

# SOCCKER RHODE ISLAND CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I

### **Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Soccer Rhode Island (hereafter referred to as SRI ).

## ARTICLE II

### **Purpose & Compliance**

The purpose of this state association shall be to promote, foster, and perpetuate the game of soccer on the youth level in the State of Rhode Island. This state association shall exercise complete governmental control of said game except in those matters reserved by the United States Soccer Federation (hereinafter referred to as USSF and/or the Federation) United States Youth Soccer Association (hereinafter referred to as USYS).

The State Association will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or natural origin.

The State Association shall adopt policies prohibiting sexual and physical abuse that meet certain minimum criteria established by Federation USYS (subject to any contrary requirements contained in state or local law applicable to the State Association.)

The Federation USYS articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, and requirements take precedence over and supersede the governing documents and decisions of the State Association and its members to the extent applicable under state law, and the State Association and its members will abide by those articles, bylaws, policies, and requirements.

The State Association and its members will not join any organization that has requirements that conflict with Federation's USYS articles, bylaws, policies, and requirements.

SRI and its members shall abide by USYS articles, bylaws, policies and requirements on interplay. In this regard, all clubs, leagues, associations, and organizations registered with a State Association or National Association must register with USYS every individual player, coach, and team (including members of traveling teams, competitive teams, intramural programs, recreation programs, or house players) that is sponsored, financed, coached, organized, or administered by that State Association or National Association.

SRI full member, SRI provisional member, and USSF Affiliate member associations shall register all players, coaches, teams, and administrators participating in the activities of the State

Association and registration in this regard shall comply with the regular registration requirements for SRI.

### **ARTICLE III** **Territory**

The territory governed by this Association shall be the legal state boundaries of the State of Rhode Island. This territory shall be further subdivided into thirty-nine (39) communities as recognized by the state legislative body. Formation of member associations by territory shall be for the purpose of establishing member associations in defined areas, to develop and promote developmental soccer programs within and from the membership of the member associations, create competitive programs from membership developmental teams, and maintain a referee development program, all as may be provided for elsewhere in the SRI Constitution/Bylaws. Further, it is the intention of SRI and its Full Member Associations to conform its member association program into established and defined territories because of the size of the state territory and the limited number of players both within the state and within the geographic boundaries of each Full Member Association: defining full member(ship) by and within territories serves to protect the player base or pool within the Full Member Association, offers the Full Member Association a predetermined (to be identified) pool of players, enables the Full Member Association to provide and develop the programs mandated by SRI for Developmental Soccer, Competitive Soccer, and Referee Development Programs. Establishment of Full Membership privileges and status within SRI insures for the continued growth and development of youth soccer programs in the State of Rhode Island.

#### **A. MEMBER BOUNDARIES**

The Board of Directors by a majority vote shall assign territorial rights on a geographic basis to full member associations and provisional member associations (see appendix A to Constitution for a list of territorial assignments). Soccer Rhode Island Board of Directors shall maintain control over non-assigned territories.

### **ARTICLE IV** **Headquarters**

The headquarters of this Association shall be within its territorial boundaries as defined in Article III above.

### **ARTICLE V** **Colors**

The representative colors of this Association shall be gold, white and blue.

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## ARTICLE VI **Membership**

### Section 1. Members:

The membership of the State Association and the members of the State Association shall be open to any soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials not subject to suspension (under Section 4 of Federation Bylaw 241) by USYS, and to any amateur soccer organization in its territory. All members of the State Association shall have headquarters in the State of Rhode Island. Every club, league, and association playing soccer in the State of Rhode Island who is not a member of this State Association or of the United States Soccer Federation United States Youth Soccer Association or one of its affiliated organizations shall be deemed unaffiliated. Members of the SRI shall not have any relationship whatsoever with such unaffiliated organizations or its members unless application is made to SRI requesting and defining the relationship prescribed as between a SRI member and the unaffiliated association.

### Section 2. Member Class:

Membership in this Association shall be one of three classes:

- A) Full Membership
- B) Provisional Membership
- C) USSF Affiliated Membership

### Section 3. Full Member:

Any petitioning applicant must meet all applicable requirements for membership in USSF USYSA, and Soccer Rhode Island as described in their Constitution, By-Laws and Policies and Procedures. A full member is one that has been accepted into this Association by a majority vote of the voting power of the Council present at the Annual General Meeting as prescribed in Section 3, Article VIII (Legislative and Judicial Powers) and is in good standing with this state Association and USYS. Only a provisional member who has met the requirements of these Constitution and Bylaws including having been a provisional member for no less than a twelve (12) month period may become a full member by vote to be taken at the Annual General Meeting by the Council delegates. Full members shall include associations, clubs, or leagues assigned a territory by the State Association with the association, club, or league maintaining the requisite number of teams as provided for elsewhere in these Constitution/Bylaws, and simultaneously offering and promoting all SRI mandated programs.

Exception: In the area of Premier Soccer Clubs, the membership will approve the eligibility of a Premier Soccer Club at the Annual General Meeting held in the next seasonal year.

A full member shall have a full scale program consisting of four (4) or more teams in an age group in active scheduled competition for developmental soccer, shall offer and promote a competitive soccer program and a referee development program.

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- A. A full member shall include a premier soccer club as recognized by the voting members. Premier soccer clubs shall be full members consisting of at least four (4) USYS competing teams without offering developmental soccer or a referee development program.
- B. A premier soccer club who falls, at any time during the season year, below the required minimum of four (4) USYS competing teams, shall be notified in writing of their failure to comply to minimum membership requirements. The SRI Board may impose a period of probation (not to exceed 1 year) upon a premier soccer club who does not meet minimum membership requirements.
- C. Failure of a premier soccer club to meet minimum membership standards, after notification and at the conclusion of the imposed probation shall cause immediate forfeiture of membership without legislative formality provided that immediately upon conclusion of probation, the State Administrator shall notify the club of its termination of membership and its right to appeal.

#### Section 4. Provisional Member:

Provisional membership may be granted by a majority vote of the Board of Directors to any properly constituted club, league or association, consisting of four (4) or more teams in an age group in active scheduled competition, making application and meeting the qualifications as stated in Sections 6, 7, 8, and 9 of Article VI (Membership) and subject to the following:

- a. Provisional membership is terminated on the date of the next following Annual General Meeting, provided the member having been granted provisional membership status has been a provisional member for a period of not less than twelve (12) months.
- b. Provisional members withdrawing before becoming full members shall forfeit any and all fees and monies, which have been paid as part of application as prescribed in Section 5 of Article VI (Membership).
- c. Exception: In the area of Premier Soccer Clubs, Provisional Membership of a Premier Soccer Club may only be granted by a majority vote of the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

Provisional members enjoy all the rights and privileges and bear all the obligations of full members except as otherwise detailed in this Constitution. Provisional members wishing to obtain membership in a geographic territory assigned to a full member shall not infringe on such territory without the written permission of the member association that would be affected.

#### Section 5. USSF Affiliate Member:

Any sanctioned USSF Affiliate member may apply for full membership in SRI. There can be one affiliated member per USSF Affiliate (i.e. one (1) from AYSO, one (1) from SAY, etc.) They shall be afforded all benefits. Voting rights shall be the same as all other full members (i.e. per the schedule in Article VIII, Section 1). USSF Affiliate members may incorporate players, coaches, and teams in to full members and provisional members. USSF Affiliate members in

this regard shall and must conform to all rules, regulations, and policies adopted and followed by the full member and/or provisional member.

#### Section 6. Membership Requirements:

SRI and its members shall abide by USYS articles, bylaws, policies and requirements on interplay. In this regard, all clubs, leagues, associations, and organizations registered with a State Association or National Association must register with USYS every individual player, coach, and team (including members of traveling teams, competitive teams, intramural programs, recreation programs, or house players) that is sponsored, financed, coached, organized, or administered by that State Association or National Association.

SRI full member, SRI provisional member, and USSF Affiliate member associations shall register all players, coaches, teams, and administrators participating in the activities of the State Association and registration in this regard shall comply with the regular registration requirements for SRI.

Full and provisional members of SRI are required to offer to their members a developmental program, a competitive program, and a referee development program. Full and provisional members of SRI who have complied with these programs requirements shall be entitled to participate in SRI sponsored or SRI administered programs, including but not limited to the American Cup (Fall developmental soccer), the Rhode Island Cup (Spring competitive soccer), and Rhode Island Festival (Spring U8/U10 non-result oriented festival/tournament).

Full and provisional members of SRI shall accept within their programs any and all players, teams, coaches, administrators or USSF Affiliate members, provided that in each instance all rules of the full or provisional member shall be complied with. Registration requirements for membership within the full or provisional member shall be set by the SRI member association (full or provisional) and shall be complied with in all respects. In this regard policies and procedures of the full or provisional member shall apply as to issues dealing with players and coaches, team selection, assignment of coaches to teams and placement/rating of teams for league play both developmental and competitive.

#### Section 6.1 Failure to Meet Minimum Membership Requirements:

Full and provisional members who are required and who fail to meet the minimum membership requirements of a developmental, a competitive and a referee developmental program, shall be notified in writing of their failure to comply to minimum membership requirements. The SRI Board may impose a period of probation (not to exceed 1 year) upon a full or provisional member who has failed to comply.

Failure of a Full or Provisional member to meet minimum membership standards, after notification and at the conclusion of the imposed probation shall cause immediate forfeiture of membership without legislative formality provided that immediately upon conclusion of probation, the State Administrator shall notify the club of its termination of membership and its right to appeal

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Section 7. Application for Membership:

Any properly constituted club, league, or association playing soccer in the State of Rhode Island, who is playing in accordance with the rules of the game as specified by the United States Youth Association, may apply for membership in this Association.

Section 8. Written Application:

Application for membership must be made in writing by a duly authorized officer of the applicant organization and must be directed to the STATE ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEE. The application must be accompanied by the payment of annual dues as herein provided which, if membership is refused, shall be refunded; three (3) correct and certified copies of the constitution, by-laws, and rules under which the applicant, if a league or association, has decided to operate; and a statement of such information which the Association may require.

Section 9. Qualifications and Acceptance:

The Council shall have final authority to determine the qualifications for membership in this Association.

Terms of Membership – The term of membership of a SRI member is for one seasonal year. Membership automatically renews each seasonal year as long as the member remains in good standing with SRI.

Section 10. Annual Dues:

Annual dues shall be determined and fixed by the following procedures:

- a. The Board of Directors shall recommend a fee schedule for presentation at the Annual General Meeting.
- b. The amount of annual dues shall be confirmed by vote of the Council at the Annual General Meeting as prescribed in Section 3, Article VIII (Legislative and Judicial Powers).
- c. Full members must pay their annual dues in full prior to October 15<sup>th</sup> of the current playing season. Provisional members pay annual dues upon written application for membership as prescribed in Section 5, Article VI (Membership).

Section 11. Failure to Pay Dues:

The failure of any member to pay annual dues as herein provided shall cause immediate forfeiture of membership without legislative formality, provided that immediately upon

forfeiture occurring, the State Administrator shall notify the member of it<sup>1</sup>= failure to pay annual dues. Notice shall be by certified mail, return receipt requested. The member shall have ten (10) days from date of notice to reinstate the membership by paying all dues together with a reinstatement fee of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars.

#### Section 12. Extra Territorial Clubs and Leagues:

Any club domiciled outside the territory herein defined wishing to affiliate with this Association shall be permitted to do so at the discretion of the Board of Directors, providing that they are in good standing with and have the consent of their own state youth association and the United States Youth Soccer Federation United States Youth Soccer Association unless excepted by mutual consent of two adjoining National State Associations. All players must be registered in the state in which they reside.

Any league or association which is affiliated with or applies for affiliation with this Association, who desire to include in its competition any club domiciled outside the territory of this Association, may do so providing that this is approved by this Association and by the youth state association in which the club is domiciled. All players must be registered in the state in which they reside with his or her parent or parents or guardian or guardians, or, for student in residence at a boarding school, college, or university, the player may register in the state in which the boarding school, college, university, or division of the college or university is located. (USYS Rule 201)

#### Section 13. Acceptance of Membership:

Every club, league, or association which accepts membership in this Association thereby agrees for itself, its subordinate and affiliated organizations and all persons who constitute it and such subordinate and affiliated organizations to recognize the administration authority of the Association, as herein provided and as it may hereafter be formulated by such rules and regulations, alterations of, and amendments to the constitution and by-laws which this Association may from time to time enact. Each applicant when accepted for membership shall be presented with three (3) true and correct copies of the constitution and bylaws of this Association.

#### Section 14. Insurance:

Each Full member and Provisional member Association shall participate in the SRI Insurance Program.

#### Section 15. Prohibition on Transferring and Assigning Membership

Membership in SRI is not transferable or assignable. Membership terminates when SRI dissolves, the Member dissolves, or the Individual or Sustaining member dies or dissolves, or as provided under these bylaws.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**Government**

This Association shall be governed by its constitution, by-laws, and policy and procedures as presently constituted or as these may from time to time be amended and/or altered, and by such rules and regulations which may from time to time be promulgated by the Board of Directors, except when these conflict with or are supplemented by the constitution, by-laws, and rules and regulations of the United States Youth Soccer Association and the United States Soccer Federation to which this Association shall be subordinate and with which it shall be affiliated.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**Legislative and Judicial Powers**

**Section 1. Council:**

The legislative and judicial powers of this Association, except those which are herein otherwise delegated, shall be vested in a Council consisting of the duly elected or appointed delegate(s) from each member league, association or club consisting of one (1) or more teams in active scheduled competition. The number of registered players shall determine the number of voting delegates for a member:

0000-0250 registered players - 1 delegate  
0251-0500 registered players - 2 delegates  
0501-1000 registered players - 3 delegates  
1001-3000 registered players - 4 delegates  
over 3000 registered players - 5 delegates

A delegate is defined to mean a representative of the league, association or club.

**Section 2. Right to Vote:**

In all matters that are properly presented to the Council, each SRI officer and all members in good standing are entitled to vote at the council meeting. The number of votes shall correspond to the number of delegates the member is entitled to have as shown in Article VIII, Section 1.

The delegate or delegates present may exercise all the member's votes. Each member league, association or club shall, on a form prescribed by SRI, notify SRI no later than five (5) days prior to the Annual General Meeting of the name(s) of its voting delegate(s) and the number of votes afforded each delegate.

If a member is unable to attend a council meeting, the member president may appoint another member to cast his proxy votes. This member's name must be submitted to the STATE ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEE seventy-two (72) hours before the council meeting. Failure of an association to provide a list of delegates and/or alternates and failure of an association president to attend the Council meeting will result in a forfeiture of votes.

The SRI President shall have no vote, except in the case of a deadlock on any issue before the Council, in which case it shall be his duty, or in his absence or incapacity, the duty of the Vice President to cast a deciding vote.

In the absence of both the President and the Vice President, the Treasurer and the Secretary shall, in that order, ascend to the chair. In either case, the voting limitations applicable to the office of President shall apply.

### Section 3. Majority Vote:

The majority of the voting power present shall be necessary to decide affirmatively any issue which is presented to the Council, except in the case of amendments to the constitution and bylaws as herein after provided.

### Section 4. Delegates and Alternates:

Every league and association entitled thereto, shall present the credentials of its duly authorized delegate(s) and alternate delegate(s) at the Annual Meeting of this Association. Changes in a given league or association's delegate(s) occurring after the Annual Meeting and during a current term shall be submitted in writing to the Council and Board of Directors no later than the next regular meeting following the date of the change.

Every league and association which is organized and accepted as a member of this Association after an Annual Meeting and during a current term, entitled thereto, shall present the credentials of its duly authorized delegate(s) and alternate delegate(s) at the regular meeting of the Council and Board of Directors next following the date of membership grant.

When a delegate is elected to the office of SRI President, he/she relinquishes his/her position as delegate and the organization, which he/she represented, shall in the regular manner name a successor.

### Section 5. Jurisdiction:

This State Association shall have jurisdiction over all leagues, associations, clubs, officials, and players affiliated herewith and over all juvenile matters connected with soccer which it or any one or more of its subordinate and affiliated organizations, or parts thereof, undertake. The State Association shall be the hearing body for any complaint by one member against another member or any complaint by an individual or a member, which alleges that a member has failed to comply with its membership requirements in SRI. All hearings shall be conducted in accordance

with the provisions of Bylaws Article II.

Section 6. Council Duties:

The Council shall elect the officers of this Association; make changes in the constitution and bylaws; approve the annual budget; vote into full membership applicants for membership who are provisional members; ratify any redistricting proposed by the Board of Directors; and conduct additional business at the Annual General Meeting as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Council Powers:

The Council shall have power to ratify, alter, or reject decisions and policies of the Board of Directors or any other committee or of any person, except in those cases herein provided.

Section 8. Board of Directors:

The Board of Directors of this Association shall consist of persons occupying the position of President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President Competitive, Vice President Public Relations, Vice President Membership, Vice President Olympic Development, Vice President Recreation, Vice President Top Soccer/Soccer Start, Immediate Past President.

Section 9. Board of Directors Duties:

The Board of Directors shall, except in matters otherwise delegated or reserved, transact all the business of this Association directly or by delegation of its authority to such person whom it may from time to time designate. Directors shall have the option of appointing, with approval of two thirds of the Board, up to seven (7) additional at-large non-voting members, who shall serve until the next annual general membership meeting. The Past President of this organization is also a member of the Board and enjoys full voting rights.

The Board of Directors shall also approve or reject applicants for provisional membership upon proper presentation and recommendation of the Membership Director. They shall reevaluate and redefine, if necessary, district boundaries and/or the number of districts; determine in which district member organizations shall belong, all of these subject to final approval by Council.

The President, Vice President and members to be determined by the Board of Directors shall be the representative to the National Youth Council of USYS and shall be this Association's delegate to the United States Soccer Federation's United States Youth Soccer Association's Annual General Meeting and to regional meetings. If the Board of Directors desires, it may appoint added delegates to each of these meetings. Provided that the voting number of delegates may not exceed that number established and set by USYS. and/or the Federation.

The Board of Directors as a panel provided for in Bylaws Article II shall sit as an appellate judicial body for the determination of all appeals from decisions of its subordinate and affiliate organizations.

Section 10. Board of Directors Powers:

The Board of Directors shall manage the activities, property and affairs of SRI. Subject to the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation and these Constitution and Bylaws. The Board of Directors shall have all the powers conferred upon it by statue. The Board of Directors is empowered to adopt and enforce such rules and regulations, not in conflict with those adopted by the general membership as it shall deem necessary to regulate the operation of Soccer Rhode Island, Inc., the relationships among its members, and the rules of USYS. and the Federation.

Section 11. Board of Directors Right to Vote:

In all matters that are properly presented to the Board of Directors, each officer shall have the right to cast one vote. The president shall have no vote, except in the case of a deadlock on any issue before the Board of Directors, in which case it shall be his duty to cast a deciding vote.

Section 12. Board of Directors Majority Vote:

The majority of the voting power present shall be necessary to decide affirmatively any issue which is presented to the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**Officers**

Section 1. Officers

The officers of this Association shall be a President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President Competitive, Vice President ODP, Vice President Membership, Vice President Public Relations, and Vice President Recreation.

The President, Secretary, Vice President Competitive, Vice President ODP, Vice President Top Soccer/Soccer Start and Vice President Membership shall be elected in even numbered years by majority vote at the Annual General Meeting for a period of two (2) years or until their successors have been elected.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Vice President Public Relations, Vice President Recreation, and the Treasurer shall be elected in odd numbered years by a majority vote at the Annual General Meeting for a period of two (2) years or until their successors have been elected.

All officers of this Association shall be elected by majority vote of the delegates who are present and authorized to vote.

## Section 2. President's Duties

The President shall conduct all meetings of the Association; appoint all committees and commissioners, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. The President shall call such meetings as herein provided to be called; cast a deciding vote on all issues at any meeting of the Council; supervise the affairs of this Association. The President shall sign all contracts and documents of this Association with the secretary when the same are duly authorized by the Board of Directors and Council. The President shall act as Chairman of the Executive Committee that may be created by the Board of Directors to perform such duties as the Board of Directors may from time to time direct.

## Section 3. President's Powers

The President shall have the power to call special meetings of this Association upon one week's written notice to all concerned; to act as an ex officio member of all committees; and he shall have such other powers which the Board of Directors may from time to time vest in him.

## Section 4. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

The Vice President shall perform all the duties and exercise all the powers of the President during his absence or incapacity, and shall perform such other duties as the officers may from time to time direct.

## Section 5. Secretary

The Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of this Association. The Secretary shall sign with the President all contracts and other documents of this Association which are authorized by the Board of Directors; and in the fulfillment of these duties, to exercise requisite authority; perform such other duties as the Board of Directors may from time to time direct. The Secretary shall give proper notice of meetings.

## Section 6. Treasurer

The Treasurer may be required to be bonded at the discretion of the Board of Directors, such bond costs to be borne by the Board of Directors; shall deposit all monies in the name of this Association with a depository which shall be designated by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall execute receipts for such monies which are paid to him; keep the financial accounts; liquidate all bills against the Association. The Treasurer shall report the state of the finances of the Association at the close of every meeting and whenever required to do so by the President or by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall submit a complete statement of accounts in writing to the Council at the Annual Meeting; and perform such other duties as the Council may from time to time direct.

## Section 7. Vice Presidents

Each Vice President shall serve as the Chairman of his or her standing committee.

The Vice President shall be responsible for assembling a committee, subject to Board of Directors approval, coordinating its activities and representing the Association in all matters pertaining to the youth soccer in his or her committee's area of responsibility.

#### Section 7.1 Vice Presidents' Duties

- 1) Recreation Vice President shall be responsible for all intrastate recreation programs.
- 2) Competitive Vice President shall be responsible for all intrastate (competitive), interstate, and international competition.
- 3) ODP Vice President shall be responsible for the SRI Olympic Development Program.
- 4) Public Relations Vice President shall be responsible for dealing with the media and/or sponsors in reporting any planner, on going, or completed SRI sponsored events.
- 5) Membership Vice President shall serve as liaison between the membership and the Board of Directors, seek out and develop new member organizations in his state, submit new applicants for membership to the Board of Directors, serve as an advisor to new member organizations, and attend member organization meetings as requested and as he is able to.
- 6) Top Soccer/Soccer Start shall be responsible for the Top Soccer and Soccer Start Programs.

#### Section 8. Absence

Any officer who is absent without excusable cause three (3) consecutive Board meetings (regularly scheduled), or for any reason, a total of five (5) meetings during any seasonal year (September 1 - August 31) of the Board of Directors may be removed from the Board of Directors.

#### Section 9. Removal from Office

An officer of this Association shall be removed from office by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority of the entire voting power of the delegates, provided notice of proposed removal is given within a 30-day written notice.

#### Section 10. Vacancies

In the event that a vacancy occurs in any office through resignation or absence, the Board of

Directors shall fill the vacancy at once. The new appointee will perform all of his/her duties of office immediately. This action must be ratified by a simple majority of the membership in attendance at its next regularly scheduled council meeting.

In the event that a vacancy occurs in any office because of a director or an officer being removed from office by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority of the entire voting power of the delegates, said vacancy shall be filled immediately by special election of delegates. A majority vote of delegates shall appoint the director or officer to the position vacated through removal from office.

#### Section 11, Restriction

- 1) No Director/Officer referred to in Article IX, Section 1 may receive compensation (except for reimbursement for expenses) for services as an officer.

### **ARTICLE X** **Meetings**

#### Section 1. Council Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of this Association shall be held during the month of March. There shall be quarterly meetings of the general membership. The Board of Directors shall decide the location of all meetings.

#### Section 2. Board of Director Meetings

Regular monthly meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on a specific day each month, except the months of July and December, to be determined by each new Board of Directors, at a place determined by the President. Dates of regular monthly meetings shall be announced to all members at the Annual General Meeting.

#### Section 3. Special Meetings

Special meetings of this Association may be called at any time by the President or upon written demand of three (3) or more members, not from the same member association, upon the President in which case a meeting shall be called by him within thirty (30) days of such demand.

#### Section 4. Written Notice

In the case of all special meetings, fifteen (15) days written notice shall be sent to all member associations concerned. In the case of the Annual General Meeting, notice of the meeting and agenda for the meeting shall be given to all members at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the meeting.

#### Section 5. Fine and Absence

An association or league which fails to be represented by at least one (1) of its designated representatives or alternate representatives at any council meeting shall be fined a standard amount to be determined by Council.

#### Section 6. Robert's Rules

All meetings of this Association shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

### **ARTICLE XI** **Quorum**

The presence of a majority of voting power shall constitute a quorum to transact business at any meeting of this Association.

### **ARTICLE XII** **Amendments**

#### Section 1. Vote Required

The constitution of this Association may be amended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the entire voting power of members at the Annual General Meeting.

#### Section 2. Who Can Make Amendments

A member organization, the Board of Directors, or any member of the Board may make any proposals or motions to amend the constitution of this Association.

#### Section 3. Advance Notice

Any proposals or motions to amend the constitution of this Association must be made in writing to the STATE ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEE thirty (30) days in advance of the Annual General Meeting. Notice of these proposals or motions shall be sent in writing to all members fifteen (15) days in advance of the Annual General Meeting. The actual motions or proposals may either be sent along with the notice or posted as a downloadable document on the Soccer Rhode Island website.

### **ARTICLE XIII** **Fiscal Year Budget**

The Board of Directors shall prepare a proposed budget for the next fiscal year. This proposed budget shall be presented to the Council at the Annual General Meeting for adoption. Copies of the proposed budget shall be sent to all members fifteen (15) days in advance of the Annual General Meeting. Budget approval must be carried by a majority affirmative vote of the voting delegates attending the Annual General Meeting.

**ARTICLE XIV**

**Reporting to USYS (*to Federation*)**

The State Association shall provide to USYS the Secretary General of the Federation an annual report on the activities of the Association and most current annual financial statements within ninety (90) days after the start of USYS's Federation's seasonal year.

The State Association will (A) provide annually to the Federation USYS copies of the State Association's constitution, bylaws, and other governing documents, (B) submit changes to those documents to USYS the Federation for approval not later than ninety (90) days after adoption, and (C) make copies of those documents available to its members.

**ARTICLE XV**

**USYS Review**

The State Association will allow USYS the Federation to review the documents and procedures of the State Association on request of USYS the Federation not less than once every four (4) years to determine compliance with the bylaws.

**ARTICLE XVI**

**Savings Clause**

Whenever in the SRI Constitution and/or Bylaws a provision, in whole or in part, shall be deemed invalid by the Federation and/or USYS, that provision shall be stricken from the SRI Constitution and/or Bylaws such that the invalid provision shall not render the remaining document invalid. To that extent, only the portion needed to bring the Constitution and/or Bylaws into compliance shall be stricken. The remainder of the Constitution and/or Bylaws shall continue in full force and effect.

In the event of the occurrence of a modification of Constitution and/or Bylaws as detailed above, the President of SRI shall immediately call a special meeting of the SRI Council. Meeting to be held no later than thirty (30) days from the date of notification by SRI of a nonconforming provision, and said special meeting shall be for the sole purpose of amending or correcting the Constitution and/or Bylaws as may be necessary.

APPENDIX A

Full Member Associations

<u>Association Name</u>	<u>Location (City/Town)</u>
AYSO	Rhode Island
Barrington Youth Soccer	Barrington
Bristol Youth Soccer	Bristol
Burrillville/Glocester Youth Soccer	Burrillville
Capital Youth Soccer	Providence
Central Falls Youth Soccer	Central Falls
Chariho Youth Soccer	Charlestown, Richmond, Hopkinton
CLCF	Cranston
Coventry Youth Soccer	Coventry
Cumberland Youth Soccer	Cumberland
East Greenwich Youth Soccer	East Greenwich
East Providence Merchants	East Providence
Exeter/West Greenwich Youth Soccer	Exeter, West Greenwich
Jamestown Youth Soccer	Jamestown
Johnston Youth Soccer	Johnston
Lincoln Youth Soccer	Lincoln
Middletown Youth Soccer	Middletown
Narragansett Youth Soccer	Narragansett
North Kingstown Youth Soccer	North Kingstown
North Providence Youth Soccer	North Providence
North Smithfield Youth Soccer	North Smithfield
Ocean State Soccer	North Kingstown
Pawtucket Youth Soccer	Pawtucket
Plantations Indoor Invitation Soccer	East Greenwich
Portsmouth Youth Soccer	Portsmouth
Scituate Youth Soccer	Scituate/Foster
Smithfield Youth Soccer	Smithfield
South County Youth Soccer	South Kingstown
Tiverton Youth Soccer	Tiverton/Little Compton
Warren Youth Soccer	Warren
Warwick Boys & Girls Soccer Club	Warwick
Warwick Firefighters Soccer Club	Warwick
Warwick Soccer Association	Warwick
Westerly Youth Soccer	Westerly
West Warwick Youth Soccer	West Warwick
Woonsocket Soccer Association	Woonsocket
Bayside United Soccer Club	Premier Boys & Girls (East)
Black Watch of Rhode Island Soccer Club	Premier Boys & Girls (North)

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Bruno United Premier Soccer  
Lusitana Sports Futebol Club  
Rams Football Club  
Rhode Island Rays Soccer Club  
Tidal Wave Soccer Club

Premier Boys & Girls(South)  
Premier Boys & Girls (North)  
Premier Boys (Central)  
Premier Girls  
Premier Girls (Central)

# SRI BY-LAWS

## **ARTICLE I** **Order of Business**

The order of business at all regular meetings shall be as follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Membership Committee Report
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting
4. Communications
5. Committee Reports
6. Financial Report
7. Unfinished Business
8. New Business
9. Miscellaneous Items
10. Adjournment

## **ARTICLE II** **Appeals and Protests**

The State Association will provide equitable and prompt hearing and appeal procedures to guarantee the rights of individuals to participate and compete. Those procedures shall include that all grievances involving the right to participate and compete in activities sponsored by USYS or the Federation and the State Association and its members may be appealed to the USYS or the Federation's Appeals Committee that shall have jurisdiction to approve, modify, or reverse a decision.

### Section 1. To This Association

#### A) Purpose:

The purpose of the appeals process to SRI is to provide fair, swift and just avenues of appeals for all members of this association. These appeals should pertain to the SRI Constitution, and other rules, regulations and policies of SRI and affiliate organizations. All state avenues of appeals must be exhausted prior to any appeal to USYS or United States Soccer Federation.

See Policy #7221 for Appeal Procedures

See Policy #7222 for Exhaustion of Remedies

## **ARTICLE III**

Revised 8/16/00, 8/27/01\*8/26/03, 8/30/04, 8/29/05, 8/28/06, 3/24/07, 3/31/08

## **Hearings**

Every case that arises under the jurisdiction of this Association, which requires a hearing, shall be tried in the presence of all parties in interest who appear. The Council, or its authorized agent, has the power to summon anyone under its jurisdiction to appear at any meeting relative to any matter which comes to this Association for determination or investigation. All hearings under provisions of Article III shall comply with the Hearing Procedures established by USYS Federation Bylaw 701. To the extent that the dispute subject of hearing is between an individual and an association or between two or more associations the parties shall be accorded - (See Policy 7200 Procedures, Fines and Appeals)

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Penalties, Debts, and Assessments**

#### **Section 1. Binding Nature of Penalty:**

Any fine imposed upon or debt owed by any member club, league or association shall be binding.

#### **Section 2. Responsibility of Players and Officials:**

Every player and official of a club directly affiliated with this Association is a member thereof. Each shall be held responsible for any breach of the rules of this Association committed by the club or the management thereof with which he is associated, provided that it can be shown that he is connected with perpetration of the offense.

#### **Section 3. Payment of Debts:**

A debt of any member league, association, club, or person which is owed to this Association, exclusive of Annual dues as are provided for in SRI Constitution Article VI Section 11, shall be payable no later than seven (7) calendar days after the date that the sum is declared payable and in default of payment the debtor shall be suspended without further action. In the event the debt is not timely paid within that seven (7) day period the member league, association or club will be notified by the State Administrative Employee in writing, Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, of the non-payment and default. The member shall have ten (10) days from date of notice to reinstate the membership by paying all debts due together with a reinstatement fee of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars.

#### **Section 4. Assessment of Members:**

In case, and only in case, this Association is unable to function properly and/or is unable to meet its financial obligations, the Council shall have the power to assess each member league and association equally a sum not to exceed Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**Benefit Games**

This Association may participate in games with teams from other state associations and with visiting foreign teams providing that the correct procedures are observed as laid down by the USYS and the USSF. The Council shall have the power to set dates in every season to stage matches for the benefit of this Association and/or some worthy cause. On such dates, all associations, leagues, clubs, and players under its jurisdiction shall be permitted to maintain their current schedule unless expressly prohibited by the Board of Directors at that time.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**Miscellaneous Items**

Section 1. Courtesy of Meetings:

Visitors may be granted the privilege to attend and/or speak at meetings of the Board of Directors or Council under the discretion of the President. Visitors shall be given a maximum time limit to speak of fifteen (15) minutes, unless extended by the Board of Directors or Council.

Section 2. Auditing Committee:

The President shall appoint three (3) individuals at the close of the current fiscal year of SRI to examine the accounts of this Association and to report their findings to the Council. The report of the auditing committee shall be in order for presentation at the October SRI Council meeting.

Section 3. Comity:

This Association shall recognize suspensions and rulings of all organizations under the jurisdiction of USYS and Federation when notified thereof.

Section 4. Players, Officials, and Spectators:

Players, officials, and spectators are permitted to take part in or to attend matches provided they observe the rules of this Association, or USYS or the Federation. Every league, association, and club is responsible to this Association for the conduct of its players, officials, and spectators and must exercise every reasonable precaution against disturbance or disorderly conduct before, during, and after every match.

Section 5. Jurisdiction of Members:

Every member, league, or club shall have jurisdiction over its internal affairs, except as herein provided otherwise. When any Association, Club or League suspends or lifts a suspension it has imposed, of any club, player, or official affiliated with it, notice thereof, on a form prescribed by

this Association, shall be sent to the State Administrative Employee of this Association no later than forty-eight (48) hours of the act.

Section 6. Extra Territorial Cup Competitions:

No member league, association, or club shall enter or take part in any cup competition outside the jurisdiction of this Association, except those directly affiliated with or operated by USYSA the Federation, without the approval of this Association.

Section 7. Gambling:

Betting or gambling in any form on any game or part thereof, at any place, is forbidden. An official or player who violates this rule shall be suspended permanently. Any club which permits a violation of this rule on or near its grounds may have its grounds barred from use.

Section 8. Referees:

It is recommended that in all competition under the jurisdiction of this Association, all referees should be registered with and be in good standing with USSF.

Section 9. Dissolution:

The State Association shall maintain its tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles, SRI is organized exclusively for one or more purposes as specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income tax under IRC 501(c)(3) or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws. In the event of dissolution, all of the remaining assets and property of the organization shall, after payment of necessary expenses thereof, be distributed to only organizations as shall qualify under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**Registration**

Section 1. Seasonal Year:

The seasonal year shall be from September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**Players**

Section 1. Classification:

A youth player is one who, on August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current seasonal year, has not yet reached the

age of nineteen (19) years. A player who reaches his nineteenth birthday after the date above shall be allowed to complete the season. He shall pay the applicable registration fee.

Section 2. Registration of Players:

A) Registration with SRI and USYS:

The State Association shall register all of this players, coaches, teams, referees, and administrators with USYS at least once each year and timely pay all dues and fees of USYS the Federation.

Players will be registered with their own Affiliated Association registrar on a form approved by this Association. Each member association in SRI shall be responsible for creating registration forms subject to SRI approval. Each member association shall be responsible for maintaining its player/coach registration forms. Each member association shall be responsible for submitting its registrations to SRI in electronic format. (See Policy & Procedure 2319).

**ARTICLE X**  
**Amendments**

Section 1. Vote Required:

The by-laws of this Association may be amended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the entire voting power of the members at the Annual General Meeting.

Section 2. Who Can Make Amendments:

Any proposals or motions to amend the by-laws of this Association may be made by members, the Board of Directors, or member of the Board.

Section 3. Advance Notice:

Any proposals or motions to amend the by-laws of this Association must be made in writing to the State Administrative Employee thirty (30) days in advance of the Annual General Meeting. These proposals or motions shall be sent in writing to all members ten (10) days in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

Section 4. Untitled:

Changes to the Constitution may be made at quarterly Council meetings in order to comply to constitutional changes required by USYS Rules and Regulations in order for this constitution to be acceptable to USYS, and USSF.

Changes to the Constitution/Bylaws may be made at quarterly Council meetings to correct grammatical errors and/or spelling errors where such changes would not be considered substantive changes to the Constitution/Bylaws. All such changes would require a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the voting delegates.