

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of the organization is "North Carroll Soccer Club", commonly known as North Carroll Travel Soccer, or the Club.

ARTICLE II MISSION

The North Carroll Soccer Club (NCSC) strives to provide soccer players in and surrounding the North Carroll Recreation Council managed geographies the opportunity to develop soccer skills in a competitive environment that promotes teamwork, fitness, and an emphasis on sportsmanship.

ARTICLE III AFFILIATION

North Carroll Soccer Club is affiliated with the North Carroll Recreation Council in cooperation with the Carroll County Department of Recreation and Parks. The organization, North Carroll Soccer Club, agrees to abide by all rules, policies, and regulations of MSYSA, US Youth Soccer and US Soccer.

ARTICLE IV ORGANIZATION

MEMBERSHIP

NCSC shall be comprised of member teams in various age/gender groups. Any person sincerely interested in active participation under the by-laws of NCSC and under the rules and regulations of USYSA and MSYSA may be a member.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The governing body of NCSC shall consist of an Executive Council. The council will also recognize a person from each team in good standing, each of whom shall be entitled to vote. The person from each team will normally be the head coach. The head coach may delegate this position, but it must be approved by the Executive Council.

The Executive Council members shall be nominated during the month of November and shall be elected by a vote of the existing Council members at end of the fall season meeting normally held in December. Their term in office shall extend to December 31st of the following year.

The executive council is comprised of the following positions. An individual may hold more than one position if capable volunteers are not available:

President

The President shall preside at all club meetings and serve as a member of all club committees. The President (or designee) will represent NCSC at USYSA, MSYSA, NCRC, CMSA and other soccer related meetings, conventions and workshops. The President must also prepare an annual budget and have it approved by the Executive Council prior to the beginning of the registration period.

Vice President

The Vice President shall act in the absence of the President and will coordinate special projects.

Secretary

The secretary shall be responsible for all records affiliated with NCSC, correspondence, meetings, notices and carrying out the necessary duties as are customary with this position.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for all duties as set forth for receipt of all monies, collection of fees, and payments. The Treasurer will develop control over expenditures and reconcile/report the Club's cash position on a regular basis.

ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Executive Council shall guide and preserve the image of NCSC by its authority to approve various actions of the member teams and to impose sanctions on teams and individuals that fail to comply with the by-laws.

The Executive Council will facilitate the coordination of teams, equipment, fields, publicity, and registration.

The Executive Council shall:

- Emphasize proper ethics and recruitment rules during player selection.
- Emphasize fairness in player selection during try-outs.
- Foster intra club and inter-team cooperation to the benefit of the players and the Club.
- Support a high level of soccer competition.
- Serve as the final point of appeal and intercession in disputes between players, parents, and coaches of the member teams in matters that affect the image of NCSC.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS and VOTING RIGHTS

The Executive Council shall meet on an as-needed basis to address matters concerning the operations of the organization. Meeting logistics will be posted on the NCSC website at least one week prior to the meeting. All Executive Council members must attend the meetings or send a substitute from their team. Coaches, parents, and players have an open invitation to attend. It is the responsibility of all Executive Council members to distribute pertinent meeting and league-related information to their respective teams in a timely fashion. All decisions concerning the operation of NCSC shall be determined by a majority vote of the Executive Council members (or substitutes) eligible and present at the time of the voting. The President shall make the determination that the Executive Council members are sufficiently informed and there is adequate representation to call a vote. In the event of a tie vote, the President shall make the final decision.

ARTICLE VII FINANCES

All funds raised by the NCSC shall be used to cover operating expenses of NCSC and further the objectives of NCSC as it relates to development of soccer players in the organization. The budget as submitted by the President must be approved by the Executive Council. Financial records of NCSC are subject to review and/or audit by the Executive Council at any time. All monies disbursed must have an itemized receipt or valid invoice. Once a budget is approved, modifications to the budget exceeding 10 percent must be approved by a majority of the executive council. As noted, the Executive Council will review the reconciled report of the Club's cash position on a regular basis as prepared by the Treasurer. All funds received and disbursed by the Club must be executed via NCRC's procedures.

ARTICLE VIII REGISTRATION

The registration process for the NCSC begins in or around April. The timing strives to give each team plenty of time to organize try-outs and identify the need for additional teams. Each team will arrange for the acquisition of the necessary player pictures, cards, completed rosters, and any other paperwork as required by the respective leagues or tournaments.

Registrations received after the closing date of registration may be charged a late fee. Players whose registrations are received after the registration closing date are not guaranteed an opportunity to play soccer for a NCSC team if all suitable teams are full. In that case, the registration and any other fees shall be refunded. NCSC will register at least annually all players, coaches, and teams who participate within NCSC with their designated league (CMSA, SAY, etc) and pay the appropriate registration fees.

ARTICLE IX TEAMS

COMPOSITION

NCSC will place children on teams according to age requirements and level of play. The age group for each team is based on USYSA and/or league mandates, and may be amended as these associations amend their birth date ranges.

It is the intent of NCSC to maximize the development of every player. In support of this objective, NCSC believes that players are best developed by playing at the age within the U-9 - U14 age divisions, but will support other age groups if the registration numbers would support a team. If a team intentionally fields players older than their designated age group or fraudulently enters any tournament or league, the Executive Board will impose sanctions or dismiss the coach from NCSC.

TRY-OUTS

The evaluation period for travel players will be held during May/June of each year. It is expected that each team hold at least three try-out sessions during this period so that all interested players are given the opportunity to make at least two try-out sessions. This policy takes into account vacations and other commitments. A team may schedule additional times during the evaluation period. Also, a third tryout may not be required if the coach determines that all registered players have attended both tryouts and the roster would not be impacted by a third tryout.

MULTIPLE TEAMS WITHIN NCSC

Players may not play for multiple teams within NCSC for league play. However, with the consent of both coaches, a player who meets the necessary age requirements may play as a guest player for another NCSC team in tournament play. The player may only do so when no conflicts are created with the player's primary registered team.

TEAM SELECTION

The head coach will make the final selection of players based on open tryouts. Open is defined as all players are given the same opportunity to make the team. All coaches must make their best effort to select the best possible players within their age group. NCSC makes available resources (other coaches within the program) to assist in the evaluation process, but as noted, the final decision is that of the head coach.

PLAYING UP

The term "playing up" is defined as a player who would like the opportunity to play for a team that is older than the age group they are assigned based on birth date.

- a. The player indicates their desire to play up on the registration form.
- b. The player must participate in an equal number of tryouts at each age division (not less than one at each age division).
- c. The selection of the player to a particular team must be made jointly by the head coaches for each of the respective teams. The overriding factor must be what is best for the player, not necessarily what is best for a particular team. This is in the spirit of the mission of NCSC. The executive council will make the final decision in the event a decision cannot be made or the respective coaches do not reach a consensus.

The rule of thumb is that a player who "plays up" must be a major contributor to the older team; that is, a starter, and be determined by the coaches that playing in their correct age group may hinder their development. While at the same time, the player's age appropriate team will not be adversely impacted due to low registration numbers. The coaches involved must do what is best for the player and the organization as a whole. If the player is the child of the head coach, the child may continue to play up even if the "major contributor" requirement is not met.

PLAYING TIME

The primary objective of NCSC is to develop the childrens' technical soccer abilities and love of the sport, and the Club does not believe in the "win at all costs" mentality. By rostering a player, the coach and

staff recognize that they are committing to develop that player. Playing in real games and in pressure situations is integral to that development. NCSC does not mandate playing time for individual players in specific games. However, coaches should ensure that players get some playing time every game, and players who have limited opportunities in some games get expanded opportunities in other games. Coaches may choose to bench players for disciplinary reasons, but must ensure both the player and parent understand the reasoning behind any action.

RECRUITING

Any team participating in NCSC which attempts to induce any player listed on a valid team roster of another CMSA or related affiliated team to leave his/her team during the season shall be deemed to have recruited that player. This is a violation of our organizations by-laws and must not be done in any manner. Those who violate the rule will be subject to the violations outlined in Article XVI. Invitations to play as a guest player for another team must be handled through the relevant coaches.

ARTICLE X COACHES

ELIGIBILITY

All members of NCSC ages eighteen and older are eligible to coach a team. The coach must uphold the NCSC code of conduct as well as any code of conduct imposed by the league or organizations where that coach's team plays. Violators of any agreed upon code of conduct may be removed and banned from any further coaching for the NCSC.

SELECTION

Head coaches are appointed by the executive council based on the coach's qualifications, experience, and past performance. Candidates interested in a coaching position will either note their interest on the registration form or contact the executive council. In certain situations, a qualified candidate will be approached by a member of the executive council or designated coach to fill a vacancy.

TRAINING

A qualified coach shall have a minimum of two years of coaching experience. Coaches will be expected to further their licensing and training to the level and skill of the age/gender group they are coaching. An E-License is the minimum requirement for all coaches and assistant coaches of NCSC, and must be obtained within 12 months of joining the organization.

NCSC openly encourages our coaches to development themselves as well as their players. As such, NCSC will reimburse coaches for course costs incurred for MSYSA coaching courses that lead to E-Licenses and beyond. NCSC will not reimburse any related travel costs for the courses.

ARTICLE XI LEAGUES

Every team shall play in at least one outdoor league during the fall season. Teams are encouraged to participate in the highest capable level of MSYSA or SAY affiliated leagues. It is the belief of the NCSC executive council that teams develop best when playing in a challenging environment. The executive council must be notified of the league in which the team intends to play. This is to assure proper coordination of field availability.

NCSC openly supports the development of its players via multiple sports. If NCSC teams choose to participate in winter or spring leagues, it must be done with the understanding that the "primary sport" for that season is the priority for the player. No coach or team shall "penalize" a player in the fall season should that player choose not to play in the off-season, or miss practices and/or games during that off-season.

ARTICLE XII TOURNAMENTS

Every team is encouraged play in a minimum of two outdoor tournaments per year. Each team is encouraged to compete in the highest level of USSF/ USYSA/ MSYSA affiliated tournaments. Tournament participation will be coordinated by the head coach or team manager for each team. The executive council must be made aware of all tournaments to be participated in by any team under NCSC. Travel permits, fees, liability/medical release statements, and other functions will be handled by the individual team.

ARTICLE XIII FACILITIES

Facilities includes all equipment and field space utilized by NCSC. As noted, a portion of registration fees is applied for the maintenance and upkeep of the playing fields including, but not limited to field paint, upkeep or replacement of nets and goals, light usage, seeding, fertilization and other expenses.

NCSC shall operate its facilities in open cooperation with NSCS Rec Soccer and NCRC to ensure optimal use of those facilities for all NCRC programs.

ARTICLE XIV UNIFORMS

The primary colors of the North Carroll Soccer Club are red, white, and black. The design and style of uniforms will be consistent for each team within NCSC and approved by the Executive Council. Warm-ups and other accessories are typically ordered by each individual team and must be consistent, aside from gender specific differences, throughout the Club. The primary colors must be worn during league play. Other colors, or "third jerseys", are allowed during tournament play.

ARTICLE XV SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship is one of the primary lessons being taught to the players and is important to the image of NCSC. Teams and individuals can be penalized for the failure of players, coaches, and parents to maintain the proper demeanor before, during, and after games and practices.

ARTICLE XVI VIOLATIONS

Situations in which parents or relatives, players, and coaches fail to comply with the by-laws of NCSC or whose behavior discredits NCSC will be investigated by the Executive Council. This applies to any team playing under the NCSC banner during any season. After collecting all of the pertinent facts it is the Executive Council's responsibility to act in the appropriate manner. That may include one of the following:

- Suspension of voting rights.
- Suspension from coaching or playing in NCSC
- Removal of member from the Board.
- Dismissal of a player or coach from NCSC

Any member, player, or coach receiving disciplinary action may petition the Board of Directors to appeal his/her case. In all cases, including those related to appeals, the decision of the Executive Council is considered final.