Sierra Vista Soccer League

Constitution

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**Constitution**

Is a set of fundamental principles and laws that establish the framework for an organization. The scope is broader and more general, as it is applicable to the entire organization. It includes fundamental principles, purpose, structure, and powers of the organization. It can be enforced by external legal authorities. It is the supreme governing document of the organization. Hence, the amendment process is more difficult and requires a supermajority vote. Requires a higher threshold for approval, two-thirds majority. Due to the nature of a constitution, revisions will be tracked.

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| **ACTION** | **DATE** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| Adopted |  |  |
| Revised | August 22, 2024 |  |
| Revised | August 15, 2024-5 | Split Constitution & Bylaws, Insert correct SVSL Logo, added Affiliation |

### PREFACE

The United States Soccer Federation (USSF) is recognized as the National Governing Body for soccer in the United States by the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) as provided in the Amateur Sports Act of 1978.

### ARTICLE I – NAME

The organization shall be known as: Sierra Vista Soccer League (SVSL).

### ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

As set forth in the Articles of Incorporation, SVSL is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Code. More specifically, the purpose of SVSL shall be to develop, promote, and govern the game of soccer among participating players. SVSL encourages all players to participate equally in the game of soccer. SVSL is dedicated to the youth and adult players of Cochise County and surrounding areas by providing various levels of competition in a RECRATIONAL league, coaching, mentoring, and monetary support.

### ARTICLE III – OFFICE

SVSL shall continuously maintain within the State of AZ a registered agent and an office as designated by the Board of Directors. The address of the registered agent and office may be changed from time to time by the Board of Directors. The headquarters of this league shall be in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

### ARTICLE IV – AFFILIATION

SVSL is affiliated with the Arizona Soccer Association (ASA) and the United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA) under the authority of the USSF and will comply with all requirements of their rules, policies and Bylaws to the extent applicable to SVSL. SVSL shall not become a member of any organization that imposes any requirement that conflicts with the Articles of Incorporation of the USSF, its rules and policies or Bylaws.

### ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

SVSL membership is open to soccer organizations and soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators and officials without discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin or other legally protected class under Federal Law. Membership in SVSL and its member organizations shall be open to any individual who is an amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official active in the sport of soccer who is not subject to suspension under Section 4 of USSF Bylaw 241 or pursuant to the disciplinary or risk management action of any amateur soccer organization in its territory; and except for a National Association, the membership of SVSL and its member organizations shall be open to any amateur soccer organization in its territory. Adult amateur soccer organizations of a minimum of four teams may affiliate with SVSL.

Any properly constituted team that operates within the territory under the jurisdiction of the SVSL may become a member of the SVSL if all requirements of membership are met. Application for membership must be accompanied by required dues and membership fees as set up by the Board of Directors. All amounts shall be returned if the applicant is denied membership.

**Section 1**

Each league team, provided it is in good standing, shall have one (1) team representative. The team representative, who is responsible for the team, must be at least 18 years old. A team representative shall have one (1) vote in all matters where a vote by the Board of Directors is necessary.

**Section 2**

To be in good standing with the SVSL, a team or individual must meet all the following requirements:

All current dues, fees, and assessments due the SVSL must be paid. Membership dues are payable on or before the registration date set by the Board of Directors and become delinquent with commencement of league play. Players joining after the initial registration must pay dues three calendar days prior to their first match. Individual registration shall remain open until three weeks prior to the final regular scheduled game. Individual registrations made after the season midpoint may be entitled to a reduced rate.

All players and teams must be properly registered and the teams must provide the Board of Directors with name, address, email address and telephone number of their team representative.

**Section 3**

A league team failing to meet any requirements of good standing shall be subject to discharge from the SVSL, which would include all the entitlements therein. Such discharge shall be accomplished by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

**Section 4**

Upon acceptance into the league, each team will be presented with a copy of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations as well as any other documents pertaining to the governance of the SVSL. At the start of the league year each team representative shall submit a signed document which states that members have read and fully understands the constitution and the rules regulations. This shall be deemed sufficient notice of this club’s liabilities. **IN ANY CASE, A PLEA OF IGNORANCE OF THIS CONSTITUTION, RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND ITS REQUIREMENTS SHALL NOT BE SUFFICIENT EXCUSE FOR NON-COMPLIANCE THEREWITH, AND VIOLATORS SHOULD EXPECT APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION.**

### ARTICLE VI – GOVERNANCE

**Section 1**
The sole authority of SVSL, except that which is herein otherwise delegated, shall be the Council, in compliance with the SVSL Constitution, SVSL By Laws and Rules and Regulations.

**Section 2**
The Council is comprised of a Board of Directors and representatives of each Team whose authority shall be, but is not limited to, to approve changes to the Constitution and Bylaws, elect officers of the Board of Directors and approve the annual budget. The Council has the right to reject or to overrule the authority of the Board of Directors.

**Section 3**
The Council shall meet at least annually during such time that the Board of Directors deems it can attract the best attendance.

**Section 4**
In each Council meeting, each currently registered Affiliate/team in good standing shall have the following number of voting representatives based on player registration:

1 Team Representative per Team

**Section 5**
A quorum shall consist of ten (10) Council members, or a majority, whichever is less, to conduct any Council Business for which fourteen (14) days written notice was provided. A quorum to conduct any business not included in the written notice shall consist of a majority of the Council.

**Section 6**
At the sole discretion of an Affiliate/team that has more than one vote, one individual may cast all or part of the votes of the organization.

**Section 7**
No Board of Director member who is also a member of an Affiliate/team, shall be allowed more than one vote at any meeting of SVSL. Any member with a dual role in the Council must choose which role will be used for voting purposes.

### ARTICLE VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**See also SVSL Policy – Board of Directors**

**Section 1**
SVSL shall have a Board of Directors selected through an open and democratic election process. The officers of the SVSL Board of Directors shall be elected in the manner prescribed in the Bylaws and shall hold office for one (1) year, or until their successors have been elected and installed.

**Section 2**
For the purpose of administering the affairs of SVSL between Council meetings, there shall be a Board of Directors composed of the minimum President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Registrar.

 **Section 3**
The Board of Directors shall meet at least quarterly and more often as required to administer the affairs of SVSL. The Board of Directors shall hold meetings every other month that are open to all membership. Each team representative will have one (1) vote. The President will cast the deciding vote in case of a tie or may choose to abstain and waive the right to do so. If a meeting is required aside from the regular bimonthly meeting, ALL members of the Executive Board must cast a vote before a decision is final (this vote can be done over the phone if necessary). Board members are allowed to represent their teams and their Board Position at the same time.

A quorum for any official SVSL meeting shall be constituted by the simple majority of the Board of Directors and the team representatives present. The majority vote shall decide all questions except as provided below:

An amendment to the Constitution of SVSL, requires a two-thirds majority of the quorum.

The Board of Directors may bar from office any of the officers, and bar from participation any members, official, club, or other representative by two-thirds majority by all members of the Board of Directors.

In the absence of the President, the line of succession for conducting meetings shall be:

- Vice President

- Secretary

- Treasurer

- Registrar

All matters and proceedings of the SVSL which are not otherwise provided herein to the contrary shall be governed by Robert’s Rules of Order as amended.

**Section 4**

The Board of Directors shall have full authority to act for SVSL in all matters of administration and shall make a report of such actions and policies adopted to the Council at the first meeting after the Board of Directors are voted in.

**Section 5**
The Board of Director’s specific authority shall include:
**A.** Sole authority to determine qualifications for affiliation and to accept or reject any application submitted under the requirements of the Bylaws.
**B.** Delegate for any endeavor, its authority to such person or persons whom it may from time to time designate.
**C.** Review such papers, books, documents, and accounts of the Affiliate/team as it may from time to time require.
**D.** Suspend, expel, and/or impose penalties upon any Affiliate, team, and/or persons under its jurisdiction guilty of violation of breach of the rules of SVSL, ASA, USASA or the USSF.
**E.**Settle disputes between two or more Affiliate, team, and/or persons.
**F.**Investigate and correct or demand to be corrected conditions which are detrimental to the operation or reputation of SVSL.
**G.** Direct the audit, review, attestation or compilation of financial records and financial statements. Hire and assure the independence of the auditor, reviewer, attestor or compiler and to provide oversight of the process to assure the reliability of financial data, efficiency of internal controls and risk management processes.
**H.** The Board of Directors shall have power to incur pecuniary liabilities on behalf of SVSL.
**I.**The Board of Directors shall have the power to adopt and amend policies for SVSL by majority vote of the Board of Directors at a scheduled meeting.

**Section 6**
If a vacancy occurs in any office other than that of the President, the President with concurrence of the Board of Directors may appoint a temporary successor until the next meeting of the Council. The Council will then fill the position in the manner herein prescribed for the election of officers at the annual meeting.

**Section 7**
Any SVSL officer or appointed chair or committee member absent from two consecutive meetings including those of a committee or SVSL Board of Director’s meeting at which his or her presence would normally be required, may thereby forfeit the right to hold the office for the unexpired term.

### ARTICLE VIII – ADMINISTRATION

**Section 1**
SVSL and its members shall be governed by its Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws and policies, supplemented by rules of ASA, USASA and the USSF. In the event of conflict, the rules of the latter shall apply.

**Section 2**
SVSL shall have the authority to investigate and correct or demand to be corrected, unfavorable conditions which may develop in its Affiliates, teams, and/or persons. Affiliates, teams, and/or persons unresponsive to the SVSL’s demands for corrective action can be placed in “bad standing” by majority vote of the Board of Directors with specified sanctions and/or fines and loss of member benefits.

**Section 3**
SVSL shall have the authority to make and decide on all matters of controversy under appeal from Affiliates, teams, and/or persons.

**Section 4**
Proceedings concerning any alleged abuse/assault on a referee shall be conducted by SVSL under applicable USSF rules.

**Section 5**
SVSL shall have the authority to do that which it deems expedient to enforce the purpose for which it was organized.

**Section 6**
SVSL shall have the authority to enter into agreements of business with legally incorporated entities, utilizing its full portfolio of resources and assets, for the purposes of marketing, promotion and/or such transactions that benefit SVSL.

**Section 7**
All Affiliates, teams, and/or persons are required to use SVSL‘s approved electronic registration process. Any Affiliates, teams, and/or persons not using SVSL’s approved electronic registration process must submit a request for variance to the Board of Directors detailing the proposed software and protocol for electronic transmission of data to SVSL and storage of registration data.

**Section 8**
SVSL and its members shall maintain and store records in accordance with SVSL policy which shall be in compliance with ASA, USASA and USSF requirements.

**Section 9**
SVSL shall have provisions for the resolution and determination of grievances, disputes and appeals provisions that comply with the processes specified in the Bylaws and Policies of ASA, USASA and USSF. These provisions shall be in Bylaws, rules or other documents that clearly state the procedures under which adjudication of grievances, appeals and other disciplinary matters occur.

### ARTICLE IX – FISCAL PROVISIONS

**The fiscal year of SVSL shall be established by the Board of Directors. The seasonal playing year of SVSL shall be established by the Board of Directors and in accordance with the ASA. Fees and dues shall be set annually by the Board of Directors and presented to the Council for approval at the AGM. Special assessments may also be set by the Board of Directors and presented to the Council at the AGM. SVSL will comply with all State and Federal tax requirements governing 501(c)(3) organizations.**

### ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

**Section 1**
Amendments to this Constitution shall be made at any meeting of the Council at which a quorum is present by a two-thirds vote. Voting members for this purpose are defined as team representatives of affiliated teams in good standing, divisional coordinators and the league officers. Voting members in attendance have the option to extend the vote to the SVSL General Populace, whereby voting will take place on the fields the first games following the vote of new Board of Directors. Amendments will go into effect after votes.

**Section 2**
Proposed amendments to the Constitution must be submitted in writing to the President at least thirty (30) days in advance of a Council meeting. The representatives to that meeting shall be provided a copy with the meeting notice at least fourteen (14) days in advance.

**Section 3**

In emergency situations when an amendment needs to be made prior to or after the AGM, the amendment may be made and approved by the voting members after all voting members acknowledge receipt of the proposed change(s). Two-thirds of the voting membership must concur with the proposed change for the amendment to be added. These proposed changes to the constitution during the league year will be handled on a case-by-case basis and will be subject to review by the executive board. The executive board may decide to table the vote until the next AGM. The goal is to ensure full continuity and consistency throughout the league year.

**Section 4**

SVSL must submit to USASA any amendment to its Charter, Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Policies, Rules, or Regulations no later than ninety (90) days after the adoption of such amendment.

### ARTICLE XI – INDEMNIFICATION

The SVSL shall indemnify, to the maximum extent permitted by Arizona Revised Statutes, Chapter V, Article I, Section 10-1005 (B), any person who is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, or any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the SVSL to procure a judgment in its favor, by reason of the fact that she is or was a director, officer or employee of the SVSL or is or was serving at the request of the SVSL in any attorneys’ fees and against judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement to the extent permitted by law. Expenses, including attorneys’ fees, incurred in the defense of a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding may be paid by the SVSL in advance of the final disposition of any such action, suit or proceeding to the extent permitted by law.

### ARTICLE XII – DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of this association for whatever reason, all of its assets shall be turned over to the USSF in trust for submission to any state association which is properly organized and affiliated with the USSF.

### ARTICLE XIII – ESTABLISHMENT OF RULES AND REGULATION

Rules and regulations will be established to provide for the effective and consistent administration of the SVSL activities.

### ADDENDUM -DEFINITIONS

**TERMS -**The following terms shall be defined as set forth below:
**“Affiliate”** shall refer to those amateur soccer organizations, teams, or person(s) across AZ that have exercised the option to become a member of SVSL.
**“AGM”**shall refer to the Annual General Meeting of the Council.
**“ASA” shall refer to the Arizona Soccer Association, Inc.**

**“Council”** shall refer to the full governing body of SVSL comprised of the Board of Directors and delegates of the Affiliates.
The**“Board of Directors”** shall refer to the President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and other designated, elected Officers.
**“FIFA”**shall refer to the Federation de Internationale Football Association.
**“Members”** shall refer to affiliated leagues and their registrants within AZ.
**“SVSL”** shall refer to the Sierra Vista Soccer League.
**“USASA”**shall refer to the United States Adult Soccer Association, Inc.
**“USSF”** shall refer to the United States Soccer Federation.