a US Youth Soccer sanctioned League Tournament. In doing so the *Governing Body* shall provide the Operations Committee with instructions concerning the scope of the League's commitments (including financial) for such tournament and guidance as may be applicable.
- 7) The *Governing Body* may authorize such other activities as may be consistent with the objectives of the League and permitted by pertinent regulations of the State of Ohio and the United States Internal Revenue Law for organizations of this type.

D) Officers of the Governing Body

1) Members and Officers

- a) The members and officers of the *Governing Body* shall consist of one member from each Founding Club and the five (5) members elected by the members of the Board of Trustees who are Full Member Clubs.
- b) The *Governing Body* shall elect an individual to the position of the President of the *Governing Body*. Any individual who is interested in promoting youth soccer can be elected to this position. Membership on the *Governing Body* is not a requirement.
- c) The President of the *Governing Body* is entitled to vote on all issues.
- d) The President is elected to a term of a single year. He/she can be re-elected.
- e) An individual cannot serve as President of the *Governing Body* and be a member of the *Governing Body*. Therefore, if an individual who is elected President of the *Governing Body* is already member of the *Governing Body*, he/she must resign as an

elected member of the *Governing Committee* as he/she accepts the position as *President*. In this case, if the representative is from a *Founding Club*, the *Founding Club* shall elect/appoint the replacement to the *Governing Body*. If the representative is from a *Full Member Club*, the *Board of Trustees* will elect a replacement following the requirements of the *Constitution*.

- f) The *Operations Committee Secretary* shall serve as a non-voting member of the *Governing Body*
- g) The *Executive Director* of the *Operations Committee* shall serve as a voting member of the *Governing Body*.
- h) The *Executive Director* reports to the *President* of the *Governing Body*.
- i) In the event that the *President* resigns or dies during his/her term of *Office*, the *Governing Body* will elect a successor for the balance of the term of *Office*.
- j) In the event that a member of the *Governing Body* resigns, dies or is removed during his/her term of office, if a representative from a *Founding Club*, the *Founding Club* shall may elect/appoint a replacement to the *Governing Body*. If member from a *Full Member Club*, the *Board of Trustees* will elect a replacement.
- k) The *Governing Body* may remove a member of the *Governing Body* for cause by a 2/3^{ds} vote.
- l) The *Governing Body* may remove the *President* of the *Governing Body* for cause by a 2/3rds vote.
- m) The *Governing Body* may remove a member of the *Operations Committee* for cause by a majority vote.
- n) A meeting of the *Governing Body* may be called by the *President*, or by any other two voting members of the *Governing Body*. The *President* of the *Governing Body* is responsible for insuring that all elected and/or appointed members of the *Governing Body* and the *Operations Committee* carry out their functions as outlined by the *Constitution*, *Bylaws* and all rules and regulations established by the *Governing Body* and the *Operations Committee* of the *Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc.* The *Governing Body* is required to act if any actions are taken by any member of the *Governing Body* and/or the *Operations Committee* are not consistent with the *Constitution*, *Bylaws* or *Rules and Regulations* of the *League* and they did not respond to the direction of the *President* of the *Governing Body* to correct the incorrect action.

2) Appointed Positions

The *President*, with the concurrence and agreement of the *Governing Body*, shall appoint individuals as members of the *Operations Committee* to handle the day-to-day operations of the *League*. The appointed members of *Operations Committee* may include an *Executive Director*, a *Secretary*, *Treasurer*, *Boys and Girls Director*, *League Coordinator*, a *Referee Coordinator*, *League Registrar* and other positions as needed for operation of *CUSL*. The same or different individuals may serve in these positions for each different playing season. The *Governing Body* may specify addition positions if they are needed for operation of the program and the *President* shall appoint individuals to these created positions with the concurrence and agreement of the *Governing Body*.

E) Operations Committee

Each member of the *Operations Committee* appointed by the *Governing Body* has one vote at each meeting.

- a) The *Operations Committee* will operate the league (or leagues) to regulate play between teams of member Clubs and shall:
 - ___ The name of the league(s).
 - ___ Provide such guidance for the operation of the league or restrictions of a general nature as may be considered necessary.
 - ___ Establish the financial constraints within which the league must operate.
- b) In the event that two or more leagues are created, the *Operations Committee* shall establish:
 - ___ The distinguishing purpose of each league.
 - ___ The basis for team selection in each league following the league bylaws.
 - ___ Guidance for the division of limited resources between the leagues.
 - ___ Establish the playing rules for the league(s).
 - ___ Establish all other *Rules and Regulations* that are necessary for operation of the *League* (except *Bylaws*).
 - ___ Before each season, recommend the team entry fee and league budget.
 - ___ Oversee and insure the proper operation of the leagues
- c) The *Operations Committee* shall make provisions for instructing or training players, coaches and referees affiliated with member Clubs. The *Operations Committee* shall set the priorities, frequency, restrictions, financial limitations, etc. to be observed when conducting or participating in such activities.
- d) The *Operations Committee* shall, acting within the guidance, restrictions and management direction provided by the *Governing Body*, establish or participate in the establishment and operation of instructional clinics, camps, classes or "schools" to be conducted for training players, coaches and referees affiliated with member Clubs. The *Operations Committee* shall take the appropriate steps to insure that such training meets its objectives. If requested, the *Operations Committee* shall assist member Clubs in conducting such training.
- e) When authorized, the *Operations Committee* shall take the necessary steps to sponsor or host a *US Youth Soccer* sanctioned tournament.
- f) The *Operations Committee* shall appoint a *Tournament Committee* for any tournament that *CUSL* operates. The *Operations Committee* shall take steps to insure adequate support for the *Tournament Committee*. After the tournament, the *Operations Committee* shall cause a review of the conduct of the tournament to be made for the purpose of identifying areas for improvement.

g) Within budgetary constraints, the Operations Committee can take steps to create a League library of books, films and other teaching aids to assist the League and its member Clubs.

h) Duties of the Officers

- 1) President - The President, working with the Governing Body, shall have primary responsibility for the Management and Direction of the League. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Governing Body. The President, with the Governing Body's concurrence and agreement, shall appoint the members of the Operations Committee and all other Committees and such additional functions that the League shall create. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all League committees, including the Operations Committee, with the right of attendance, discussion and vote. The President of the Governing Body is empowered and required to correct any action by any member of the Governing Body and/or Operations Committee and/ or any special or standing committee that is not consistent with the Constitution, Bylaws or rules and regulations of the League.
- 2) An outside auditor, not connected to the Board of Trustees, shall be appointed by the President of the Governing Body to review/evaluate/check the financial records maintained by the Treasurer for the first general meeting held in the beginning of the next calendar year.
- 3) The Operations Committee Secretary shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining the League's records. This shall include League membership; certification of Board of Trustees Representatives; correspondence; minutes of all meetings of the League's Board of Trustees, Governing Body and Operations Committee meetings. The Secretary shall serve as a nonvoting member of the Governing Body.
- 4) Treasurer - The Operations Committee Treasurer is a member of the Operations Committee and shall be responsible for overseeing the League's finances. The Treasurer shall be responsible for receiving all payments to the League, including team registration fees and for paying all properly presented bills, including authorized league expenses. The Treasurer shall maintain a record of such receipts and payments and shall render a detailed accounting of the League to the Governing Body, the Operations Committee and the Board of Trustees. The Treasurer is a non-voting member of the Governing Body.
The Operations Committee Treasurer shall provide a financial report for each meeting of the Governing Body. In addition, the Treasurer shall provide a financial report to the Operations Committee no less than twice a year or when requested by the Executive Director.
- 5) The President and/or Treasurer shall approve all invoices against the Association. All checks, that exceed \$250.00 must be signed by two of the following: President, Treasurer, or Executive Director. The President, or Treasurer, or the Executive Director may sign checks in the amount of \$250.00 or less.
- 6) Executive Director of the Operations Committee - shall have primary responsibility for the daily operation of the League and shall insure that the management direction established by the Governing Body is followed. The Executive Director shall preside at all meetings of the Operations Committee. The Executive Director also serves as a voting member of the Governing Body. The Executive Director can make recommendations to the President and the Governing Body's concerning appointments to the Operations Committee and other items that can be beneficial to the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. The Executive Director shall deliver to the Governing Body all recommendation made by the Operations Committee that require Governing Body review and approval. The Executive Director shall be an ex-officio member of all League committees with the right of attendance, discussion and vote. .
- 7) The Executive Director is empowered and required to correct any action by any member of the Operations Committee and/ or any special or standing committee that is not consistent with the Constitution, Bylaws or rules and regulations of the League.
- 8) The Executive Director shall coordinate with each member of the Operations Committee to insure that all functions of the program are successfully implemented and insure that the League is operated consistent with the Constitution, Bylaws and rules and regulations of the League. The Executive Director shall conduct all meetings of the Operations Committee.
- 9) With the Advice and consent of the Operations Committee, the Executive Director may appoint (if needed) an 8 v 8 and/or In Season Tournament Coordinator(s). If appointed each of these positions will receive one vote on the Operations Committee
- 10) The Boys and Girls Directors shall:
 - a) Work with the Referee Coordinator to has all scheduled games covered by appropriately licensed and trained referees.
 - b) Work with the League Coordinator has all teams properly seeded.
 - c) Work with the League Coordinator to insure that records to be maintained of game results and league standings.
 - d) Work with the League Coordinator as all games properly scheduled.
- 11) The League Coordinator shall:
 - a) Establish, with the assistance of the Treasurer, the list of teams registered for league play.
 - b) Establish seeding of teams and the appropriate divisions for competition.
 - c) Prepare the schedule of games.
 - d) Work with member Clubs to assure optimum field utilization
 - e) Work with member Clubs to assure all games played
- 12) The Referee Coordinator shall:
 - a) Have responsibility for all aspects of the League referee program.
 - b) Make provisions for recruitment, training and certification of league referees.
 - c) Confirm the appointment of the Area Referee Coordinators by the member Clubs to handle referee assignments for League games played in their area.
 - d) Facilitate the use of referees outside their home area to insure good coverage of League games.
 - e) Take whatever actions he/she deems necessary to improve the quality of refereeing in the League.
 - f) Establish and operate a Referee Assessors program.

- 13) The Registrar shall have the responsibility for all matters relating to player registration in the League and for the compliance with relevant US Youth Soccer regulations. With the Operations Committee approval, the Registrar shall establish the registration procedures and shall establish their execution. This responsibility shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a) Procuring, issuing and validating US Youth Soccer player passes following the established OSYSA guidelines;
 - b) Certification of player, coach and team registrations;
 - c) Collection of and being the repository for all registration documents, such as, league copies of team rosters, player registration cards and waiver-contract cards; To assist in the performance of these tasks, the Registrar shall, with the approval of the Executive Committee and the OSYSA Registrar's concurrence, appoint Assistant Registrar(s) as necessary.

F) Standing Committees

The Operations Committee shall establish the following standing Committees. The Executive Director with the advice and consent of the Operations Committee shall appoint the Chairmen and members of these Committees. They serve for one year, but may be reappointed. Each member will have one vote at all meetings. The Referee Coordinator is an ex-officio member of each of these Committees.

1) Rules

The Rules Committee shall act as the expert on the League's Constitution and Bylaws and on Parliamentary Procedure.

2) Protest

A Protest Committee shall be appointed for each playing season. The Committee shall consist of five members, no two of whom shall be members of the same club. The committee chairperson shall assign three members to hear each protest, none of who shall be affiliated with the Clubs involved in the protest. The Protest Committee will review all protests filed with CUSL.

f) Conduct

A Conduct Committee shall be appointed for each playing season. The Committee shall consist of five members, no two of whom shall be members of the same club. The committee chairperson shall assign three members to hear each protest, none of who shall be affiliated with the Clubs involved in the protest. The Conduct Committee will review all items of conduct filled with CUSL.

Article VII - League Meetings

The League shall hold semi-annual meetings in June and December of each year at a time and place chosen by the President of the Governing Body. The Operations Committee Secretary shall notify all member Clubs of the time and place at least (30) thirty days in advance of the meeting. Website and/or email notification is acceptable notice. For the December meeting, the Club Registration form shall be forwarded to the member Clubs along with the notice of the meeting. The Clubs will be notified that this form must be submitted before the semi-annual December meeting to maintain membership.

Article VIII - Amendments

A) Initiation

Proposed amendments may be:

- 1) Initiated by the Governing Body.
- 2) Initiated by three or more member Clubs who are members of the Board of Trustees.
- 3) Initiated by one member club and submitted to the Governing Body for their action.

B) Circulation

Any Constitutional amendments proposed by the Governing Body will be sent to all Clubs two weeks prior to the meeting in which they will be voted upon. All proposed Constitutional amendments proposed under A) 2 and 3 above are to be circulated by the Operations Committee Secretary to all member Clubs for comment. Member Clubs shall have 30 days in which to make comments. Comments shall be sent to the League Secretary, who shall forward them to the initiating body. Communications can be by email by the Operations Committee Secretary and by the Member Clubs. At the expiration of the 30-day comment period, the initiating body shall act within 30 days to:

- 1) Submit the proposed amendment for adoption.
- 2) Revise the proposed amendment and then submit it for adoption.
- 3) Table the proposed amendment.

C) Adoption

Once a Constitutional amendment has been approved for submission for adoption under Section B) above or initiated by the Governing Body under A) 1 above, it shall be sent by the Operations Committee League Secretary to all member Clubs 30 days before any meeting of the Board of Trustees. Acceptance or rejection shall be by the roll call. Two-thirds (2/3rds) of the total votes established for the member Clubs shall be required for adoption of all Constitutional amendments. Mail ballots cannot be conducted to amend the Constitution of this League. Clubs representing at least 2/3rds of the votes must be present in order to vote on a constitutional amendment.

Article IX - Appeals

A) All teams, potential teams, member Clubs, potential member Clubs, coaches, players or parents have the right of appeal from any decision reached by their member club, potential club of their League to the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. following these guidelines as outlined. Any decisions of any member club, or potential club of their League to the Cincinnati United Soccer League can be appealed to the League's Governing Body upon written request of any party to the decision. The appeal must be filed in writing within ten (10) days of notification of the decision. No member club, coach, player or parent may invoke the aid of the courts of any State or of the United States without first exhausting the appropriate remedies as outlined by their member club,

the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc., the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc., the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc. For violation of this rule, the offending party shall be subject to the sanctions of suspensions and fines and shall be liable for their member club, the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc., the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc., the United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc. for all expenses incurred by all organizations and its officers in defending the court action or expenses incurred to travel, meet or hold special meetings as required. Attorneys are not permitted to represent any party in any appeal unless the appealing party is an attorney.

- B) If any member (Club or team) files a court action prior to the time that all remedies of appeal have been concluded, the membership of that member club and/or team Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. will be automatically terminated. Once the dispute has been resolved and any expenses owed to US Youth Soccer, and/or Ohio South Youth Soccer and/or Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. have been paid, the Governing Body of Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. may extend the opportunity to the Member Club and/or team to be considered as a member club.
- C) Any disputed decision by a Member Club is subject to appeal to the Governing Body of CUSL.
- D) Any decisions of any member of the Operations Committee or of any Standing or Special Committee appointed by the League can be appealed to the League's Governing Body upon written request of any party to the decision. The appeal must be filed in writing within ten (10) days of notification of the decision by the Operations Committee Member or special or standing Committee of the League. The Governing Body Committee is required to hold a prompt hearing of the appeal.
- E) Any decision reached by the Governing Body may be appealed of any party to the dispute to the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. A written appeal must be submitted within 10 days of the decision of the Governing Body. If an appeal is made to Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc, a bond, in the amount established by OSYSA, must accompany the appeal. Appeals must follow the rules and regulations of the State Association.
- F) Decisions reached on any rules or decisions of the Ohio Youth Soccer Association, Inc. may be appealed to the US Youth Soccer as outlined in their Administrative Rule Book set forth in section 2013.

Article X - Recruitment

Member Clubs and/or teams are not to directly recruit or indirectly players registered with other Clubs/teams or to recruit teams that are members of other Clubs. Member Clubs are not to accept teams for entry into the League that have directly or indirectly recruited players from other teams or Clubs. In the event of direct or indirect recruitment, the Governing Body may fine and/or suspend teams and/or member Clubs from membership in the League or take any other action that it deems appropriate and necessary .

- B) This Article does not prohibit players from contacting other teams or Clubs about playing for that team or club. It prohibits coaches and club officials or other members of the Club or teams from directly and/or personally contacting players on other teams or in other Clubs. Newspaper ads and/or general letters announcing tryout dates for Clubs/teams are not recruiting. Except for general letter or advertising, representatives of Clubs or teams may not directly or indirectly contact players and/or their families while the team for which they are carded and playing still has playing dates within the seasonal year.
- C) Players have the right to attend tryouts of any individual Clubs as long as they were not recruited. If a player elects to attend another Club's tryouts, after the tryouts, they may be directly contacted by the Club or team and be offered a position on the team that they tried out for.
- D) All member Clubs and members of all Clubs are to follow all rules on recruiting of players and/or teams even if the team and/or club for which they are recruiting does not plan to play in the League. Clubs, teams and/or members of a club may be expelled from CUSL for recruiting teams and/or players for teams that will play in another league or program.
- E) All member Clubs, teams and their members are to support the rights of all other member Clubs, teams and members.
- F) Official Representatives of Member Clubs cannot attend team meeting of other Clubs (with parents and/or players) unless all families who have players (boys or girls) that are members of the team are informed for the reason for the meeting and that representatives from another team and/or club will be attendance to discuss team and/or player movement.
- G) Any charges issued concerning recruitment will be heard by the Governing Body. Both direct and circumstantial evidence may be used in reaching decision on all complaints. Any member of the Governing Body who is connected to any of the Clubs and/or teams in question will not be able to be involved in the discussion or resolution of the charge.

Teams that wish to leave one Club to join another member Club must give notice to the President of the Governing Body of the reason for their decision and that their decision has been reached by the team membership. Until such notice is given and approval is granted, teams cannot leave their current club for the new club. Once the notice is given, the President will review the circumstances and report to the Governing Body. The club from which the team is moving will be notified and may submit data concerning the request. The President, with the advice and consent of the Governing Body may grant approval or prohibit the transfer of any team into another member Club of the Cincinnati, United Soccer League, Inc. Such a prohibition must be based on a major impact of the players of the losing club, the transfer rule, and if recruitment has been involved. If approval is granted, the gaining member club can accept the team(s) from other Club(s) into their Club.

Article XI - Resignation

Any member Club can resign their membership in Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. at any time. If the Member Club who resigns is a founding member, their resignation terminates their founding status within the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. No Founding Member Club who resigns can ever regain a founding Club status. For each two (2) founding member Clubs that resign, the additional membership position on the Governing Body for Full Member Clubs will be increased by one. The additional member is to be elected by the members of the Board of Trustees who are Full Member Clubs, following the requirements of this Constitution. The new position is to be elected by the Board of Trustees from a Full Member Club (Club who is not a founding member).

Any Club who resigns can be considered by the Governing Body for the opportunity to submit a request to rejoin the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. Acceptance or rejection of membership will follow the procedures outlined in this constitution

Article XII - League Teams

Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. will establish a League Team program where Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. will conduct tryouts for team(s) in the U 15 and older age groups. It is expected that these teams will play in other programs than the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. who offer more competitive play such as the Buckeye Premier or the National League. However, these teams must play in a US Youth Soccer program. However, once they met the requirement of playing in a US Youth Soccer program, they may elect to play in any other program that is affiliated with US Soccer. In the event of conflicts between the two programs that cannot be resolved, the League Teams must first meet their requirements to the US Youth Soccer program.

The League Teams of the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. are operated by the League and/or as specified by the Governing Body through the establishment of an Alliance Committee. The purpose of these teams is to provide a development opportunity for strong players and to provide the best opportunity for teams from the Southern Ohio area to be successful in US Youth Soccer State, Regional and National competition. The teams will play under the Club name of Cincinnati United Alliance Soccer Club. All team expenses for the team will pay by fees charged to the team members. However, any donations given to the CUSL for the purpose of supporting the League team or team(s) will be utilized to benefit that team or teams. Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc.

All member Clubs in Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. are required to support the League teams by encouraging their best players to tryout for these teams. In addition, they shall not discourage, prohibit, stop or infer with the player opportunity for trying out for these teams and/or acceptance of membership on the team if it is offered. Member Clubs that do not support his concept and/or infer with the players trying out and/or accepting membership will be removed from the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. program based on a 2/3rds vote of the Governing Body. In the event that it is alleged that any Club(s) have taken this action, the Governing Body will review all circumstances were players didn't tryout and/or accept an offer of membership for the League Teams. In this review both direct and circumstantial material and/or evidence may be used in reaching a decision.

All individual in any program are eligible to try out for the League Teams of the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. If the individual is from out of the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc area, he/she must gain approval from his/her US Youth Soccer State Association. Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. will continue to offer leagues in the U15 and older age groups for member Clubs, teams and players in these age groups to provide a playing opportunity for those not selected to become members of the League teams.

The Governing Body can elect to contract with CUP, Inc. to operate the League Team Program for CUSL as long as it follows the general principles outlined in the constitution.

Article XIII - Employment

The Governing Body may employ an Executive Director and/or other functions as needed to administer the day-to-day management and responsibilities of the organization. In addition, the Governing Body can authorize the Alliance Committee to hire independent Contractors to coach any or all of the Alliance Club Teams.

Article XIV - Liability

Members of the Governing Body, the Operations Committee, the Board of Trustees and all other Committee members for CUSL shall not be personally liable for any legal or financial action taken against the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. as long as they have acted in good faith in what is considered the best interest of the Association and are not guilty of negligence, willful or wanton misconduct.

ARTICLE XV - BANK ACCOUNTS

A checking account shall be opened in the name of the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. Funds deposited in it are withdrawn only by checks signed as provided for in the Constitution. Savings accounts, saving certificates, and/or interest bearing instruments, may be authorized by the Governing Body in the name of the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc. Withdrawals from these accounts are to be deposited in the checking account for disbursement. All payments made by the Association are to be made by check.

ARTICLE XVI - OUTSIDE REVIEW

The member Clubs may petition for an outside review of the Leagues financial records by submitting a request signed by sufficient members of the electorate to total 20% of the available votes. The request for the review can specify the names (up to three (3) members of the Association) that will perform the review. The Treasurer must provide the financial records within one (1) week following the first Board of Trustees meeting after the request was received. The review committee must present the results of their audit at the next Board of Trustees meeting. All financial records must be returned within one (1) week after receipt. No cost of the review committee will be paid by CUSL.

ARTICLE XVII - TOURNAMENTS

Due to the fact that Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (OSYSA) only allows OSYSA member Associations and Leagues to request sanctioning for a tournament, Cincinnati United Soccer League (CUSL), upon majority vote of the Governing Body, will request sanctioning for tournaments on the behalf of its Founding or Full member Club(s). However, OSYSA holds it's member league or Association responsible for proper implementation of OSYSA sanctioned tournament. In the event that the Club fails in it's tournament responsibilities, the Club is responsible to CUSL for any financial charges assessed by OSYSA against CUSL for that tournament. If the Club fails to reimburse CUSL within 14 days for these charges, the Club is automatically suspended from CUSL until the financial expenses paid by CUSL on behalf of the Club are reimbursed.

Since CUSL is ultimately responsible for each tournament for which it provides the sanctioning for a member Club(s), CUSL may establish reasonable rules by which it can monitor the activities of each tournament to insure proper organization and operation thereof.

All of the benefits of tournaments that are operated by Clubs that are sanctioned by CUSL belong to Clubs. All member Clubs of CUSL are encouraged to support all of the tournaments operated by member Clubs and/by CUSL. Member Clubs are encouraged to support teams from member Clubs of CUSL that request entry.

ARTICLE XVIII - DISSOLUTION

A three-fourths vote of the votes of the member Clubs and Governing Body is required to dissolve and end this Association. In that event, the assets of this Association will be distributed as required by the State Articles of Incorporation of the Cincinnati United Soccer League, Inc.