

# **CLASSIC LEAGUE BYLAWS**

(As Adopted June 2023)

## **ARTICLE I**

### **AUTHORITY**

The Classic League “Classic League” is sponsored by and is part of Chamber Classic Soccer Alliance, Inc. “Alliance” or “CCSAI”, a Texas non-profit corporation. The Classic League functions as an autonomous part of the CCSAI. The Classic League operates under its own Constitution, Bylaws, and League Rules, subject to the Bylaws of CCSAI, and the Bylaws and rules and regulations of North Texas State Soccer Association “NTSSA” and the United States Soccer Federation “USSF”.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **OPERATION AND GOVERNANCE**

#### **GENERAL**

The Classic League will be governed in accordance with its Constitution. In accordance with the Classic League’s Constitution, the Classic League will be operated by a board of directors, the “Board”, as provided in the Constitution. The Members of the Board, each a “Director”, will include both Voting and Non-Voting Directors appointed or selected in accordance with the Constitution and will include the positions set forth below in **Article III** hereof. The Board will consist of both Executive Committee Members and ex-officio Board Members, as set forth below. To the extent of any conflict between the Constitution and these Bylaws, the Constitution will control.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Except as set forth below under Executive Committee, the Classic League will be governed by the full Board.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this **Article II**, with regard to Executive Committee Matters (as defined below), the Executive Committee may meet to discuss and decide on matters which will bind the Classic League as fully as if such matters had been properly and timely brought before the full Board and approved by a majority of the Directors at a meeting of the full Board at which a quorum was present. Executive Committee Matters will include:

1. Matters which, in the opinion of the Chairman, require action within seventy-two (72) hours or matters which require action with regard to any emergency (as determined by the Chairman);
2. Actions with regard to any matters dealing with employed personnel of the Classic League;
3. General policy decisions that affect the Classic League;
4. Any matter which requires more than the usual amount of confidentiality or sensitivity (as determined by the Chairman); or,
5. Any other decision or matter that the Chairman decides in his/her discretion would be better made by the Executive Committee, as opposed to the full Board.

In addition, at any proposed meeting of the Board which is unable to begin or come to order, or is suspended, terminated, or adjourned on account of a lack of a quorum, the Chairman may, at his/her option, adjourn, terminate, or suspend such meeting of the Board and immediately convene a meeting of the Executive Committee, if a majority of the Executive Committee is present at such time (not counting any Executive Committee position that is currently vacant). A quorum of the Executive Committee is required to transact business at any meeting of the Executive Committee. Any matter undertaken and decided at a meeting of the Executive Committee must be reported in writing to the Board at the next board meeting and any such action is subject to the approval or disapproval of the Board at its next scheduled meeting.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **OFFICERS**

#### **APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Classic League will have Officers, and the various Officers will be appointed by the Chairman from among the Directors chosen by the Chairman for the ensuing year (other than the Chairman of the Club Coaches Committee, who is elected as set forth in the Constitution). All Directors and Officers so appointed will be submitted to the Club Coaches Committee of the Classic League for review and comment.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OTHER BOARD POSITIONS**

The Directors of the Board will consist of two (2) categories: Members of an executive committee "Executive Committee" and other Directors. The Executive Committee will consist of the Directors holding the following offices (all of which are Voting Directors):

1. Chairman
2. Vice Chairman – Financial
3. Vice Chairman - Commissioners
4. Vice Chairman – Rules
5. Vice Chairman – A & D (or A& D Chairman)
6. Vice Chairman – Scholarships
7. Secretary
8. Chairman of the Club Coaches Committee
9. Chairman of the Referee Committee (or Referee Chairman)
10. Executive Director
11. Tournament Director

The other Directors are the individuals holding the following offices (some of which are Voting Directors and some are Non-Voting as indicated below):

Division I Age Division Commissioners (8) (one for each group) (Voting)  
Division II Age Division Commissioners (8) (one for each group) (Voting)  
Division III Age Division Commissioners (8) (one for each group) (Voting)  
Deputy Age Division Commissioners (Non-Voting)  
Referee Assignor (Non-Voting)  
Referee Assessor (Non-Voting)

Provided that no Director shall have more than one (1) vote.

## **CHAIRMAN**

The Classic League Chairman “Chairman” is charged with the overall administration of the Classic League. The Chairman may appoint such committees as deemed necessary to carry out such functions, including a Rules Committee and/or committees to propose amendments to the Constitution and these Bylaws. The Chairman is empowered to take prudent and reasonable actions not covered in these Bylaws, and the Chairman has such authority as is implicit in the office; although all actions are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. The Chairman is responsible for day-to-day operations and coordination between the Age Division Commissioners and the Board. The Chairman is also responsible to oversee the financial operations of the Classic League, with the assistance of the Vice Chairman – Financial. The Chairman is responsible for filling the other board positions set forth below (and any vacancies) by appointment, as set forth in the Constitution. The Chairman may appoint a Vice Chairman to serve in his/her absence, including as chair of any meeting of the Board or the Executive Committee.

## **VICE CHAIRMAN – FINANCIAL**

The Vice Chairman – Financial will assist the Chairman in the accomplishment of his/her duties as required and shall be responsible for the day-to-day operation and supervision of the Classic League budget and all other financial matters, as delegated to this Vice Chairman by the Chairman. At least annually, the Vice Chairman – Financial will chair the budget committee and be responsible for the preparation of a budget to be proposed to the Board for approval. The Vice Chairman – Financial should make monthly financial statements available to the Board and make annual financial statements available to the Club Coaches Committee on a timely basis. The Vice Chairman – Financial has the authority to appoint such committees as deemed necessary to carry out such functions. Annual financial reports will be prepared at the close of the Classic League’s fiscal year and are subject to audit. All checks drawn on any bank account of the Classic League in an amount in excess of \$500.00 must be co-signed by two (2) individuals, both of whom are authorized by the CCSAI Board. All checks in an amount equal to or less than \$500.00 must be signed by one (1) individual who is authorized by the CCSAI Board. No monies may be drawn from any account unless provided for in the Classic League budget approved by the Board; or otherwise approved or ratified by the Board. The Vice Chairman – Financial is empowered to take prudent and reasonable actions not covered by the Bylaws provided such actions do not conflict with the objectives of the Classic League. All actions taken by the Vice Chairman – Financial are subject to the approval of the Chairman and the Board.

## **VICE CHAIRMAN - COMMISSIONERS**

The Vice Chairman - Commissioners will assist the Chairman in the accomplishment of his/her duties. The Vice Chairman - Commissioners is responsible for (a) recruiting and identifying new and replacement Age Division Commissioners; and (b) the day-to-day coordination and supervision of the Age Division Commissioners. The Vice Chairman – Commissioners has the authority to appoint such committees as deemed necessary to carry out such functions.

## **VICE CHAIRMAN – RULES**

The Vice Chairman – Rules shall be responsible for managing the documents that establish the Classic League, specifically the Classic League Playing Rules, Bylaws and Constitution. The Vice Chairman – Rules is responsible for collecting all changes to these documents and present the changes as appropriate to the Classic League Board for approval. Following approval of changes, the Vice Chairman – Rules is responsible for incorporating the changes into the documents and then making the final version available for posting.

## **VICE CHAIRMAN – A&D**

The Vice Chairman – A&D (sometimes referred to as the A&D Director or A&D Chairman) shall be responsible for chairing the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee “A&D Committee”. The Vice Chairman – A&D is responsible for maintaining accurate records of all disciplinary matters for players, other rostered individuals, spectators, and their teams. The Vice Chairman – A&D is also responsible for collecting and reviewing player, coach, and spectator, or other misconduct reports submitted by referees, other Classic League officials, or other interested parties. The A&D Committee is responsible for hearing disciplinary matters or appeals as set forth below in these Bylaws or as set forth in the Classic League Rules.

## **VICE CHAIRMAN - SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Vice Chairman – Scholarships shall be responsible for coordinating the annual Scholarship Committee to determine which Classic League seniors will be awarded the scholarships that the league provides annually. The Vice Chairman will determine the makeup of the committee for this as well as determining the scorecards for use by the committee.

## **SECRETARY**

The Secretary shall be responsible for having a record taken of the minutes of all Board or Executive Committee meetings. The Secretary may appoint, with Board approval, a deputy to assist with the Secretary’s duties.

## **CHAIRMAN OF THE CLUB COACHES COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Club Coaches Committee is elected by the Club Coaches Committee (as set forth in the Constitution) and will act as the liaison between the various Club Coaches in the Classic League and the Board.

## **REFEREE CHAIRMAN**

The Referee Chairman is appointed by the Chairman. The Referee Chairman will act as the liaison between the Classic League and the Referees; and as a liaison between the Classic League, its Referees, and the NTSSA Referees' Committee. The Referee Chairman will be responsible for developing a comprehensive program of continuing education and development of the Classic League Referees and communicating with the Classic League Referees on an as needed basis. The Referee Chairman will also work with the Referee Coordinator, the Referee Assignor, and the A&D Chairman in coordinating their various activities. The Chairman or the Referee Chairman, with the approval of the Board, may in his/her discretion appoint individuals to serve on a Referee Committee to assist in the carrying out of the duties of the Referee Chairman. If the Chairman or the Referee Chairman elects to appoint a Referee Committee, the same must include the Referee Coordinator, the Referee Assignor, and the Vice Chairman – A&D, and such other individuals as may be selected by the Chairman or the Referee Chairman (whether or not they are referees), provided however, such additional Members of the Referee Committee will be subject to the approval of the Board.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Board is authorized to employ the services of an Executive Director, upon such terms and conditions as determined appropriate by the Classic League Board (based on the recommendations of the Executive Committee). Unless otherwise determined by the Board, the primary responsibilities of the Executive Director will include: **(a)** coordinating the day-to-day operations of the Classic League, including the supervision of any Classic League support staff; **(b)** day-to-day monitoring of finances (cash balances, accounts payable, accounts receivable, capital expenditures, and budget compliance); **(c)** coordinating contact with and acting as the Classic League's liaison with NTSSA and other soccer organizations; **(d)** coordinating all Classic League tournaments; **(e)** planning and implementing a comprehensive sponsor program and grant program; **(f)** assisting all other Directors of the Board in connection with their assigned responsibilities for the Classic League; **(g)** team registration; **(h)** maintain historical records; and **(i)** orders trophies, awards, and patches as necessary. The Executive Director may hire office staff with the approval of the Chairman and provided budget is available. The Executive Director may delegate tasks to the office staff as appropriate. The Executive Director is a voting member of the Classic League Board of Directors.

## **TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

The Tournament Director shall serve as the director of all the Classic League tournaments (typically Challenge and Qualifying "QT" tournaments).

## **AGE DIVISION COMMISSIONERS**

For each age division within an age group, there will be an Age Division Commissioner who may have multiple divisions or groups. A Deputy Age Division Commissioner may be assigned to an Age Division Commissioner to assist him or her as defined below. Newly appointed Age Division Commissioner candidates will serve as a Deputy during a mentoring period before becoming a solo Age Division Commissioner with responsibility for an age division. The function of each Age Division Commissioner will include the following:

1. They will be responsible for the organization, operation, and government of their respective age division. All decisions by the Age Division Commissioners regarding disputes and controversies in their age division are final. Procedures to appeal these decisions are listed in Article XI of the Bylaws.
2. They will be responsible for the annual approval of the teams in their age division and will confirm the registration of those teams with the Classic League office staff and the Vice Chairman – Commissioners.
3. They will be responsible for communicating with their teams with important information and confirm that Classic League scores are posted by the teams in a timely manner.
4. They will be responsible for Board Member on Duty (BMOD) shifts during the Fall and Spring seasons. Shifts are determined based on the game schedule for each season. Commissioners will sign up for a minimum number of shifts per season as determined by the Vice Chairman – Commissioners.

The function of each Deputy Age Division Commissioner will be to assist the applicable Age Division Commissioner in any and all of the foregoing. The Deputy Age Division Commissioner will work under the direct supervision of the applicable Age Division Commissioner. While the Deputy Age Division Commissioner may administer, investigate, and make recommendations with regard to the foregoing, the final decision shall be made by the applicable Age Division Commissioner. The position of Deputy Age Division Commissioner will be Non-Voting, except in the case where the corresponding Age Division Commissioner is not able to attend or is otherwise absent from any meeting where a vote will be taken, in which case the Deputy Age Division Commissioner may vote in the place of the absent Age Division Commissioner.

## **REFEREE COORDINATOR**

The Referee Coordinator will also act as the Classic League's liaison between the referees, the Classic League and North Texas State Soccer Association Referees' Committee. The Referee Coordinator is responsible for: **(a)** ensuring progression in referee upgrades; **(b)** developing a program for assessing and evaluating referees in the Classic League and communicating recommendations to and working closely with the Referee Assigner; **(c)** assisting in the development of a comprehensive program of continuing education and development of the Classic League referees; and **(d)** communicating with the Classic League referees on an as needed basis. If a Referee Committee is appointed, the Referee Coordinator will be a Member of that Committee. The Referee Coordinator will also work with the A&D Chairman (and the Referee Committee, if applicable) in connection with the coordination of referee reports of various misconduct issues. Any conflicts between the Referee Assigner and the Referee Coordinator will be decided by the Referee Chairman, time permitting. When time does not permit, the Referee Assigner's decision will stand.

## **REFEREE ASSIGNOR**

The Referee Assignor is responsible for making all referee assignments and will be paid for their duties. The Referee Assignor will coordinate all assignments with the Executive Director, Referee Coordinator, the Referee Chairman, and the League Scheduler. If a Referee Committee is appointed the Referee Assignor will serve on such committee. The Referee Assignor is responsible for assisting the Referee Chairman and Referee Coordinator in their implementation of the Classic League referee program. The Referee Assignor will be responsible for regularly reporting to the Classic League Board on an as-needed basis or as requested by the Classic League Board, including the submission of a Classic League Referee contact list at least once a year; this report will include the name, address, phone number and e-mail address, to the extent available, of each individual having been a referee or assistant referee in any Classic League game in the previous twelve months.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **TEAM SELECTION**

Teams admitted to the Classic League will be those which represent the highest level of soccer skills. By the same token, the Classic League demands the highest standards of behavior and sportsmanship from its participants, including coaches, players, and all spectators.

It is the desire of the Classic League that teams be selected primarily based upon their soccer competitiveness, as demonstrated on the field of play (provided, however, because the Classic League is an invitational league, qualification, and continued participation in the Classic League is subject to the discretion of the Board of Directors and the Club Coaches Committee, as provided in the Constitution and below in these Bylaws). All teams and rosters are subject to the approval of the Classic League.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **REGISTRATION**

All teams must be Members in good standing of their home associations and must have the permission of their home associations to participate in the Classic League. All teams must follow the proper registration procedures of NTSSA. Teams must register with and pay state fees through their home association. All teams must register on the approved roster form as provided by NTSSA, together with such other forms as are required by NTSSA, CCSAI, or the Classic League. All teams must provide the necessary release forms and disclaimers as required by CCSAI, Classic League, NTSSA, and USYSA. All paperwork, fees, and signatures must be timely and properly submitted as required by the Classic League and/or NTSSA.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **TEAM ROSTERS**

The information contained on each team's roster and other registration documentation becomes the property of the Classic League upon registration of the team, and may be subject to publication, distribution, or being seen by any person or entity with the consent of the Board, including materials promoting the Classic League and its tournaments.

### **ROSTER CHANGES**

Roster changes shall be made through the team's home association. All teams shall provide the Classic League, through its office, with an updated copy of the NTSSA roster executed by their appropriate home association registrar.

The appropriate paperwork must be signed and dated by the home association and coach of the team, which must then be properly submitted to the Classic League, through its office, for registration purposes. Delivery of paperwork to Age Division Commissioners does not constitute compliance with this rule. See the Classic League Rules for more information.

For teams registering through CCSAI, the CCSAI Registrar is the home association registrar. All fees and signatures required by CCSAI, the Classic League, and NTSSA must be included.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **A&D COMMITTEE**

1. The Classic League A&D Committee will consist of at least two (2) Members (usually the Vice Chairman – A&D and one (1) or two (2) additional persons who will be appointed by and directed by the Vice Chairman – A&D). In the event of a conflict of interest, the Members of the A&D Committee will be appointed by the Chairman of the Classic League. A&D hearings and appeals thereof are administrative actions, and the rules of law, the rules of evidence, and rules of court, etc. do not apply. Without the approval of the Vice Chairman – A&D, no recordings may be made or taken of any such A&D hearings or appeals thereof. All A&D hearings and appeals must be undertaken in accordance with NTSSA rules and regulations.
2. The A&D Committee may (in its discretion) hold hearings on:
  - a. Any coach, other team representative, or spectator officially sent off, dismissed, or expelled; or any inappropriate behavior by any of the foregoing; or any inappropriate behavior of any person.
  - b. Any player send-off or for violation of any card accumulation rules and other matters deemed by the Committee, or required by the Classic League Rules, to require a hearing, including (i) violation of any provision of the Classic League Rules, these Bylaws, the Constitution, or any rules or procedures of NTSSA or USYSA or any rules or requirements with regard to tournaments sponsored or held





determine the facts as necessary in order to decide the protest or appeal. It is the A&D Chairman's responsibility to notify all parties in the appeal of the A&D Committee's decision. The forty-eight (48) hour time limit for appeals begins when such notification is received. If the protest or appeal is upheld by the A&D Committee, the fee will be returned.

- b. Protest of a Game:** Game Protests are to be filed with the applicable Age Division Commissioner as set forth below. There are only two (2) acceptable causes for the protesting of a game after it has been played. They are:
    - i.** A team plays an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player. If a Game Protest is upheld, the game may be forfeited by the team playing such a player, and the appeal fee will be refunded.
    - ii.** There has been an obvious error made in the application of the Laws of the Game that directly affects the outcome of the game, and the referee admits it in writing. If a Game Protest is upheld, the game will be replayed, and the appeal fee will be refunded.
- 2. Protest Procedures and Time Limits:** Game Protests must: **(i)** be in writing; **(ii)** be signed by two (2) of **(A)** rostered coach or coaches, **(B)** game day coach, **(C)** Manager, or **(D)** Club representative; **(iii)** be specific as to the basis for the protest; **(iv)** be forwarded to the proper Age Division Commissioner with a copy to the Classic League Secretary; **(v)** be postmarked or received by the Commissioner within forty-eight (48) hours of the posted start time of the game being protested; and **(vi)** be accompanied by cash or a team/club check for \$500.00 (no personal checks), made payable to "Classic League". After prompt and due consideration, the applicable Age Division Commissioner shall rule upon the game protest. The Age Division Commissioner must notify all parties of his/her decision in writing. Appeals of the Age Division Commissioner decision may be made in accordance with **Section 1.a.** of this **Article VIII.**

### **3. Further Avenue of Appeals:**

- a.** Should any party wish to appeal any A&D Committee decision, they may appeal to the Board in writing (addressed to the Chairman), postmarked or received within forty-eight (48) hours of the receipt of the A&D Committee's decision, accompanied with a cashier's check or money order for \$500.00 (no personal checks), made payable to "Classic League", with a copy to the Classic League Secretary. At any such appeal to the Board, in lieu of such appeal being heard by the full Board, the Chairman may, in his/her discretion, appoint a panel of no fewer than three (3) Members of the Board to hear such appeal.
- b.** In any appeal of any matter to the Board, a majority of those Voting Members of the Board present at such appeal may suspend the quorum requirements for purposes of such appeal, provided at least five (5) Voting Members of the Board are present and intending to vote with regard to such appeal.
- c.** Any decision of the A&D Committee which overturns or waives an existing Classic League Rule will be automatically referred (without fee) to the Classic League Board of Directors for confirmation, and the effectiveness of the A&D Committee's ruling will be contingent on review and confirmation by the Board of Directors. If neither the Classic League Chairman nor any Vice Chairman takes any affirmative

action within seventy-two (72) hours of being notified of the A&D decision, the decision of the A&D Committee will be considered to have been confirmed.

- d. Appeal of any Board decision (other than a Board decision with regard to any appeal of an earlier decision made by the A&D Committee) may be made in accordance with the provisions of **Section 1.a.** of this **Article VIII**. Appeal of any Board decision with regard to any appeal of any earlier decision made by the A&D Committee may be made in writing to North Texas State Soccer Association in accordance with the procedures adopted by NTSSA. In no event shall any person or persons or organizations under the jurisdiction of the Classic League resort to the courts until all appeal procedures have been exhausted. For violation of this rule, the offending party shall be immediately prohibited from participating in any capacity in the Classic League, CCSAI, NTSSA, and USYSA, and shall be liable for all expenses incurred by the Classic League and/or the CCSAI and its Officers and Members in defending each court action, including, but not limited to, court costs, attorney fees, reasonable compensation for time spent by Classic League and/or CCSAI Officers and Members in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances, travel expense, and expenses for holding special meetings necessitated by the court action. In addition to the above references, the Classic League adopts the policy that it is allowed to take full advantage of rights permitted to it by the laws of the State of Texas for not-for-profit organizations.
4. Any person who threatens to or files a lawsuit on their own behalf or on behalf of another person against CCSAI, Classic League, NTSSA, any of their affiliates, or the employees, officers, directors, or representatives of any of the foregoing shall be prohibited from serving and shall not serve in any official capacity with or for CCSAI, Classic League, or any of the teams playing in the Classic League or registering with CCSAI, so long as such adverse lawsuit is pending or threatened. As long as the adverse lawsuit is pending or threatened, a team registering with CCSAI or participating in the Classic League shall not permit a person asserting or threatening the adverse lawsuit to hold any official capacity with their team, and such team will not be permitted to continue participating in the Classic League so long as the person threatening or asserting the adverse lawsuit holds any official position with such team. Official capacity includes, but is not limited to, director, officer, coach, assistant coach, manager, assistant manager, referee, linesperson, designated representative, etc., but does not include one who participates as a player.

In accordance with NTSSA rules and regulations, it is the intention of the Classic League to provide equitable and prompt hearing and appeal procedures and to guarantee the rights of individuals to participate and compete and ensure due process to the accused.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **EXPULSIONS AND SUSPENSIONS**

At any meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present, any team, coach, other team representative, player, spectator, or other Member of the Classic League may (a) be expelled; (b) have his or her or its membership forfeited; (c) be specifically not invited back to participate; or (d) be prohibited from participating in any League play or other activities, upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the attending voting Directors of the Board. In addition, the A&D Committee may take appropriate disciplinary actions (including suspensions) against the same persons as set forth above or as provided in the Classic League Rules, provided any suspension of more than (ten) 10 games will be automatically appealed to the Board at its next regularly scheduled board meeting or at a specially called board meeting for such purpose. Any such action to be effective requires ratification by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the attending voting Directors at such meeting (although the suspension or other action will be effective pending such appeal).

## **ARTICLE X**

### **CODE OF ETHICS/CONDUCT**

The Classic League hereby specifically adopts and ratifies the Code of Ethics/Conduct contained in the NTSSA Administrative Rule Book, including, but not limited to provisions thereof applicable to coaches, managers, and other team representatives, parents, referees, and League administrators. Any alleged violation thereof will be referred to the A&D Committee for investigation, hearings, and possible sanctions.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **PLAYING AND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

The Board, in its discretion, may adopt such additional playing or administrative rules as it deems necessary, including with regard to team information, registration, qualification for the Classic League, rules and procedures of any qualification games or procedure, structure of each age division, playing rules (including modification of FIFA laws of the game, as applicable to the Classic League), scheduling, reschedules, and make-ups, maintaining standings, tie-breaker rules, rules with regard to any of the Classic League's soccer complexes, any fund raising activities, field and other League volunteers, etc. See the Classic League Rules for more information.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended by the Board of Directors of the Classic League at any regular or special meeting, provided at least ten (10) days' notice of the proposed amendment(s), briefly indicating its nature, has been delivered in writing to each Member of the Board and provided that the amendment(s) be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board Members present at such meeting.