

# TORSO Constitution & Bylaws



Amended January 2025

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# Constitution

## ***Article I. Name***

The name of this organization shall be the Thirty and Over Recreational Soccer Organization (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, religion, color, or disability, with the opportunity to learn, play, and enjoy the game of soccer played in a RECREATIONALLY 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 these 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 member teams. The governing body shall consist of the TORSO Executive Board (the Board) and one official representative from each member team in good standing. Each member team in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

*Section 2.* TORSO business affairs shall be managed and conducted by 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 Board shall consist ideally of the following officers, with duties as set forth in the Bylaws: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Senior Commissioner, and Referee Liaison. The Board may include such additional Member-at-large positions as the Board deems necessary.

*Section 2.* Officers shall be elected 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 or such other meetings at which they are elected.

*Section 3.* Elections shall be held when noted, 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.

*Section 5.* A 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 Vice President, 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.

*Section 7.* All members of the Executive Board have full voting privileges.

*Section 8.* All members of the Executive Board are unpaid.

*Section 9.* The Executive Board is authorized to establish and maintain a reserve with safeguards.

## ***Article XII. Committees***

The Board may convene such committees as the Board deems necessary.

## ***Article XIII. Meetings***

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

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

- a) There will be at least three (3) regular meetings per calendar year requiring a quorum of team representatives for all matters of voting.
- b) Special meetings may be called by the President, a majority of 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. A majority is defined to be 50% plus one.

*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 a majority of Board members.

c) A majority of Board members must be present to conduct league business.

*Section 3.* The Annual Meeting is a league meeting at which the regular election for Officers is usually held and amendments to the Constitution are voted upon. 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 become effective when the amendment states that the amendment will become effective. 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 become effective when the amendment states that the amendment will become effective. Any proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Board in writing.

#### ***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 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 August 2024 and is current as of that date.

# Bylaws

## ***Article I. Function***

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

## ***Article III. Duties of The Officers***

All officers shall be elected at the end of their two-year term at a League meeting or at the Annual Meeting.

### *Section 1.* President

The President 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 Board and League meetings.
- 5) Represent TORSO at all community and public functions.
- 6) Represent TORSO at TSSAS 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 chairs to all committees (except the D&P Committee).
- 9) Serve as an ex officio voting member of all committees (except Nominations/Election).
- 10) Prepare written reports as necessary.
- 11) Call special Board or League Meetings.
- 12) Serve as Chairperson of the Board of TORSO and call its meetings.



### *Section 2. Vice President*

The Vice President shall:

- 1) Perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President in their absence or incapacity.
- 2) Perform any additional duties as may be designated by the President or the Board.
- 3) Serve as Parliamentarian at all meetings.
- 4) In addition to their normal duties, serve as interim President if the president resigns or is removed from office.
- 5) Review and decide outcome of abandoned games as defined under Article XII, Section 4.
- 6) Chair, Assemble and call the Disciplinary & Protest Committee to hear protests from teams and players in accordance with Article IX, which may be subject to TORSO disciplinary sanctions under Article X.
- 7) Keep a permanent record of TORSO player bans.
- 8) Serve on the Board of TORSO.

### *Section 3. Secretary*

The Secretary shall:

- 1) Record minutes of all Board and League meetings.
- 2) Provide written copy of previous meeting minutes at next meeting for approval
- 3) Maintain the official records of TORSO, which shall include but not be limited to minutes of meetings, committee reports, and record amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws and playing rules and the votes taken at any meeting.
- 4) Serve on the Board of TORSO.

### *Section 4. 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 Board.
- 3) Sign all checks and orders to withdraw funds in accordance with Article VIII.
- 4) Assist 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 session 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) Serve on the Board of TORSO.
- 9) Send team fines collected to TSSAS as required.

### *Section 5. Referee Liaison*

The Referee Liaison shall:

- 1) Be responsible for working with each Referee Assignor regarding the scheduling of Game Officials to officiate at all TORSO games.
- 2) Act as a non-voting spokesperson for the referees at D&P Committee hearings.
- 3) Compile and assimilate Referee Evaluation sheets.
- 4) Work with each Referee Assignor to inform the Referees about the TORSO Exceptions to the FIFA Laws
- 5) Serve on the Board of TORSO.

### *Section 6. Senior Commissioner*

The Senior Commissioner shall:

- 1) Act as liaison between TORSO and USSF/TSSAS and provide the President with reports of all business pertinent to coed soccer conducted at meetings with USSF/TSSAS.
- 2) Perform any additional duties as may be designated by the President or the Board.
- 3) Serve on the Board of TORSO.
- 4) Advise and assist teams wishing to travel out of the South Texas boundaries for tournament play.
- 5) Work with the State Senior Commissioner in the organization and administration of the Coed State Cup.

### *Section 7. Members-At-Large*

The Members-At-Large shall:

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

## ***Article IV. Duties of The Committees***

Each committee shall perform the duties as outlined by the Board.

## ***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.

### *Section 2. Maximum Number of Registered Players*

There is no maximum number of players allowed to register for each team.

### *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 during a soccer year. A team may refuse to sign a transfer if, at the time of the request for a transfer, the player owes the transferring team any fine, fee, uniform cost, or other amount which the transferring team notified the player that the player would be responsible for prior to the request for a transfer.

#### *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, their 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, prior to the start of play for that team:

- 1) Submit, in writing, the team's name, team colors, and the current (update as required) name, email address, and cell phone numbers of the designated Team Representatives.
- 2) Submit completed forms and documents as required for TORSO registration.
- 3) Submit registration fees as required for registration.

#### *Section 7. Teams and Players Following Rules*

All teams and players must agree to abide by the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of Competition of TORSO. A player's participation in any TORSO match shall constitute that player's acceptance of and agreement to the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules of Competition, and the release set forth on the player registration form.

#### *Section 8. Home Team Responsibilities*

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

- 1) Prepare a current and official game sheet of all their registered players participating in that match. Indicate ineligible and non-participating players as such on the form. Print the official game sheet from the website with accurate names and an accurate number for each player participating in any match. Give the completed form to the referee at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the game.
- 2) Initial or review the game sheet at the completion of the game, attesting to the score of the other team.

#### *Section 9. Visiting Team Responsibilities*

The visiting Team Representative shall:

- 1) Prepare a current and official game sheet of all their registered players participating in that match. Indicate ineligible and non-participating players as such on the form. Print the official game sheet from the website with accurate names and an accurate number for each player participating in any match. Give the completed form to the referee at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the game.
- 2) Initial or review the game sheet at the completion of the game, attesting to the score of the game.

#### *Section 10. Player Disqualification (Disbanded or Expelled Teams)*

If a team disbands and does not return for the next playing season or if a team is expelled as provided by the Bylaws, and if any such team owes TORSO any money, then no player registered with that team may register with any other TORSO team until the fees are paid, in whole or in part, as provided by the then current procedures in such a circumstance.

## **Article VI. Duties of The Team Representatives**

*Section 1.* Responsible for the registration of team players by the date(s) 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/her players and spectators.

*Section 4.* Responsible for maintaining order and respect for the authority of the referee and assistant referees during games.

*Section 5.* Responsible for communicating the business conducted at league meetings to their team members.

*Section 6.* Responsible to provide a current and official game sheet with clear photos of players. Failure to provide the official game sheet with player photos at the request of the referee or playing of a player without a proper form of identification 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). Payment of this fine must be received by the Treasurer within fourteen (14) days of the missed meeting for the team to satisfy a TORSO team eligibility requirement.

*Section 8.* Each team representative shall comply with the team representative pre-match, match, and post-match checklists on the website.

## **Article VII. Meetings**

### *Section 1.* Order of Business

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

- 1) Call to Order.
- 2) Approve the Minutes of Previous Meeting.
- 3) Reports of Committees.
- 4) Unfinished Business.
- 5) New Business (Must give advance notice to league Secretary to get on the agenda).
- 6) Announcements.
- 7) 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 notes and evidence of indebtedness of the organization (other than checks) shall be signed by the Treasurer and by either the President or his appointed designate. Any checks may be signed by each authorized person pursuant to the terms of the signature cards on file with any bank or financial institution. 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
- 2) \$3,000 in the account at all times.
- 3) **Annual Budget:** This budget will cover those items which span the playing season. 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 more than \$500.00 must be approved by a majority of those team 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 \$500.00 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. Returned Check Fee*

Any fees charged by the bank for an NSF check, a returned check, or for any other matter that causes TORSO to incur any costs shall be reimbursed by the team that caused the costs.

## ***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 TORSO Vice President 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 Vice President or to the Executive Board within 72 hours after the game concerned. Protests and grievances must be filed in writing with the Vice President, 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. Vice President Shall Assemble a Committee*

The Vice President shall conduct a D&P Committee meeting as provided in the then current D&P procedures.

### *Section 5. Notification of D&P Committee Decisions*

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

### *Section 6. Board Authority Over Vice President and/or D&P Committee Decisions*

The Board has limited authority to review any decision of the Vice President and/or D&P Committee. The Board may not veto or amend any decision of the Vice President and/or D&P Committee. The Board may review any decision of the Vice President and/or 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 Vice President and/or 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 Vice President and/or D&P Committee is fair, just, consistent and acceptable, then the Board shall deny the appeal and enforce the decision as rendered by the Vice President and/or D&P Committee.

### *Section 7. Appealing Vice President and/or D&P Committee Decisions*

Decisions of the Vice President and/or D&P Committee may be appealed to the TORSO 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 Vice President and/or D&P Committee. If the appeal is upheld by the Board, the fee will be returned. If it is denied, the fee will be forfeited to the TORSO treasury.

#### *Section 8. Rehearing Vice President and/or D&P Committee Decisions*

If 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 Vice President. 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 Vice President 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 Board Decisions*

Decisions of the 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.

#### *Section 10. Three Yellow Cards in a Season.*

If any player shall receive three (3) yellow cards for any reason during the same Season, then that player shall be suspended immediately for the next match without any further notice other than this Bylaw. Additionally, for each yellow card past the initial (3) three yellow cards for any reason within a season, then that player shall be suspended immediately for the next match without any further notice other than this Bylaw.

### ***Article X. Penalties and Fines***

#### *Section 1. Forfeitures*

Forfeitures - Team fine equal to the amount paid to the Referee team scheduled to officiate the match. Forfeitures may occur at any time before the end of the season and appropriate information may be brought to the attention of any 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 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. Team fines as assessed progressively by the League. This change is within season and not over the year. 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) - Team fine assessed as decided by the League and one game (minimum) 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. 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 team to sanction as set forth in Section 2 of the Article.

*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 Fall Season or Spring Season will cause suspension of that player for the remainder of that playing session. Team fines will be assessed as decided by the League.

*Section 6. Red card for Violent Conduct: 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. Any player found to have spit or secreted on another player will be suspended for a minimum of 5 games.

*Section 7. Red card for Violent Conduct: 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. Any player found to have open-palmed slapped, head-butted or close-handed punched with the intent to harm another player will be suspended from TORSO for a minimum of one (1) year from the date that the incident occurred, with a maximum penalty of permanent disqualification from TORSO.

*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 two (2) 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.



## ***Article XI. Playing Year and Seasons***

The TORSO Playing Year (September 1 through August 31) shall consist of three (3) seasons, Fall, Spring, and Summer.

*Section 1.* The TORSO Playing Year shall consist of:

Fall Season - September 1 thru January 15

Spring Season - January 15 thru May 31

Summer Season – June 1 thru August 31

*Section 2.* All teams in each Group will be scheduled for not less than six (6) nor more than ten (10) regular games per playing season.

## ***Article XII. Cancellations, Postponements, and Abandonments***

*Section 1.* Once schedules are established, no games may be re-scheduled unless the weather or referee requires postponement or abandonment or if the field management officials require a change in the schedule.

*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 two-thirds of game time having been played due to the listed conditions, the game must be rescheduled and replayed in its entirety. If the game is called off after two-thirds of game time has been played 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 Vice-President to decide as to the disposition of the game. The Vice-President 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 Vice-President's decision. This decision can be appealed to the Executive Board following the prescribed procedures of this League.

*Section 5.* If a team does not make a scheduled match, then that team shall forfeit the match. If the forfeiting team gives sufficient notice that TORSO will not incur the referee fees, then there will be no fine; otherwise, there will be forfeit fine equal to the amount paid to the Referee team scheduled to officiate the match.

### **Article XIII. Team Group Standings**

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

Win - 3 points Tie - 1 point

Loss - 0 points

Game not Played - 0 points

Forfeit – minus 1 point

A forfeit will be recorded as a 3-0 loss for the forfeiting team.

*Section 2.* In the event of a tie between two or more teams in the point/game totals TORSO will use any tie-breaking procedure to decide a Group champion as decided by the team members.

### **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. All exceptions to the Laws of the Game outlined below are subject to periodic review and may be updated as necessary to align with the current IFAB Laws of the Game.

*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.

*TORSO Fall and Spring Exception:* None.

*TORSO Summer Exception:* 70 to 80 yards long and 45 to 55 yards wide

#### **Law II: The Ball**

*FIFA:* Official #5 ball.

*TORSO Exception:* None.

#### **Law III: The 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.

*TORSO Fall and Spring 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.

Unlimited substitutions are allowed. A player for whom a substitution has been made can return to the field in the same game. A female player may only be substituted by another female player. A male player may be substituted by a male or female player. A team short of women players must play short. Seven players must be present to field a team and at least 1 must be a woman. A match will not be considered valid if there are fewer than seven (7) players on either of the teams. Failure to have the minimum number of eligible male and female players 15 minutes after scheduled game time will result in a forfeit for the team that is unable to field

*TORSO Summer Exception:* The seven (7) field players may consist of more than three women, but no more than four (4) men. The goalkeeper may be a man or a woman. Unlimited substitutions are allowed. A player for whom a substitution has been made can return to the field in the same game. A female player may only be substituted by another female player. A male player may be substituted by a male or female player. A team short of women players must play short. A match will not be considered valid if there are fewer than five (5) players on either of the teams. Failure to have the minimum number of eligible male and female players 10 minutes after scheduled game time will result in a forfeit for the team that is unable to field.

#### **Law IV: The Players' Equipment**

*FIFA:* Shirt, shorts, stockings, shoes, and shin guards. Goalkeeper must wear colors which distinguish them 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 judgment 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, except for the goalkeeper switching to their 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.

#### **Law V: The Referee**

*FIFA:* One referee shall be appointed for each match. Responsible for control of the game, and their 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: The Other Match Officials**

*FIFA:* Two Assistant Referees shall be appointed to assist the Referee.

*TORSO Fall and Spring Exceptions:* If certified Assistant Referee officials are not available, the referee may appoint up to two "club" linesmen to assist only by indicating

when the ball goes out-of-bounds.

*TORSO Summer Exception:* There are no Assistant Referees in Summer.

### **Law VII: The Duration of the Match**

*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 Fall and Spring Exception:* None.

*TORSO Summer Exception:* Two equal 35-minute halves.

### **Law VIII: The Start and Restart 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 its own half of the field and the defending players must be at least ten (10) yards from the ball until it is kicked. 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 can 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. To be eligible to play, all players must be listed as eligible on the official game sheet.

### **Law IX: The Ball In and Out of Play**

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

*TORSO Exception:* None

### **Law X: Determining the Outcome of a Match**

*FIFA:* A goal is scored when the whole of the ball has passed over the goal-line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar.

*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. An own goal will always count as one point. 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: Offside**

*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 Fall and Spring Exceptions:* None.

*TORSO Summer Exception:* There is no off-side in the Summer.

## **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 Caution-able offense. The goalkeeper may not be charged at any time, nor may the goalkeeper charge other players. This also may be considered a Caution-able offense. Any player receiving a Caution (yellow card) must leave the field for a ten (10) minute "cooling-off" period and may be substituted.

### **Law XIII: Free Kicks**

*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: The 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: The Throw-In**

*FIFA:* When the ball has wholly crossed the touchline, 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 touchline and the throw must come forward from behind the head using both hands.

*TORSO Fall and Spring Exceptions:* None.

*TORSO Summer Exception:* All out-of-bounds balls are put back in to play with an indirect kick. A goal cannot be scored from a kick-in.

### **Law XVI: The 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 Fall and Spring Exception:* None.

*TORSO Summer Exception:* No free kicks, punts or thrown balls from the keeper's box may cross the half line without having bounced first. Violation results in a free kick at midfield for the offended team.

### **Law XVII: The 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 2025 and are current as of that date.