

TORSO Constitution & Bylaws



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Constitution

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Thirty and Over Recreational Soccer Organization, hereinafter referred to as TORSO.

Article II. Affiliations

TORSO shall be affiliated with and recognize the authority of the Texas State Soccer Association-South (TSSAS), the United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA), the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), and the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).

Article III. Purpose

The purpose of TORSO shall be to provide men and women, regardless of race, creed, color or disability, with the opportunity to learn, play, and enjoy the game of soccer played in a **RECREATIONAL** oriented soccer league.

Article IV. Basic Policies

Section 1. The name of the organization or the name of any elected or appointed officers of the organization in their official capacities shall not be used for any purpose not appropriately related to promotion of the purpose of the organization.

Section 2. TORSO shall be a voluntary, nonprofit, nonpolitical and nonsectarian organization.

Article V. Code of Conduct

Section 1. The TORSO player and team **Code of Conduct** shall be as follows:

- a) Understand and obey the laws of the game.
- b) Regard the laws of soccer as mutual agreements - the spirit or the letter of which no one should try to evade or break.
- c) Accept decisions of the officials without dissent.
- d) Play the game fairly and honestly.
- e) Show respect for opponents and officials.
- f) Exercise discipline in controlling one's temper and language.
- g) Remember the Purpose of TORSO as set forth in Article III.

Section 2. Fighting, threatening behavior, abusive actions, profanity, pushing, and striking are offenses that cannot and will not be tolerated by TORSO, whether they occur before, during, or after the game.

Article VI. Headquarters and Mailing Address

Section 1. The headquarters shall be located at the home of the TORSO President.

Section 2. The mailing address is the address of the current President.

Article VII. Boundaries

The boundaries of TORSO shall be the area generally considered Houston and the surrounding areas. This Article VII is not intended to grant exclusive jurisdiction to thirty and over coed soccer within said boundaries.

Article VIII. Jurisdiction

TORSO shall have jurisdiction over all member teams, players, officials and referees affiliated with TORSO. Each member team and player shall adhere to the Constitution and BYlaws of TORSO and will comply with its authority.

Article IX. Membership

Section 1. Any properly constituted team, as defined by the Bylaws, having an interest in the purpose of TORSO and that is within the boundaries of TORSO shall be eligible to apply for membership.

Section 2. Acceptance of the membership application is contingent upon the team meeting all the requirements for membership as set forth in the Bylaws and that TORSO finds that such membership would be in the best interests of soccer.

Section 3. Team Membership is the only membership class in TORSO. All individual players shall be considered members of TORSO only so long as they are registered with a member team.

Article X. Administration

Section 1. TORSO shall be governed by its members. The governing body shall consist of the TORSO Executive Board and one official representative from each member team in good standing. Board members shall not vote during league meetings. Each member team in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote. A list of the official team representatives shall be retained by the Secretary of TORSO, and only the

listed representative or their official TORSO proxy will be entitled to cast votes for his/her team.

Section 2. TORSO business affairs shall be managed and conducted by the Executive Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which may exercise all powers of the organization and perform all lawful acts which are not in violation of this Constitution or the Bylaws.

Article XI. Executive Board

Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of the following ten (10) officers, with duties as set forth in the Bylaws: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Senior Commissioner, Game Scheduler, Referee Coordinator, Disciplinary & Protest Committee Chairman, Member-At-Large No. 1, and Member-At-Large No. 2.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected by ballot by the team representatives to serve for a two-year term or until their successors are elected, as set forth in the Bylaws. Their term of office shall begin at the close of the Annual Meeting at which they are elected.

Section 3. Elections shall be held during the Annual Meeting, except in the case of electing a permanent replacement to fill a vacancy, as set forth in the Bylaws.

Section 4. A person may hold only one elected office at a time. A person may not be both an Officer and a team representative.

Section 5. An Executive Board Officer may be removed, without cause, at any time from office.

- a) The Board, by a two-thirds vote of all Board members, may initiate the removal process of an Officer.
- b) The Team Representatives, by sending a written petition signed by at least 25% of the team representatives in good standing to the Executive Board at the TORSO mailing address, may initiate the removal process of an Officer.
- c) A special league meeting will be called to allow the Officer subject to removal an opportunity to speak in his/her behalf. Team representatives will be notified, in writing, 14 days in advance of the special league meeting. If a majority of the team representatives present so vote, the officer in question shall immediately be removed from office and replaced by an interim replacement as per Article XI, Section 6.

Section 6. Upon the resignation or removal of an Officer, the following procedures shall be enforced to fill the vacancy.

- a) If the President resigns or is removed from office, the Senior Commissioner, in addition to the duties of that office, shall take over the duties of the Presidency

- for no more than a two month interim, during which time the team representatives shall elect a permanent replacement to complete the term of office.
- b) If an Officer other than the President resigns or is removed from office, the President shall appoint, with the approval of the Board, a member to serve for no more than a two-month interim, during which time the team representatives shall elect a permanent replacement to complete the term of office.

Article XII. Committees

TORSO shall have the following six (6) standing committees, with duties as set forth in the Bylaws:

1. Amendments
2. Bracketing
3. Disciplinary & Protest
4. Nominations/Election
5. Publicity
6. Tournaments

Article XIII. Meetings

There shall be three broad classes of meetings in TORSO: League, Board, and Annual.

Section 1. League meetings involve both the Executive Board and the Team Representatives:

- a) There will be at least three regular meetings per playing season requiring a quorum of team representatives for all matters of voting.
- b) Special meetings may be called by the President, five (5) Board members, or by a written petition signed by at least 25% of the team representatives.
- c) A majority of the team representatives must be present in order to conduct league business.

Section 2. Board meetings involve only the Executive Board:

- a) Regular meetings will be held once a month during the TORSO playing year.
- b) Special meetings may be called by the President or by five (5) Board members.
- c) Five (5) Board members must be present in order to conduct league business.

Section 3. the Annual Meeting is a league meeting at which the regular elections for Officers is held and amendments to the Constitution are voted upon. Normally held prior to the third week in January. A quorum of team representatives is necessary for all matters of voting.

Article XIV. Amendments

Section 1. This **Constitution** may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members in good standing present at the Annual Meeting, provided all the voting parties have been given fifteen (15) days prior written notice of the meeting and a written copy of the proposed amendments. Amendments receiving approval shall not become effective until commencement of the following playing season. Any proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Amendment Committee in writing, at least thirty (30) days before the meeting at which they are to be acted upon.

Section 2. The **Bylaws** may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members in good standing present at a regular league meeting or at a special league meeting called for that purpose, provided all the voting parties have been given ten (10) days prior written notice of the meeting and a written copy of the proposed amendments. Amendments receiving approval during a playing season shall not become effective until commencement of the following playing season. Any proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Amendment Committee in writing, at least thirty (30) days before the meeting at which they are to be acted upon.

Article XV. Dissolution

Section 1. This organization may be dissolved by a three-fourths vote of the voting members in good standing present at a regular league meeting or a special league meeting called for this purpose, provided that thirty (30) days notice shall precede such league meeting by a mailing (certified mail) to all officers and members. Upon affirmative vote to dissolve, proper action shall be taken by the Board to wind up the affairs of the organization.

Section 2. Upon dissolution, all of the organization's net assets shall be distributed to bona fide non-profit organizations as directed by the Board. No part of such funds shall inure, or be distributed, to the members of TORSO.

Article XVI. Enactment

Section 1. This Constitution submitted herewith, having been ratified by the members present and voting at the Annual League meeting of December 12, 1985, became effective on that date.

Section 2. The constitution is amended through January, 1994 and is current as of that date.

Bylaws

Article I. Function

The function of these Bylaws is to coordinate and govern the members and activities of TORSO.

Article II. Duties Of The Executive Board

Section 1. The Board shall have the power to interpret and enforce the Constitution, Bylaws, rules, regulations and policies of TORSO and all applicable rules and regulations of the Associations with which TORSO is affiliated.

Section 2. Review forfeitures for cause and to determine if the fine per Article X should be imposed.

Section 3. The Board may, by a two-thirds vote of all officers, recommend to the TORSO voting members that a team's or player's membership be revoked where its activities are not in accordance with TORSO's purpose as set forth in the Constitution.

Section 4. The Board shall have the power to incur pecuniary liabilities as stated in Article VIII.

Section 5. Review complaints of a "general" nature regarding individual players or teams.

Section 6. Approve all written contracts of the League.

Article III. Duties Of The Officers

The President, Secretary, Registrar, Referee Coordinator, and Member-At-Large No. 1 shall be elected in even years. The Treasurer, Senior Commissioner, Game Scheduler, Disciplinary & Protest Committee Chairman, and Member-At-Large No. 2 shall be elected in odd years.

Section 1. President

The President subject to the Executive Board, shall be in general charge of the affairs of TORSO in the ordinary course of its business. In addition, the President shall:

- 1) Direct the general operations of TORSO.
- 2) Have general supervision over the other officers.
- 3) Oversee that TORSO is directed in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws.

- 4) Preside at all Executive Board and League meetings.
- 5) Represent TORSO at all community and public functions.
- 6) Represent TORSO at TSSAS Presidents' Council meetings.
- 7) Appoint, with the approval of the Board, an interim replacement to fill a vacancy on the Board (as per TORSO Constitution - Article XI).
- 8) Appoint members and chairpersons to all standing (except D&P) and special committees.
- 9) Serve as an ex officio voting member of all committees (except Nominations/Election).
- 10) Prepare an annual written report summarizing TORSO activities for the past year and present the report to the members at the Annual Meeting.
- 11) Call special Board or League Meetings.
- 12) Co-sign checks with the Treasurer as set forth in Article VIII.
- 13) Serve as Chairman of the Executive Board of TORSO and call its meetings.

Section 2. Secretary

The Secretary shall:

- 1) Prepare and disseminate correspondence as requested and approved by the Executive Board.
- 2) Record minutes of all Board and League meetings.
- 3) Provide written copy of previous meeting minutes at next meeting for approval
- 4) Maintain the official records of TORSO, which shall include but not be limited to:
 - a) minutes of meetings
 - b) committee reports
 - c) financial reports
 - d) updated list of TORSO team and player members, Team Representatives, and coach (or second contact)
 - e) contracts
 - f) correspondence
 - g) D&P Committee results
- 5) Give notice of all Board and League meetings, including the agenda of special meetings as required.
- 6) Act as liaison between the Publicity Committee and the Board.
- 7) Serve on the Executive Board of TORSO.
- 8) Serve as expert on the TORSO Constitution and Bylaws to the Team Representatives.
- 9) Distribute copies of the TORSO Constitution and Bylaws to the Team Representatives.
- 10) Send TORSO Misconduct Reports to TSSAS on a monthly basis.

Section 3. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall maintain accurate TORSO financial records. In addition, the Treasurer shall:

- 1) Arrange for and keep a detailed record of income and expenditures.
- 2) Have custody of all monies and securities and deposit all such funds in the TORSO account at the financial institution designated by the Executive Board.
- 3) Sign all checks and orders to withdraw funds in accordance with Article VIII.
- 4) Assist Executive Board and Committees in preparation of their annual and playing season budgets.
- 5) Prepare and present to the Board and Team Representatives the proposed annual and playing season operating budgets for approval.
- 6) Submit TORSO financial books and records for the in-house reviews as required in Article VIII.
- 7) Present a written report of TORSO's current financial condition at all regular Board and League meetings.
- 8) Send flowers etc. to team player or family member injured at a TORSO function.
- 9) Serve on the Executive Board of TORSO.
- 10) Send team fines collected to TSSAS as required.

Section 4. Registrar

The Registrar shall:

- 1) Supervise the registration of all players in accordance with TSSAS standards and TORSO requirements. Responsible for processing, checking, and forwarding to the State Registrar all player registrations. Responsible for conducting TORSO registration in accordance with all applicable USSF and State regulations on behalf of the State Association.
- 2) Maintain the records for each player including registration data, player continued eligibility, etc.
- 3) Assist the Secretary in maintaining up-to-date membership records, including business phone numbers of all members.
- 4) Serve on the Executive Board of TORSO.
- 5) Act as liaison between the Bracketing Committee and the Board.
- 6) Maintain and provide all forms required for registration.
- 7) Collect membership dues. Advise Treasurer of any outstanding monies owed. Keep accurate records on income and report such to Treasurer on a regular basis.
- 8) Maintain Group Standings (act as scorekeeper) current on a weekly basis and make available to each Team Representative.
- 9) Provide TORSO patches as requested by Team Representatives at the current price.

Section 5. Senior Commissioner

The Senior Commissioner shall:

- 1) Act as liaison between TORSO and USSF/TSSAS and provide the President with written reports of all business pertinent to coed soccer conducted at meetings with USSF/TSSAS.

- 2) Perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President in his/her absence or incapacity.
- 3) Perform any additional duties as may be designated by the President or the Board.
- 4) In addition to his normal duties, serve as interim President if the president resigns or is removed from office.
- 5) Serve as Parliamentarian at all meetings.
- 6) Serve on the Executive Board of TORSO.
- 7) Advise and assist teams wishing to travel out of the South Texas boundaries for tournament play.
- 8) Act as liaison between the Amendments Committee and the Board.
- 9) Distribute FIFA "Laws of the Game" books to Team Representatives.
- 10) Work with the State Senior Commissioner in the organization and administration of the South Texas Cup.

Section 6. Game Scheduler

The Game Scheduler shall:

- 1) Be responsible for the initial scheduling of all games and maintaining the record thereof.
- 2) Assist the teams involved in rescheduling games.
- 3) Act as liaison between the Tournament Committee and the Board.
- 4) Coordinate activities with Referee Coordinator.
- 5) Serve on the Executive Board of TORSO.
- 6) Endeavor to schedule equal number of home and away games for all teams.
- 7) Provide game schedule to Referee Coordinator and Team Representatives as early as possible in each playing season.
- 8) Be responsible for cancelling games.
- 9) Obtain and distribute maps showing field locations, location and telephone number of nearby hospitals, emergency clinics, fire departments, etc.
- 10) Develop system for having all playing fields inspected during inclement weather on Sunday mornings so that teams can be notified, in advance, of cancellations by the league.
- 11) Investigate the possibility of TORSO obtaining its own field facilities. Responsible for supervising the maintenance of any TORSO fields.

Section 7. Referee Coordinator

The Referee Coordinator shall:

- 1) Be responsible for the scheduling of Game Officials to officiate at all TORSO games in coordination with the Game Scheduler.
- 2) Act as a non-voting spokesman for the referees at D&P Committee hearings.
- 3) Compile and assimilate Referee Evaluation sheets.

- 4) Organize and inform the Referees about the TORSO Exceptions to the FIFA Laws. Hold orientation and review sessions for explaining and discussing problems.
- 5) Serve on the Executive Board of TORSO.

Section 8. Disciplinary & Protest Committee Chairman

The Disciplinary & Protest Committee Chairman shall:

- 1) Chair the Disciplinary & Protest Committee.
- 2) Assemble and call the Committee as needed to hear all complaints and protests in accordance with Article IX.
- 3) Serve on the Executive Board of TORSO.

Section 9. Member-At-Large No. 1

The Member-At-Large No. 1 shall:

- 1) Perform duties as needed to support the other officers of the Executive Board.
- 2) Act as liaison between the Nominating Committee and the Board.
- 3) Serve on the Executive Board of TORSO.

Section 10. Member-At-Large No. 2

The Member-At-Large No. 2 shall:

- 1) Perform duties as needed to support the other officers of the Executive Board.
- 2) Serve on the Executive Board of TORSO.

Article IV. Duties Of The Committees

Section 1. Amendments Committee

- 1) This is a standing committee as set forth in the Constitution.

Section 2. Bracketing Committee

- 1) This is a standing committee as set forth in the Constitution.
- 2) Overall purpose is to equalize team competition within each Group.

Section 3. Disciplinary & Protest Committee

- 1) This is a standing committee as set forth in the Constitution.
- 2) This committee shall be the first step used by a member team or player in resolving all protest and appeals as set forth in Article IX.
- 3) Hear disputes and questions of discipline among the members and make recommendations regarding these matters to the Board.
- 4) Ensure that all activities within TORSO are conducted in keeping with the Purpose and Code of Conduct as set forth in the Constitution.

- 5) The D&P Committee will review for fairness, equity and consistency all disciplinary cases involving an individual (except first time individual suspension as a result of an ejection during game play) or team suspension.

Section 4. Nominations/elections Committee

- 1) This is a standing committee as set forth in the Constitution.
- 2) Call for and receive nominations for the Officers of the Executive Board in accordance with the Constitution.
- 3) Prepare ballots and tabulate results of the election of Board members.
- 4) Verify eligibility and good standing of member nominated to hold office in TORSO.

Section 5. Publicity Committee

- 1) This is a standing committee as set forth in the Constitution.
- 2) Submit committee budget requirements for the year to the Treasurer.
- 3) Publish regularly, preferably once a month, a newsletter (Bull Sheet) to be sent to all TORSO Team Representatives to keep them fully informed of activities.
- 4) Obtain coverage and publicity for activities of the League.
- 5) Assist other Committees in obtaining coverage and publicity for special events.

Section 6. Tournaments Committee

- 1) This is a standing committee as set forth in the Constitution.
- 2) TORSO encourages participation in all coed over 30 soccer tournaments. Contact the TORSO Senior Commissioner for necessary travel forms if the tournament is out of the South Texas boundaries.
- 3) Organize, supervise and recommend to the Executive Board special events.

Section 7. Special Committees

- 1) Special Committees shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Board, as required. These committees shall meet at the earliest possible date after appointment, analyze their special assignment, and report promptly in accordance with the instructions of the President.

Article V. Membership - Eligibility And Responsibility

Section 1. Player Eligibility

A player is eligible to register and play in the over thirty divisions, if he/she attains the age of thirty (30) during the playing season as defined in Article XI. A player is eligible to register and play in the open divisions if he/she attains the age of nineteen (19) during the playing season as defined in Article XI. No open division player will be allowed to participate in the over 30 division.

Section 2. Maximum Number Of Registered Players

The maximum number of registered players allowed per team roster shall be twenty-five (25) and the minimum number required for team eligibility shall be eleven (11). At least five (5) of these eleven players shall be women.

Section 3. Player Registering On One Team

A player can only be registered on one TORSO team at a time. A player transferring from one TORSO team to another must obtain a release from the team with which he/she is currently or was last registered.

Section 4. Suspended Player

A player suspended by any league is not eligible to play in TORSO until that player's rights are reinstated in that league.

Section 5. Length Of Player Registration

Regardless of when a player is registered, his/her USSF registration is valid through the end of the current fiscal year as defined in Article VIII, Section 3.

Section 6. Team Registration Requirements

All teams registering for membership must each playing season:

- 1) Submit, in writing, the team name, team colors, and the current (update as required) name, address, home and business phone numbers of the designated Team Representative and team coach. If the Team Representative and coach are the same person another person shall be listed as a second contact.
- 2) Submit maps for their regulation-sized home playing field showing: general geographical area; specific field location; parking locations with any off-limits areas marked; nearby emergency medical facilities with phone numbers listed; and nearby public telephones. It should also be noted whether alcoholic beverages are permitted at this field location. The filed map will include the field playing size dimensions.
- 3) Submit completed forms and documents as required for TORSO registration.
- 4) Submit registration fees as required for registration.

Section 7. Teams Following Rules

All teams must agree to abide by the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of Competition of TORSO.

Section 8. Home Team Responsibilities

Each home Team Representative shall be responsible for supplying the game report and performing the following:

- 1) Prepare a game roster of all his/her registered players on the official game report form. Indicate ineligible and non-participating players as such on the form. Give

the form to the visiting Team Representative a minimum of 20 minutes prior to the game start time so that he/she can properly list (a separate listing taped to the form provided by the home team is acceptable) all his/her players as stated above. Give the completed form to the referee at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the game.

- 2) Provide the referee with the Referee Game Voucher.
- 3) Initial the game sheet at the completion of the game, attesting to the score of the other team.
- 4) Verify that the referee and linesmen have written their names and address on the game sheet and referee game voucher.
- 5) Mail a Referee Evaluation Sheet after each game.
- 6) Furnish goal nets (2), corner flags (4) and game balls.
- 7) Mail the completed game report to the League Registrar within 48 hours of the completion of the game. If the game report sheet is not received with twelve (12) days of the date of the game, a forfeit (with stipulated forfeit fine) instead of a win (or a tie) will be declared.

Section 9. Visiting Team Responsibilities

The visiting Team Representative shall:

- 1) Upon receipt of the game report form from the home team, list (a separate listing taped to the form provided by the home team is acceptable) all his/her players as stated above and return the completed form to the home Team Representative.
- 2) Mail a Referee Evaluation Sheet after each game.
- 3) Initial the game sheet at the completion of the game, attesting to the score of the game.

Article VI. Duties Of The Team Representatives

Section 1. Responsible for the registration of team players by the date selected by the League.

Section 2. Responsible for notifying their team of the date, hour, location and opposing team's name for each game.

Section 3. Responsible for ensuring that team members are familiar with and abide by the TORSO Rules of Competition and the FIFA Laws of the Game. Each Team Representative is responsible for ensuring that all rules of competition are complied with by his/her players and spectators and for the conduct and courtesy of his players and spectators.

Section 4. Responsible for maintaining order and respect for the authority of the referee and linesmen during games.

Section 5. Responsible for communicating the business conducted at league meetings to his/her team members.

Section 6. Responsible to provide current laminated TORSO identification cards for each player at each game to present to the referee for review. Failure to provide the cards at the request of the referee or playing of a player without a proper card shall result in the forfeiture of the game.

Section 7. Each team must be represented at each League Meeting. Teams not represented will be assessed a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) fine after a second meeting is missed during a single playing season. Payment of this fine must be received by the Treasurer within fourteen (14) days of the second missed meeting in order for the team to satisfy a TORSO team eligibility requirement.

Article VII. Meetings

Section 1. Order of Business

The order of business for all regularly scheduled meetings shall be:

- 1) Call to Order.
- 2) Roll Call.
- 3) Reading of the Minutes of Previous Meeting.
- 4) Reports of Committees.
- 5) Unfinished Business.
- 6) New Business (Must give advance notice to league Secretary to get on the agenda).
- 7) Announcements.
- 8) Adjournment.

Special meetings will only discuss the item(s) on the agenda for that meeting

Section 2. Parliamentary Authority

The current edition of Roberts' Rules of Order shall be the final source of authority in all questions of parliamentary procedure when rules are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of TORSO.

Article VIII. Fiscal Control

Section 1. Disbursements

Treasury disbursements shall be made by check. Any disbursement over \$10.00 shall be supported by voucher or receipt. All checks, drafts, notes and evidence of indebtedness of the organization shall be signed by the Treasurer and by either the President or his appointed designate; however the Treasurer shall have the authority to sign checks in an amount not to exceed \$100.00 without a co-signature. Books of account of the transactions of TORSO shall be kept and at all times be available and open to inspection and examination by any member.

Section 2. Budgets

TORSO will have two operating budgets as follows:

- 1) **Playing Season Operating Budget:** This budget will cover only those items that pertain to the following playing season. Prior to the commencement of each playing season, the Board shall prepare a proposed budget for the coming playing season. This budget shall be presented at a Regular Membership meeting for the approval by a majority of those members present. Funds unused from the current season will be included in the next season's budget. The Treasurer shall maintain approximately \$1,000 in the account at all times.
- 2) **Annual Budget:** This budget will cover those items which span the playing seasons. Prior to the commencement of each fiscal year, the Board shall prepare a proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. This budget shall be presented at a Regular Membership meeting for approval by a majority of those members present. No member shall be compensated for services rendered to TORSO except reimbursement for approved expenses.

Section 3. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall begin September 1 and close August 31 of each year.

Section 4. Capital Expenditures

Capital expenditures in excess of \$100.00 must be approved by a majority of those members present at a Regular Membership meeting. Approval of a line item in the annual budget shall constitute membership approval of a capital expenditure. The Board, as an entity, has the power to incur, but shall not exceed \$100.00 total per TORSO playing season, any liabilities not included in the budget or approved by the members.

Section 5. Audit

The accounts of TORSO shall be in-house reviewed at the close of each playing season by a review committee. The review shall at all times be available to members of TORSO at the headquarters of TORSO.

Section 6. Bond

The Treasurer, President and such officers as the Board may designate shall be bonded by a sufficient fidelity bond in an amount set by the Board and paid for by TORSO.

Section 7. Returned Check Fee

A ten dollar (\$10.00) service fee will be assessed per check returned to TORSO for non-sufficient funds, etc.

Article IX. Discipline And Protest Procedures

Section 1. All Team Complaints and Referee Game Reports

All Team complaints or Referee Game Reports indicating allegations of player or team misconduct, (except abuse or assault upon a Referee), which may be subject to TORSO disciplinary sanctions under Article X, or abandoned games shall be referred to the D&P Committee for review. Allegations of Referee abuse or assault shall be referred directly to TSSAS.

Section 2. Right To File Protests, Grievances, and Appeals

Both individuals and teams have the right to file protests, grievances and appeals. Protests will be accepted only for apparent violations of the Laws of the Game and TORSO Rules. No protests will be accepted concerning a Referee's judgment call. The Referee's decisions on points of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as the result of the game is concerned.

Section 3. Notice of Intent to File a Protest or Grievance

Notice of intent to file a protest or grievance must be given to the D&P Chairman or to the Executive Board within 72 hours after the game concerned. Protests and grievances must be filed in writing with the D&P Chairman, accompanied by a \$25.00 filing fee (bond). If the protest is upheld by the Committee and confirmed by the Executive Board, the fee will be returned. If the protest is denied, the fee will be forfeited to the treasury of TORSO.

Section 4. D & P Chairman Shall Assemble a Committee

The D&P Chairman shall assemble a Committee as need arises, and shall notify the Team Representatives of all affected teams of the time and location of the Committee meeting. The Committee may consider any relevant evidence obtained from Officials, players, or spectators. However, no Referee shall be an active participant in any disciplinary proceeding, protest, or appeal from a game in which he was a referee or linesman.

Section 5. Notification of D & P Committee Decisions

The D&P Chairman shall notify the Team Representative(s) of the team(s) concerned, and the Executive Board of the Committee's Decision. Penalties assessed by the D&P Committee shall become effective immediately upon notice from the Chairman.

Section 6. Board Authority Over D & P Committee Decisions

The Board has limited authority to review any decision of the D&P Committee. The Board may not veto or amend any decision of the D&P Committee. The Board may review any decision of the D&P Committee and if, during that review:

- a. the Board finds that due process did not exist or that the decision or penalty of the D&P Committee is unfair, unjust, manifestly inconsistent or unacceptable,

then the Board shall uphold the appeal and ask that a new panel of the D&P Committee conduct a new hearing as provided in Section 8, or

- b. the Board finds that due process did exist and that the decision or penalty of the D&P Committee is fair, just, consistent and acceptable, then the Board shall deny the appeal and enforce the decision as rendered by the D&P Committee.

Section 7. Appealing D & P Committee Decisions

Decisions of the D&P Committee may be appealed to the TORSO Executive Board. The Board will accept written appeals from member teams or players, if accompanied by a \$50.00 appeal fee (bond) and submitted within 10 days of receipt of written notification of the decision of the D&P Committee. If the appeal is upheld by the Executive Board, the fee will be returned. If it is denied, the fee will be forfeited to the TORSO treasury.

Section 8. Rehearing D & P Committee Decisions

In the event that the Board determines that an appeal should be upheld at any time, the incident shall be referred for rehearing to a newly assembled Committee, to be chaired by a member of the Board other than the D&P Chairman. Such rehearing shall occur within two weeks of the Board's decision, provided that a delay of up to 30 days may be granted at the request of the individual or team involved, in order to ensure opportunity for full participation. During rehearing, testimony will be accepted from the D&P Chairman and/or members of the first committee concerning the basis and reasoning of the original decision. Monetary fines assessed in accordance with a D&P decision may be held in abeyance while a rehearing is pending. Players ordered suspended from participation in TORSO will remain ineligible as players until a determination is reached on rehearing.

Section 9. Appealing Executive Board Decisions

Decisions of the Executive Board may be appealed to the TSSAS and/or to USSF under their respective appeal and protest policies and procedures. No appeal shall be initiated with these bodies until the TORSO Board has notified those concerned of its ruling.

Article X. Penalties And Fines

Section 1. Forfeitures

Forfeitures - \$25.00 team fine. Forfeitures may occur at any time before the end of the season and appropriate information may be brought to the attention of any Executive Board member for Board review.

Section 2. Ineligible Player

Ineligible Player - \$50.00 team fine and a forfeit of any games played in which the ineligible player participated.

Section 3. Caution (Yellow Card)

Caution (Yellow Card) - Player must leave the field of play for a 10 minute period of playing time to "cool off." Player may not be replaced during that time. If Cautioned player does not immediately leave the field, he/she will be ejected from the match. Cautioned player may reenter the game after the 10 minute period during any stoppage of play with the permission of the referee or, at the referee's discretion, at the most convenient time if signaled to reenter by the referee. Team fines will be assessed as follows for a player who incurs Yellow Cards during a period of any two consecutive Playing Seasons as defined in Article IX: \$5.00 each for 1st or 2nd yellow cards; \$10.00 for 3rd; \$25.00 for 4th and succeeding yellow cards. Upon receipt of the fifth yellow card during the period of any two consecutive Playing Seasons, the player must appear before an Executive Committee comprised of the TORSO President, Registrar and Senior Commissioner to justify continued participation in the league. Team fines must be paid to the Registrar within 14 days of the infraction. Failure to pay fine will cause that player to be declared ineligible until such time as the fine is paid, and participation by such ineligible player will subject the team to sanction as set forth in Section 2 of this Article.

Section 4. Ejection (Red Card)

Ejection (Red Card) - \$20.00 team fine and one game suspension. Player must immediately leave the field of play and may not be replaced for the remainder of the match. At the discretion of the referee, the player may be ordered to leave the premises. If the ejected player does not immediately leave the field of play and/or the premises, the match will be abandoned. Team fine must be paid before player's eligibility can be reinstated.

Section 5. Repeated Ejections (Red Card) of the Same Player

Repeated Ejections (Red Cards) of the Same Player - Two ejections of the same player within one Playing Season will cause suspension of that player for the remainder of the playing season. Team fines for repeated ejections of the same player during any two consecutive Playing Seasons will be: \$30.00 for 2nd red card; \$50.00 for 3rd red card; \$100.00 for 4th red card. Upon the receipt of the fourth red card during the period of any two consecutive Playing Seasons, the player must appear before an Executive Committee comprised of the TORSO President, Registrar and Senior Commissioner to justify continued participation in the league.

Section 6. Threatening Behavior or Striking at Another Player

Threatening behavior or striking at another player - Suspension of player from TORSO for not less than one month of scheduled play during the competitive season. Maximum penalty permanent disqualification from TORSO, depending upon severity of the offense.

Section 7. Striking or Fighting with Another Player

Striking, or fighting with another player - Suspension of player from TORSO for a period of not less than six (6) months from the date that the incident occurred, with a maximum penalty of permanent disqualification from TORSO, depending on the severity of the altercation.

Section 8. Verbal Abuse of a Referee

Verbal Abuse of a Referee - \$45.00 minimum team fine. Suspension of player from TORSO for a period of not less than six (6) months from the date that the incident occurred, with a maximum punishment of permanent banishment from TORSO possible depending on the severity of the altercation.

Section 9. Threatening Behavior Directed Towards a Referee

Threatening Behavior Directed Towards a Referee - Suspension of player from TORSO for a period of not less than one (1) year from the date that the incident occurred with a maximum TORSO punishment of permanent banishment from TORSO possible depending on the severity of the altercation. Report will be filed with USSF for further disciplinary action.

Section 10. Physical Assault of a Referee

Physical Assault of a Referee - Player will be subject to immediate suspension from TORSO upon notification that an assault has occurred. Report will be filed with TSSAS for disciplinary action in accordance with USSF requirements.

Section 11. Fine Payment

Fine Payment - Payment of fine(s) levied against an offending player, team or coach must be received by the Treasurer within fourteen (14) days of date of incident in order for the player to satisfy a TORSO player eligibility requirement.

Article XI. Playing Year and Seasons

The TORSO Playing Year (September 1 through August 31) shall consist of two (2) seasons, Fall and Spring.

Section 1. The TORSO Playing Seasons are defined as follows:

- Fall Season - September 1 thru January 31
- Spring Season - February 1 thru August 31

Section 2. All teams in each Group will be scheduled for not less than eight (8) nor more than eleven (11) regular games per playing season.

Article XII. Cancellations, Postponements, and Abandonments

Section 1. Once schedules are established, no games may be changed, postponed or rescheduled without the approval of the Game Scheduler and the Referee Coordinator.

Section 2. All teams are required to show up for all scheduled games at the assigned field and assigned time scheduled unless notified prior to the game through the TORSO Team

Representative communication system. TORSO will have the power to suspend/cancel any games if the fields are unsafe for playing or would be damaged if played upon.

Section 3. Once a game has started, only the referee can decide if the game is to be called off because of foul weather, dangerous playing conditions, and/or possible severe damage to the playing field. If the game is called off prior to 60 minutes of elapsed playing time due to the listed conditions, the game must be rescheduled and replayed in its entirety. If the game is called off after 60 minutes of playing time due to the listed conditions, the game will stand as played with the official game final score as it is at the time the game is stopped by the referee.

Section 4. Games abandoned by the referee due to violent conduct, referee abuse, and all other causes not related to weather shall, upon receipt of the Referee's Game Report detailing the cause and circumstances of the stoppage of the game, be reviewed by the D&P Committee to decide as to the disposition of the game. The D&P Committee shall have the authority to order the game replayed in full, to allow the result of the game at the time of stoppage to stand, or to declare a team disqualified and thereby the loser of the match by forfeit. The teams involved shall be promptly notified of the D&P Committee's decision. This decision can be appealed to the Executive Board following the prescribed procedures of this League.

Section 5. If a team gives an opposing team at least 72 hours advance notice that they cannot make a game, the game may be postponed and rescheduled if both teams agree. If the two teams cannot agree on a makeup date within two weeks of the originally scheduled date and time, the game will be rescheduled by the Game Scheduler. Either team not showing will forfeit the game.

Section 6. All games not started or finished shall be rescheduled by the two teams involved (as nearest to the original date of competition as possible - except in the case of abandoned games where a D&P decision must be given) and shall be played only after notifying both the Game Scheduler and the Referee Coordinator.

Article XIII. Team Group Standings

Section 1. TORSO Group Standings will be based on the following game point system:

Win	-	3 points
Tie	-	2 point
Loss	-	1 points
Game not Played	-	0 points

Section 2. In the event of a tie between two or more teams in the point/game totals TORSO will not use any tie-breaking procedure to decide a Group champion.

Section 3. TORSO will not recognize Group champions.

Article XIV. Retention of League Records

League records will be kept for a minimum of seven (7) years. All records in the possession of an Executive Board member shall remain the property of TORSO and shall be presented to TORSO upon termination of office or as otherwise directed by the Board.

Article XV. Rules of Competition

Section 1. The rules of competition for TORSO shall be the latest edition of the Laws of the Game and Universal Guide for Referees with USSF Supplement published by the Federation Internationale de Football Association. These Laws and the Decisions of the International Board shall govern TORSO play except as specifically excepted in Section 2.

Section 2. The **TORSO EXCEPTIONS** to the FIFA Laws of the Game are hereby stated in their entirety. The brief descriptions of FIFA Laws are for general information only and shall not be used as a document of fact to resolve disputes.

Law I The Field of Play

FIFA: 100 to 130 yards long. 50 to 100 yards wide.
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TORSO Exception: None.

Law II The Ball

FIFA: Official #5 ball.

TORSO Exception: None.

Law III Number of Players

FIFA: Eleven (11) players with a maximum of five (5) substitutes. A player who has been replaced shall not take any further part in the game. A match will not be considered valid if there are fewer than seven (7) players in either of the teams.
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TORSO Exception: The ten (10) field players may consist of more than five women, but no more than five (5) men. The goalkeeper may be a man or a woman. A team short of women players must play short. Unlimited substitutions are allowed, with the consent of the Referee, by the team which controls the ball on a throw-in and by either team before a goal-kick, after a goal is scored, or at the start of a half. A player for whom a substitution has been made can return to the field in the same game. When a team is playing short due to cautions or ejections, any female player substituted may only be replaced by a female player. A match will not be considered valid if there are fewer than seven (7) players on either of the teams.

Law IV Players' Equipment

FIFA: Shirt, shorts, stockings, shoes, and shin guards. Goalkeeper must wear colors which distinguish him from the other players and from the referee.

TORSO Exception: Resolving color conflicts is the responsibility of the HOME team. Failure to change when teams do not have contrasting colors, in the judgement of the Referee, shall result in forfeiture of the game by the HOME team. Uniforms are mandatory, and must have numbers, corresponding to the number on game roster, affixed to back of the jersey. At no time may jerseys be switched from player to player, with the exception of the goalkeeper switching to his field jersey. Each player shall wear the same number throughout the game. Failure to comply will result in that person(s) being regarded as an ineligible player for that game. "Sliding pants," bicycle shorts, or similar equipment worn to reduce risk of injury are allowed without regard to visibility or color match. The uniform shorts must, however, be worn over such pants.

Law V Referees

FIFA: One referee shall be appointed for each match. Responsible for control of the game, and his decisions on points of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as the result of the game is concerned.

TORSO Exception: None.

Law VI Linesmen

FIFA: Two linesmen shall be appointed to assist the Referee.

TORSO Exception: Club linesmen may be used, at the discretion of the Referee, in the event that certified officials are not available.

Law VII Duration of the Game.

FIFA: Two equal 45 minute halves. Referee to add time to the game for various dead ball situations, substitutions, injuries, lost balls, time-wasting, etc.

TORSO Exception: None.

Law VIII Start of Play

FIFA: At the beginning of the game, choice of ends and the kick-off shall be decided by the toss of a coin. Each team must start in it own half of the field and the defending players must be at least ten (10) yards from the ball until it is kicked forward and has rolled one full circumference. After a goal, the team scored upon will kick-off. After half-time, the teams change ends and the kick-off will be taken by the team opposite to that which started the game. A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-off.

TORSO Exception: Competing teams shall present a roster of their players to the game official before the game starts with jersey numbers beside the players' names. In order to be eligible to play, all players must present to the game official their current laminated TORSO ID cards, either before the game or during any stoppage of play. All

drop balls must be taken by two women players from opposing teams.

Law IX Ball In and Out of Play

FIFA: The ball is out of play when: (a) it has wholly crossed the goal-line or touch-line, whether on the ground or in the air, or (b) when the game has been stopped by the Referee.

TORSO Exception: None.

Law X Method of Scoring

FIFA: A goal is scored when the whole of the ball has passed over the goal-line, between the goal-posts and under the cross-bar.

TORSO Exception: Men's goals, and goals scored as a result of a defensive player in control of the ball misplaying the ball into his or her own goal count as one (1) goal. Offensive women's scores will count as two (2) goals. In the case of deflection, the last offensive player to touch the ball will be credited with the score, counting as one or two goals according to whether the last offensive touch was by a man or woman. Any male player in a single game may score a maximum of two (2) goals. A ball played into the goal by a man who has already scored twice will result in a goal-kick for the opposing team. Women may score an unlimited number of goals in a single game.

Law XI Off-Side

FIFA: A player is in an off-side position if he is nearer to his opponent's goal-line than the ball unless: (a) he is in his own half of the field of play, or (b) he is not nearer to his opponents' goal-line than at least two of his opponents. A player shall only be declared off-side and penalized for being in an off-side position, if, at the moment the ball touches, or is played by, one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the Referee (a) interfering with play or with an opponent, or (b) seeking to gain an advantage by being in that position. A player shall not be declared off-side by the Referee: (a) merely because of his being in an off-side position, or (b) if he receives the ball, direct, from a goal-kick, a corner-kick, a throw-in, or when it has been dropped by the Referee. If a player is declared off-side, the Referee shall award an indirect free-kick.

TORSO Exception: None.

Law XII Fouls and Misconduct

FIFA: A player who intentionally kicks, trips, jumps at, charges violently, charges from behind, spits at, attempt to or actually kicks or strikes, holds or pushes an opponent, or intentionally handles the ball shall be penalized by a direct free-kick awarded to the opposing team. Any of these offenses committed in the penalty area by a defender will result in the awarding of a penalty-kick to the offensive team. A player committing less flagrant violations, such as dangerous play, obstruction or ungentlemanly conduct will be penalized by an indirect free-kick awarded to the opposing team. A Caution (yellow

card) is given for: (a) repeated infractions of the Laws, (b) ungentlemanly conduct, (c) dissent by word or action, and (d) entering or leaving the field without Referee permission. An Ejection (red card) is given for: (a) foul and/or abusive language, (b) violent conduct, (c) serious foul play, or (d) persistent misconduct after having received a Caution.

TORSO Exception: NO SLIDE TACKLING IS ALLOWED. A slide tackle shall be penalized by an automatic Caution to the offending player, and an indirect free-kick (dangerous play) shall be awarded to the opposing team, unless a more serious infringement of the Laws of the Game has occurred. A man should use skill, not physical size to win a ball from a woman. To do otherwise may be considered a Cautionable offense. The goalkeeper may not be charged at any time, nor may the goalkeeper charge other players. This also may be considered a Cautionable offense. Any player receiving a Caution (yellow card) must leave the field for a ten (10) minute "cooling-off" period, and may not be substituted.

Law XIII Free-Kick

FIFA: Free-kicks are classified into two (2) categories: "Direct" - (from which a goal can be scored directly against the offending side), and "Indirect" - (from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has been touched by a player other than the kicker before entering the goal). For all free-kicks, the offending team must be at least ten (10) yards from the ball until it is kicked.

TORSO Exception: None.

Law XIV Penalty-Kick

FIFA: A direct free-kick taken at the penalty mark. All players, except the player taking the kick and the opposing goalkeeper, must stay outside the penalty area and at least ten (10) yards from the ball.

TORSO Exception: A Penalty-Kick may be taken by either a man or woman player, and will count as one (1) or two (2) goals accordingly, if successful.

Law XV Throw-In

FIFA: When the ball has wholly crossed the touch-line, it is put back into play by a throw-in from the spot where it went out and by a player from the team opposite that which last touched the ball. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in. The throw-in must be made with both feet on the ground on or behind the touch-line and the throw must come forward from behind the head using both hands.

TORSO Exception: None.

Law XVI Goal-Kick

FIFA: When the ball has wholly crossed the goal-line without entering the goal, after being last touched by a player from the attacking team, it is put back into play by a kick

from the goal area by the defending team. The ball is not in play until it crosses out of the penalty-area.

TORSO Exception: None.

Law XVII Corner-Kick

FIFA: When the ball has wholly crossed the goal-line without entering the goal, after being last touched by a player from the defending team, it is put back into play by a kick from the corner by the attacking team.

TORSO Exception: None.

Article XVI. Amendment

These Bylaws may be amended as set forth in the Constitution.

Article XVII. Enactment

Section 1. These Bylaws submitted herewith, having been ratified by the members present and voting at the League meeting of February 13, 1986, became effective on February 13, 1986.

Section 2. These Bylaws reflect cumulative amendments thereto through January 2006 and are current as of that date.