

FIRST FLIGHT LEAGUE

ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

Article I - Name

The name of the league shall be “**FIRST FLIGHT LEAGUE.**” The league’s initials shall be “**FFL**”.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of this league shall be to promote **competitive soccer in NC** and the surrounding areas.

Article III – Term

The term of this league is perpetual.

Article IV - Playing Seasons

The spring playing season will begin **March 1** and conclude **May 31st**, subject to change by the general committee. The fall playing season will begin **August 1st** and conclude **October 30th**, subject to change by the general committee.

Article V - Location

Headquarters of **FFL** will be in **Goldsboro, NC**.

Article VI – Colors (if desired)

Representative colors of **FFL** shall be **RED & BLUE**. The colors can be changed at the annual meeting by approval of the general committee.

Article VII - Affiliation

FFL shall be affiliated with the North Carolina Adult Soccer Association (NCASA) and shall at all times recognize the authority, rulings, laws, and regulations of the North Carolina Adult Soccer association, the United States adult Soccer association, the United States Soccer Federation and FIFA.

Article VIII - Membership

Any properly constituted teams in **FFL** and the surrounding areas, which are in good standing with any NCASA affiliated leagues, may apply for membership. The membership of **FFL** is open to all soccer organizations and all soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials without discrimination on basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin.

Article XI - General Committee

The General Committee is the primary rule-making and deliberative body of the organization. Each team will have one, elected, voting representative in the General Committee. Each team will elect one team member to attend and vote at General Committee meetings. The General Committee is composed of the League Chairman and one elected representative from each member team in good standing. General Committee meetings will be held at least one time per month during the season at the League headquarters.

Article X – Officers and Directors

The Officers of the **FFL** shall be composed of the following: League Chairman, Coastal Conference Manager and Piedmont Conference Manager. These officers shall constitute the Executive Board.

Article XI – Executive Board

The Executive Board consists of the League Officers who shall carry out the business of the league subject to the approval of the General Committee and League Chairman.

Article XII – General Meetings

The business of this league shall be transacted by the General Committee. Composed of the Executive Board and one representative from each member team in good standing. Normally, the Team Captains will be a team's representative in the General Committee, but a duly designated representative may represent the team at general committee meetings.

Article XIII – Team Definition

A team shall be a body of registered players of the specified number. It shall have one vote at all General Committee meetings.

Article XIV – Code of Ethics

One of the main reasons for teams to come together as a league is to develop a more competitive environment for amateur soccer in **FFL** and the surrounding area. Our Code of Ethics recognizes and promotes safe and fair play. We seek to promote this both on and off the field of play. We acknowledge that in order to perform at our best and promote fair play on and off the field, we will not allow drugs, alcohol, and weapons at any league events.

Article XV – Amendments

Amendments to the Constitution or By-laws of this league can be made at the Annual General Meeting. They must be approved by the representatives of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting member teams. Each member team in good standing shall be given fourteen day-notice in writing of proposed amendments. The Annual General meeting will be held the fourth Wednesday of January.

FIRST FLIGHT LEAGUE

BY-LAWS OF THE CONSTITUTION

By-Law I – Elections

The officers of this league shall be elected by ballot at the Annual Meeting of the league. They shall be voted for separately and receive the majority of all votes cast. They shall hold office for one year and shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Board shall nominate persons to fulfill vacancies to that body.

By-Law II – Meetings

Special general meetings of this league may be called by the League Chairman upon request of a majority of the members of this league.

By-Law III – Duties of Officers

The duties and powers of the officers shall be as follows:

League Chairman

The League Chairman shall preside at all meetings except at the election of the officers, which shall be presided over by a special Chair who will be appointed by the Executive Board. The League Chairman shall pass and approve all bills against this league. They shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and not required to be elected. They have the power to take the necessary steps when the interests of the league are endangered. They shall cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie vote at General Meetings only.

Coastal Conference Manager

The Coast Conference Manager aids the League Chairman in his duties pertaining to the Coastal Conference member teams. In the absence of the League Chairman, the Coastal Conference Manager will assume all duties and responsibilities of the President for the Coastal Conference.

Piedmont Conference Manager

The Coast Conference Manager aids the League Chairman in his duties pertaining to the Coastal Conference member teams. In the absence of the League Chairman, the Coastal Conference Manager will assume all duties and responsibilities of the President for the Coastal Conference.

By-Law IV – Duties of the Board of Directors

A Board of Directors, not to exceed five, may be appointed from time to time by the General Committee. The immediate Past League Chairman shall be a voting, ex-officio member and Chair of the Board of Directors. The function of the Board of Directors is to provide oversight to

the Executive Board and the League Chairman in the interest of the League. The term of service shall be two years, with the right of re-election. The Board of Directors shall also have the power to impeach an officer of the League. Articles of impeachment may be drawn by a two-thirds vote of the Board. The Chair shall preside at the General Committee meeting to decide whether to remove an officer.

By-Law V – Powers of the General Committee

The General Committee shall transact all business of this Association. It shall have the power to enforce the laws of the game and rulings of the USSF (United States Soccer Federation or its official FIFA Sanctioned successor), United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA), and NCASA. It shall have the power to settle disputes or protests of appeals from the decisions of affiliated teams or clubs, or subordinate committees, and the decision shall be final, subject to the appeal to the NCASA. It shall have the power to fill any vacancy arising in the Executive Board during the season.

The League Chairman shall appoint the necessary number of representatives and alternates to the NCASA Council at the proper time of the year. The General Committee, however, shall decide on the actual number of delegates or alternates to travel to the Council Meetings. It shall represent this league in all matters of a foreign nature and shall have full power to deal with matters coming to its attention subject to the action of the NCASA.

By-Law VI – Membership

The membership of **FFL** is open to all soccer organizations and all soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials without discrimination on basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin. Application for membership shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the league, accompanied by the following: name of the team, names and addresses of officers, and uniform colors. Each team shall register its players on the appropriate NCASA system. Each team, upon being accepted as a member of this league, shall be furnished a copy of the constitution, by-laws, and rules of this league. Resignation of a team or club shall not be accepted unless the team is in good standing. Any member team or club in good standing at the Annual General Meeting shall be considered affiliated with the **League** for the coming year.

By-Law VII – Dues

The Executive Board may determine the amount of the annual dues payable to the league by member teams. Dues shall be payable in advance thirty (30) days prior to the start of the playing season.

By-Law VIII – Disbandment

No team or club is permitted to disband while under suspension. The league must deal with any release or registration of players of a team or club under suspension.

By-Law X – Merger

In any case of a merger the new team shall be responsible for all obligations incurred by the old team.

By-Law XI – Withdrawal

Applications for withdrawal shall be presented in writing and accepted only if the team has fulfilled all obligations to the **League**.

By-Law XII – Expulsions

Teams attempting to circumvent a decision or seriously impair the interest of the **League** may be expelled at the Annual General Meeting or at a special meeting called for this purpose. A motion for such expulsion shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

By-Law XIII – Rules of Play

The **League** will follow the FIFA Laws of the Game for the rules governing league play with these exceptions:

By-Law XIV – Referees

The **League** only uses NCASA, USSF/FIFA certified referees. If there is ever **any** incidence of the referee officials being threatened or feeling threatened by a player, team administrator or fan, that team could be subject to fines and/or ejection from the league without refund, pending a review of the incident by the league's board. In addition to any NCASA, USASA or USSF sanctions teams are held responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches or trainers and fans. **IMPORTANT:** Once a referee assignment has been made, the referee team will be **paid in full** regardless of whether the match was played or not. Cancellations and rescheduling needs to be done at a **minimum of 72-hour** notice of the scheduled match through the league office. In case of bad weather, teams will not incur any referee fees if the game is called off due to bad weather.

By-Law XV – Match Day Responsibilities

1. Be On Time - Teams must be On Time. Fifteen minutes **past** the scheduled start time will constitute a forfeit. Excessive lateness will result in league fines.
2. Seven players will constitute a team and the clock will start accordingly.
3. Referee Payment - Captain must make payment to the Referee prior to the Captain Call unless an alternative payment method is used by the League.
4. Home team captain provides the match report.
5. Team Information - Teams must come prepared. Captains or Team managers must have team player cards to present to the Referee before the start of the match.
6. **NO PLAYER PASS - NO PLAY** (except with specific authorization from NCASA office noting delay in registration process)- Passes must possess current NCASA sticker, clear photograph, player signature and be laminated, tamper-proof.
7. Equipment - Home team must provide proper game balls.

8. Home Field Dimension: Minimum 65 x 110

By-Law XVI – Forfeits

A forfeit deprives the opposing team a playable match. The team responsible for the forfeit will always be responsible for the entire referee fee, unless the proper procedure is followed; which is a seventy-two (72) hour notice prior to match day. It is the responsibility of the team that needs the rescheduling, to follow up with organizing the make up. Communication regarding the make up should begin within ten (10) days of the originally scheduled match. Arrangements for the make up should be reasonably accommodating to the opposing team. Failure to follow up on a rescheduled request will result in a forfeit. Until made-up, all forfeits shall count as a loss for the team that does not show up and a win for the team that was present.