

**Texas Association of Sports Officials (TASO)
TARRANT AREA CHAPTER SOCCER
By-Laws**

ARTICLE I

NAMES, AFFILIATION, PURPOSE

Section 1 – Name: The name of the association is the Tarrant Chapter Soccer of the Texas Association of Sports Officials (hereafter referred to as TASO).

Section 2 – Affiliation: This chapter is formed as an affiliate of TASO. In any matter not specifically referred to in these By-Laws and all matters inadvertently in conflict with law or practice of TASO, the chapter affirms its intent to abide by the law and practice as defined by the TASO By-Laws.

Section 3 – Purpose: To provide for continuing development of soccer officials by improving communications, education, understanding and application of the National Federation Soccer Rules by its members and provide registration, scheduling and assigning of soccer officials to sanctioned games within the geographic boundaries.

ARTICLE II

GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES

Section 1 – Area: Tarrant Chapter Soccer TASO shall provide officials for all varsity and/or sub-varsity contests for which a school or school district has requested such services for all soccer contests.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Qualifications for Membership: Any person whose application is approved by the Executive Board shall be a member of Tarrant Chapter Soccer TASO subject to the final approval of the TASO Soccer Division Board. Applications will be processed in accordance with procedures established by the Board of Directors of Tarrant Chapter Soccer TASO.

Section 2 – Approval of Membership Application:

- A. The applicant must be at least sixteen (16) years of age by December 31 prior to the start of the soccer season.
- B. Two (2) registration forms are required: (1) Application for TASO membership shall be on an approved TASO form. (2) The Tarrant Chapter Soccer registration form is processed for additional soccer experience information of the official.
- C. Applications must be accompanied by payment of the approved TASO and Chapter fees.
- D. The Applicant must pass a NFHS (National Federation of State High School Associations) exam on rules and mechanics with a minimum passing grade of 70%.
- E. Completion of one of two following COPE training methods for the current soccer year by:
 - 1.) Attend a Chapter meeting with Cope training and recorded by Chapter Secretary.
 - 2.) Complete UIL Cope training on-line and send certificate of completion to the Chapter Secretary.
- F. It is strongly suggested that members have access to the internet with valid email address entered into the Chapter assigning program to accept assignments and receive essential chapter communication emails during the current season.
- G. Returning, reinstatement or transferring members must be in “good standing” with the chapter they were registered from any previous years/seasons.
- H. A member may belong to multiple TASO soccer chapters. The member pays TASO dues once and chapter dues for each chapter of membership. Regional and State playoff assignments may only be accepted from a member’s primary

chapter. A member's primary chapter is defined as the chapter that pays that member TASO state dues.

- I. Members who violate the operating procedures, code of ethics or falsify information on the membership application shall, after due notice and disciplinary hearing, have their membership suspended or terminated. Members may appeal disciplinary action taken by the chapter to the Board. Members who appeal disciplinary action shall abide by the decision of the Board.

Section 3 - Privileges of Membership:

- A. All chapter members in good standing have voting privileges in selecting the elected officers and directors of the local chapter and TASO.
- B. Members are defined as in good standing have satisfactory completed Article III Section 2 and have paid any and all assignor fees.

Section 4 – Termination of Membership:

- A. The membership and any interest or rights thereunder of a member who fails to comply with the provisions of Article III section 2 (above) shall expire at the end of the current membership year.
- B. Members who violate the provisions and/or spirit of the By-Laws and operating procedures shall, after due notice and disciplinary hearing, at the discretion of the Executive Board, have their membership and any interests or rights thereunder terminated. The member may appeal any such decision to the TASO Board of Directors.

Section 5 – Ranking of referees: The Executive Board will rank referees as a general guide for assignment and is based on evaluation of the member's ability as well as the skill and competitiveness of the various school teams we serve.

- 5 – Initial rating for new members, lines only
- 4 – Lines + Sub-Varsity middles (most)
- 3 – Sub-Varsity (all), some Varsity middles
- 2 – Most Varsity middles
- 1 – Any Varsity middle

ARTICLE IV

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1: - The Executive Board (hereafter referred to as the Board) shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President, TASO District IX Director and four Directors at Large. Directors at Large are members of the Chapter and shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board. Director at Large members shall include but not be limited to Training & Rules Interpreter Director, Appeals & Disciplinary Director, Development & Recruiting Director and Director of Assessments.

Section 2: Each of the above Board Members (with the exception of non-voting appointed Directors at Large members) shall cast one vote at Board meetings, with the exception of the President, who shall only vote in case of tie

Section 3 – Powers: Subject to the restrictions contained in any part of these By-Laws and those of TASO, the Board shall have full charge of the activities and general operations of this chapter. The Board shall have the power to recommend By-Laws changes and present these to the membership for a simple vote by quorum. The Board shall be empowered to rule on situations not covered in the By-Laws and to adopt all operating procedures and to govern its own deliberations. The Board is expressly empowered to select, employ and supervise a person or persons to assign referees for varsity and sub-varsity soccer matches that are played under the University Interscholastic League (UIL) and Tapps sanction within the geographic area and for those other schools requesting our assistance.

Section 4 – Compensation: No Board member of this Chapter shall receive any remuneration for any act or services done as an office on behalf of this Chapter, but this provision shall not exclude the reimbursement of individual members for expenses incurred in performing the business and affairs of this chapter.

ARTICLE V

THE OFFICERS AND THEIR TERM

Section 1 - Officers: The officers shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Past-President and TASO District IX Director. Director members shall include Training & Rules Interpreter Director, Appeals & Disciplinary Director, Development & Recruiting Director and Director of Assessments.

Section 3 – Term of Office: The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected two year terms. The President and Treasurer shall be elected on even numbered years. The Vice President and Secretary shall be elected on odd numbered years. New Officers will assume their duties at the adjournment of the annual business meeting and will remain in office until the adjournment of the subsequent annual business meeting in which their term ends. No elected Officer may succeed him/herself for more than two consecutive terms in any one position.

District IX Director shall serve no more than two consecutive terms in office. District IX Director is elected in odd number years by TASO Soccer Board of Directors and serves a two year term in office.

The Training & Rules Interpreter Director, Appeals & Disciplinary Director, Development & Recruiting Director and Director of Assessments shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board after the conclusion of the voting at the annual meeting.

Section 4 – Qualifications: Be a member in good standing with the Chapter.

ARTICLE VI

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1 – Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership present at the annual business meeting. A slate of candidates will be presented by the Board and nominations will be taken from the floor.

Section 2 – Vacancies: Vacancies of offices which occur during the term shall be filled by appointment of the Board with the exception of the President. Should the office of the President become vacant, the Vice President will succeed to that office for the uncompleted term.

Section 3 – Procedures for Recall: An officer may be recalled by a 2/3 vote of the Board or by a 2/3 vote of the membership voting. A request for recall must be filed with the chapter secretary and approved by the Board, with the officer or officers whose recall is being requested not eligible to vote. A minimum of thirty days will be permitted before the vote from the membership is taken.

ARTICLE VII

DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1 – President: The president shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter and the Board. The President shall have general and active management of the affairs of the Chapter while the Board is not sitting, shall be responsible for the proper execution of all orders and resolutions of the Board and, in general, shall perform all the duties usually incident to such office or which may be required by the Board, or by other provisions of the by-laws. The President shall be responsible for administering all applicable contracts between school districts and the Chapter. The President appoints committees when needed for the Chapter to plan, develop, establish and administer any duties usually incident to manage with the best interest of the Chapter.

Section 2 – Vice President: The Vice President shall perform all the duties of the President in the event of the President's absence, and generally perform all the duties usually incident to the office of Vice President or which may be required any the President, the Board or other provisions of these By-Laws. Appoint Chapter District Representatives to perform liaison with the school districts, school, coaches and Athletic Directors and inform them with any changes of NFHS rules and update current

information that is needed for scheduling, contact information, venue, rescheduling, new schools and any incidents that needs attention.

Section 3 – Secretary:

- A. The Secretary shall record all minutes of the meetings of the Chapter and Board, have custody of the Minutes Book and the membership roster of the Chapter, which shall be available to the members, and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office or which may be required by the President, the Board or other provisions of this constitution.
- B. The Secretary shall receive and process all applications for membership. The Secretary shall furnish the applicants with all necessary publications of TASO.
- C. The Secretary shall keep a service record on each member embracing qualifications, officiating activities past and present and all details relative to any member's record as an official.
- D. The Secretary is responsible for providing all soccer related communication to the Chapter's members.

Section 4 – Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have custody of all monies of the chapter and shall deposit them in such bank or trust company as shall be designated by the Board. The Treasurer shall have the right, together with the President or Vice President to countersign all checks, drafts, notes or orders for payments of money. The Treasurer shall keep or supervise the keeping of accurate accounts of the finances of the chapter and membership in writing to the Board can ask to inspect and examine all records. The Treasurer shall perform the usual duties incident to the office or which may be required by the President, the Board or other provisions of this constitution. The Treasurer shall prepare an annual budget and annual financial report for the Annual Business meeting.

Section 5 – Past-President: Past-President shall have voting privileges and shall be included in all committees. His term of office will terminate with the election of new President every two even numbered years or two terms which ever comes first.

Section 6 – TASO District IX Director: The District IX Director shall represent Tarrant Chapter on the TASO Soccer Division Board provided it remains a single-chapter district. District Directors shall serve no more than two consecutive terms in office. District IX Director is elected in odd number years by TASO Soccer Board of Directors and serves a two year term in office.

Section 7 – Training & Rules Interpreter Director: The Director shall be responsible for the training program and the necessary lesson plans, training aids, etc. of the Chapter.

He shall work with the State Training Officer and disseminate the information passed down from TASO to the Chapter; also Director shall serve as the official interpreter of the National Federation soccer rules and mechanics for the chapter. He will be the liaison for rules questions, which cannot be answered locally, to the State Rules Interpreter.

Section 8 – Appeals & Disciplinary Director: A & D Director shall be responsible to hold a hearing for misconduct, code of ethics violation or any reported incidents that involves this chapter’s member officials, coaches or Athletic Directors from schools that the Chapter assigns.

Section 9 – Development & Recruiting Director: To improve and help officials acquire the necessary combination of skills, physical fitness and knowledge to advance to their desired level of officiating. Communicate with Chapter Secretary to send out weekly or bi-weekly emails of discussions, any issues, and situations that are current or ongoing. Establish geographic area regions and encourage individuals to mentor entry level officials and those officials that want to improve their efficiency.

Section 10 – Director of Assessments: Provide list of eligible assessors (must be an active TASO member and registered as an assessor) and use their highest ranking level attained to assign assessments for officials of that level. Before the season starts identify and maintain a list of officials to be assessed to games and assign assessors that would provide results to change rating level. Provide amended list of priority for officials to be assessed before sending the “top 25” list to UIL. Provide assessors to playoff games for evaluation of all crew members.

ARTICLE VIII

COMMITTEES

Section 1 – Reserved:

ARTICLE IX

MEETINGS

Section 1 – Annual Business Meeting: The chapter will hold a general business meeting after the UIL State Playoffs at the end of season but no later than May 31st. Notice of such meeting will be provided to all members at least 14 days prior to the meeting. The time and place shall be determined by the Board. Election of officers and other chapter business will be conducted.

Section 2 – Training Session: At least one training session shall be held prior to the start of the high school season to discuss rule changes and other policies and procedures necessary for the coming season.

Section 3 – Special Meetings: Special meetings shall be held at the call of the President or the Board.

Section 4 – Executive Board Meetings: Executive Board meetings shall be held at the discretion of the President or at least three members of the Board.

Section 5 – Vote and Quorum: One tenth (1/10) of the registered chapter members in good standing will constitute a quorum at general meetings. Four (4) board members, one of whom is the President or Vice President, will constitute a quorum at Board meetings. Each member present shall have one (1) vote.

Section 6 – Conduct of Meetings: Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

ARTICLE X

DUES AND FEES

Section 1: Annual registration fees as set by TASO shall be paid at the time of registration and then forward to the TASO State office.

Section 2: Annual chapter dues will be established by the chapter Executive Board and collected at the time of collection of the annual registration fees.

Section 3: Referee assigner's fees will be paid to the assignor and notice of payment shall be sent to the Chapter Secretary by the individual official within 21 days after your last published assignment date.

ARTICLE XII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1: The members of this chapter shall have the power to alter, repeal or amend these By-Laws and operating procedures at any regular or special meeting, by an affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of the votes cast, provided notice of the proposed action is set forth in the notice of meeting

Section 2 – Notice of Amendment Vote: Proposed amendments shall be provided, in writing to the chapter Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which adoption is planned. A copy of the proposed By-Laws will then be posted on the chapter website and emailed to the current membership two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE XII

MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1 – Notices: Notices required by these By-Laws shall be sent by email to all Chapter members last email address that is in the current Chapter's assigning program.

Section 2 – General: Such regulations as may be necessary and proper for the conduct of business and affairs of the Chapter shall be provided for in the Operating Procedures, such Operating Procedures serving as an addendum to this constitution.

Section 3 – Dissolution of TASO (State): In the event that TASO or Soccer Division of TASO is dissolved or ceases to be recognized by Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL) as the provider of officials for all soccer contests the remaining funds in the Tarrant Chapter Soccer shall be at that time voted by the Executive Board to transfer funds to a new account name for the sole purpose of continuing the provisions of these By-Laws with new name or to completely dissolve with equal distribution of funds to current members.

Original Approved: December 2, 1987

Amended and approved: November 18, 1992

Amended and approved: December 10, 2009