

**Proposed CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS 2025 Update
ORANGE COUNTY SOCCER OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION, Inc.**

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this association shall be the ORANGE COUNTY SOCCER OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION, Inc. (OCSOA Inc.) This association shall be affiliated with the NEW YORK STATE CERTIFIED OFFICIALS OF SOCCER (NYSCOS) and the NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (NYSPHSAA, Inc). The OCSOA and its members are subject to the current NYSCOA Bylaws.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

SECTION 1: To unite in one organization all approved and registered New York State High School soccer officials in Orange County, NY.

SECTION 2: To promote the uniform interpretation and administration of the current NFHS rules of soccer by all officials.

SECTION 3: To maintain an affiliation with NYSCOS and NYSPHSAA. To provide certified, approved soccer referees in accordance with the NYSPHSAA Officials' Five Point Program for the purpose of officiating games at the junior & senior high school levels within our jurisdiction.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP: Active members shall be those who have successfully completed their probationary period, are in good standing within the organization and are actively available to officiate soccer games at their appropriate level.

SECTION 2: PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP: Probationary members shall be those members who have successfully passed the written examination and have been recommended by the Executive Committee. Their probationary term shall be a minimum of ONE YEAR, after which they may be recommended for active status by the Executive committee.

SECTION 2a: New members who have joined the OCSOA, Inc., either through transfer from another NYSPHSAA recognized soccer board, in good standing, or an approved, out of state association, in good standing, or a recognized association, i.e., NISOA (National Collegiate Soccer Officials Association) or USSF (United States Soccer Federation), in good standing, shall be considered to have their probationary period limited to a minimum of one (1) year upon recommendation of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 3: INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP: Inactive members shall be those members who are currently a “member in good standing” and can not officiate during the coming season. A request for inactive status must be made, in writing, to the Executive Committee, stating the reasons for the inactive status. No member shall remain on inactive status longer than two (2) consecutive years. However, extensions may be granted subject to the recommendations of the Executive Committee. Attendance at meetings will not be mandatory. Inactive members do not have voting privileges and do not pay dues

ARTICLE IV: DUES

SECTION 1: ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP: the annual dues for all active members shall be set by the Executive Committee on a yearly basis.

SECTION 2: PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP: The annual dues for probationary members shall be the same as an active member. It shall be paid prior to the start of the current season. It may be modified by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 3: INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP: Any member requesting to go on inactive status must do so in writing to the Secretary/Treasurer. Inactive status shall not last longer than two (2) consecutive years. The Executive Committee can review each case on an individual basis. Any member changing their status from inactive to active must put the request in writing and pay the required dues for the year prior to being assigned any games.

SECTION 4: PAYMENT OF DUES: Due date for payment of dues shall be 30 days prior to the date of the Dinner Meeting. The grace period ends at the conclusion of the Dinner Meeting. If no Dinner Meeting is scheduled, this date shall be December 1st. A \$50 fine shall be levied for late payment of annual dues

ARTICLE V:

OFFICERS

SECTION 1: The officers shall consist of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary/Treasurer and the Board Rules Interpreter.

SECTION 2: ELECTIONS: The officers shall be elected by the general membership at least every two (2) years at any scheduled meeting.

SECTION 3: TERMS OF OFFICE: The term of office for the four (4) elected officers shall be for a period of at least two (2) years.

SECTION 4: VACANCIES: Any vacancies occurring in the elective office of the organization, except the President, shall be filled by nomination from the floor and election to take place at the next scheduled general meeting. Vacancy of the President shall be filled by the Vice-President.

ARTICLE VI:

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1: PRESIDENT: The president shall preside at all meetings of the board and shall be chairperson of the Executive Committee. The President shall have the general supervision over the administrative affairs of the board and shall appoint such committees as are required to promote the work and the purposes of the board.

SECTION 2: VICE-PRESIDENT: The Vice-President, in the absence of the President, shall assume and perform all duties of the President.

SECTION 3: SECRETARY/TREASURER: The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep the minutes of all meetings and attend to all correspondence pertaining to the organization. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep the books of all monetary accounts, deposit all monies – dues, fees, special events and issue checks when authorized. The Secretary/Treasurer will submit a financial report at each meeting of the organization.

SECTION 4: BOARD RULES INTERPRETER: The Board Interpreter shall attend the NYSCOS annual interpretation meeting or designate an alternate representative. The Board Interpreter, or a designated member, shall represent the OCSOA at the mandatory pre-season coaches meeting and serve as the official liaison between the OCSOA and Section 9 on any rules interpretation.

ARTICLE VII:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the elected officers and five (5) members appointed by the President of the OCSOA.

SECTION 2: DUTIES: The Executive Committee shall recommend policies, activities, membership status and the new slate of officers to the active membership for their vote. The Executive Committee shall also have emergency power to act, when necessary, in conducting the affairs of the association in between scheduled general membership meetings. The Executive Committee shall serve as a trial board for any member, school or organization that negatively affects the positive intent of this organization against any member or officer of this organization. The Executive Committee shall hold a hearing upon each complaint and the accused shall have full opportunity to be heard in his/her defense. The decision of the committee shall be final, unless disapproved by a two-thirds majority of the active membership. Appropriate punishment shall be prescribed in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and the By-Laws of the OCSOA. The Executive Committee shall have the power to suspend or expel members of the association, unless this action is disapproved by a two-thirds majority of the active membership, for any violation of the constitution and the by-laws.

SECTION 3: QUORUM: A quorum shall consist of four (4) members for an Executive Committee meeting.

ARTICLE VIII: SALARIES, EXPENSES AND FEES

SECTION 1: SALARIES: Officers receiving salaries shall be the Secretary/Treasurer and the Board Rules Interpreter. The annual salary for the Secretary/Treasurer shall be \$400.00 plus any expenses that are necessary for the proper administration of the association. The annual salary for the Board Rules Interpreter shall be \$200.00 plus any expenses that are necessary for the proper administration of the position. The Executive Committee has the authority to modify these amounts or pay any member for services rendered for the benefit of the OCSOA.

SECTION 2: EXPENSES: Expenses of the officers and/or members, when incurred in the business of the association shall be submitted in writing and passed upon to the Executive Committee. When approved by the Executive Committee, the expenses shall be dispensed by the Secretary/Treasurer.

SECTION 3: FEES: All fees paid to the association by any school, league or organization for services rendered by this association shall be deposited into the Primary Checking Account of this association.

ARTICLE IX:

MEETINGS

SECTION 1: REGULAR MEETINGS: Members are required to attend a minimum of three (3) OCSOA meetings a season to remain a member in good standing. Attendance at other approved NYSCOS board meetings shall not count toward the 3-meeting requirement of the OCSOA

SECTION 2: QUORUM: A quorum for the transaction of all association matters shall consist of one-quarter (1/4) of the active present membership.

SECTION 3: ROBERTS RULE OF ORDER: All meetings of the OCSOA shall be governed by Roberts Rule of Order except as otherwise specifically ordered herein.

ARTICLE X:

FINES AND SUSPENSIONS

SECTION 1: NON-PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES: Dues not paid by the end of the annual Dinner meeting (or Dec 1st if no Dinner meeting is held) will be subject to a \$50.00 fine. If not paid by January 1st of the following year, membership will be revoked.

SECTION 2: NON-ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS: Any member that fails to attend the required three (3) meetings, is no longer a member in good standing. If this occurs after the second to last scheduled meeting, they can no longer officiate games that season. If it occurs after the Dinner meeting they will be subject to a fine (not to exceed a Varsity game fee) and possible suspension the following season as recommended by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 3: NO-SHOW GAME ASSIGNMENT: Any member who misses a CONFIRMED game, whether written or telephonic, will be subjected to a game fee fine at the level assigned game, suspended or assessed a penalty as recommended by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 4: SAME DAY TURNBACK: Upon the second same day turnback, Of a confirmed game the member will be subjected to a \$50 fine. This fine may be appealed in writing to the Executive Board if extenuating circumstances exist

SECTION 5: NON-PAYMENT OF FINES: All fines must be paid by January 1st of the following year or membership will be revoked.

ARTICLE XI: RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

SECTION 1: Active members may officiate within the territory guidelines as noted by NYSCOS (New York State Certified Officials of Soccer). They may also officiate in neighboring territories if requested by BOCES due to lack of available officials.

SECTION 2: All active and probationary members of this association must attend three (3) OCSOA meetings during the current soccer year.

SECTION 3: UNIFORM: All officials shall be dressed alike per NYSCOS Bylaws

SECTION 4: RE-EXAMINATION: A member who has been expelled, or under suspension for more than two (2) years, or who has allowed their membership to lapse, must submit their request for reinstatement in writing to the Executive Committee.

SECTION 5: APPEALS: All members have the right to appeal any decision by the Executive Committee. It must be done in writing within 48 hours of receiving the decision

SECTION 6: TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP: Any member of an approved NYSCOS Board who wishes to join the OCSOA as either a dual member or a transfer must submit a letter from their current Board secretary stating that they are a “member in good standing” as well as their current level (Varsity or Non-Varsity)

SECTION 7: UNPROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR: All members of the OCSOA are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner when attending any Section 9 athletic contest as a spectator. Any reported instance of “unprofessional behavior” toward another game official in any sport will be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Board

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: Amendments to this constitution may only be made by a positive vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of those members present at a duly constituted meeting. Prior to the vote, the amendment change(s) must be submitted and/or made available to the membership and least 30 days prior to an approval vote.

ORANGE COUNTY SOCCER OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION, Inc.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS (Updated)

Presented:

July, 2025

Vote:

August/September, 2015