

# MISSISSIPPI COAST SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION ARTICLES OF CONSTITUTION

## **I. NAME:**

The name of this association shall be known as the **Mississippi Coast Soccer Referees Association, (MCSRA)**.

## **II. Purpose:**

- A.** Assignment of referees for Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) matches in the MCSRA territory.
- B.** Provide training and development for all categories of soccer referees; from licensing requirements to advanced skills for Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA).
- C.** Provide referee recommendations to affiliated associations as required.

## **III. TERRITORY:**

MCSRA shall provide Soccer Officials for the public and private school systems located within the following Mississippi counties: George, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Pearl River, and Stone.

## **IV. HEADQUARTERS:**

The headquarters of this association shall be the residence of the MCSRA President.

## **V. AFFILIATION:**

This association shall be affiliated with the following Soccer Organizations: MHSAA, MYSA, NCAA, NISOA and USSF.

## **VI. ORGANIZATIONAL YEAR:**

The MCSRA organizational year shall be from July 1st through June 30st.

## **VII. OFFICERS:**

The administration and authority of the MCSRA shall be vested in the following officers who shall make up the Board of Directors:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Training Instructor
- Assignor - 1
- Assignor - 2

## **VIII. ADMINISTRATION:**

A. This association shall be governed by its Constitution and By-Laws and shall operate under the guidelines set forth in the current MHSAA handbook.

B. The MCSRA shall be overseen by a Board of Regents. The Board of Regents shall be comprised of ALL the Past Presidents of MCSRA. The Board of Regents shall provide Guidance, Direction, and Oversight to the MCSRA Board of Directors. The Board of Regents SHALL NOT have a vote in ANY Day to Day operations of MCSRA. The Board of Regents shall serve in the Best Interest of Refereeing Soccer.

## **IX. MEMBERSHIP:**

A. A new candidate for membership in MCSRA must be recommended by a current member and approved by a simple majority vote of the membership.

B. A new candidate for membership in MCSRA must currently possess, or have previously possessed, a USSF Soccer Referee Grade 8 or higher certification.

C. Membership for a new candidate in MCSRA is contingent upon verification of Referee qualifications by the MCSRA Board.

D. New members will NOT be accepted into MCSRA after 1 October of each year.

E. A member in good standing is a member who has satisfied the following obligations:

1. Attended four (4) general meetings.
2. Attended the MSHAA Rules Clinic or equivalent.
3. Has paid all current Association fees in full.

F. No later than 4 weeks in advance of the MCSRA Annual General Meeting, the Secretary/Treasurer will canvas the membership of record, by email, and specifically instruct each member to declare the member's intent to renew their membership for the new organizational year. Members will be instructed to reply, by email, with a hard suspense of no later than 14 days. Members will be instructed to respond in either the 'affirmative' or the 'negative.' Any response that is neither affirmative or negative, as well as the absence of response, will be deemed as 'non-committal' and will result in the member being placed in a provisional non-voting status. At the expiration of the 14-day suspense, ONLY those members who have replied in the affirmative will be deemed to be "registered members in good standing," with voting rights, and

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the size of this membership pool will be the basis for determining the quorum necessary to conduct Association business at the Annual Meeting. Provisional members attending the Annual Meeting, who declare their intent to renew their membership, will have their status immediately reinstated to 'registered members in good standing' with rights to vote on business conducted during the Annual Meeting.

### X. MEETINGS:

A. An Annual General meeting shall be held each year on the last Thursday in July to nominate and elect officers and consider changes in the Constitution and/or By-Laws and collect membership dues.

B. The President may call board meetings or General meetings. General meetings will be held at least five (5) times before high school season starts; all members must attend at least four (4) meetings for high school qualification purposes.

X. For all General meetings, the President shall give written notice at least seven (7) days prior to any meeting.

Δ. A Quorum for General meetings shall consist of a simple majority of eligible voters.

E. A Quorum for Board meetings shall be by simple majority of the board.

Φ. Only registered members in good standing shall be eligible to vote.

Γ. In all matters properly presented to the board, each voting board member shall have the right to cast one vote. The President shall make the final decision in the event of a tie vote.

### XI. ELECTRONIC ELECTIONS:

If at the Annual Meeting, a quorum of association membership is deemed not present, this condition will automatically initiate a 3-Step Electronic Election by Email procedure.

**Step #1:** The members present at the Annual Meeting will elect from the general membership an Election Chairman who will conduct the email election process.

1. The Election Chairman will not be a current Board Officer. Neither will the Election Chairman be a candidate for Board Office for the election being conducted by email.

2. The Election Chairman will then instruct the current Secretary/Treasurer, to open the floor and seek from the members in attendance, nominations for the elected positions on the Board.
3. The Election Chairman will conduct this procedure in a fair and impartial manner, will record the nominations and election results for the record, and the results are subject to review, upon demand, by the membership. The election results will be submitted to the Secretary/Treasurer once the new Board is formally em-paneled.

**Step #2:** The Election Chairman will canvas the general membership, by email, to seek nominations for Board Officers, as well as any proposed changes to the Association Articles of Constitution and/or By-Laws. Not later than 2 days after the Annual Meeting, the Election Chairman will contact each member of record, by email.

1. This email will contain the names, by Board position, of those individuals who were nominated at the Annual Meeting.
2. This email will request additional nominations for Board positions.
3. This email will include any proposed changes to the Articles of Constitution and/or By-Laws offered at the Annual Meeting.
4. This email will solicit any proposed changes to the Articles of Constitution and/or By-Laws.
5. This email will include a 3-day suspense, by which members must submit their responses.
6. Once the suspense date has expired, the absence of a response by the respective member will be considered as a “no nominations or no changes to Association Constitution/By-Laws offered’ condition.

**Step #3:** The Election Chairman will canvas the general membership, by email, providing the list of nominees, by office, as well as any proposed changes to the Association Articles of Constitution and/or By-Laws.

1. Members will be given a 3-day suspense by which to register their votes for Board Officers and approval/disapproval on any proposed changes to the Association Articles of Constitution and/or By-Laws.

**NOTE:** Election results will be based on a simple majority of those casting votes. Those members not casting their vote by the suspense date, or not casting a vote for a particular Board Office will not be included in the population used to determine the majority result.

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2. At the second general membership meeting, the Election Chairman will present the results of the electronic email election.

a. Those individuals elected to Board Office by this Electronic Election by Email Procedure will assume their rightful office.

b. The Election Chairman will then present to the newly elected Secretary/Treasurer the results concerning any proposed changes to the Association Articles of Constitution and/or By-Laws.

For any proposed changes not approved, if a quorum is present, a vote to suspend the restriction that limits changes to the Constitution and/or By-Laws can be entertained, and the issue/concerns resulting in a 'not approved' vote can be addressed. If suitable modification can be accommodated, then the proposed change can be put to a vote.

### **XII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Members at large at the Annual General Meeting shall elect the following Board members:

On Even numbered years:

- President
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Assignor - 1

On Odd numbered years:

- Vice-President
- Training Instructor
- Assignor - 2

A candidate must receive a simple majority of the votes cast, however, if there are three or more candidates, then a plurality of votes cast is acceptable. All candidates for office shall be current members in good standing for at least one year prior to consideration for office. .

**Note:** The purpose of the staggered MCSRA Board election process is to provide a reasonable degree of leadership continuity with each election.

Newly elected officers shall assume office immediately following the official report of election results, which may occur during the Annual General Meeting or subsequent membership meeting.

### **XIII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS:**

#### **PRESIDENT:**

- A. Represent the MCSRA and interface with MSHAA and school officials within the association's area of responsibility on official matters.
- B. Preside over all MSCRA meetings.
- C. Appoint all committees as necessary: Training, Assessing, and Assigning.
- D. Serve as a member of all committees.

#### **VICE-PRESIDENT:**

- A. Act as President in his/her absence.
- B. Assist the President as necessary.
- C. Oversee the administration of the Association Web Page.

#### **SECRETARY/TREASURER:**

- A. Keep minutes of all MCSRA meetings.
- B. Oversee the Registration all MCSRA referees with MSHAA.
- C. Pay all MCSRA bills as approved by the board.
- D. Invoice all Schools for Assignment Fees.
- E. Schedule the Annual General Meeting in July each year.
- F. Maintain the MCSRA Referee Seniority Roster.
- G. Maintain the MCSRA Referee Contact Roster.
- H. Maintain the MCSRA Financial Records.
- I. Maintain the MCSRA By-Laws and Constitution.

#### **TRAINING INSTRUCTOR:**

- A. Develop a training syllabus for the MCSRA referees.
- B. Coordinate and oversee all MCSRA referees training.

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C. Assess all MCSRA referees during the season.

## **ASSIGNOR – 1 & 2:**

- A. Work in close coordination together to assign the MCSRA referees to all games within the MCSRA area of responsibility.
- B. Provide the MCSRA President with the list of ALL scratched referees by School prior to Season Start.
- C. Advise the MCSRA President of any issues involving referees after the Season Start.
- D. Provide the MCSRA President weekly updates on ALL game assignments.
- E. Abide by the MCSRA By-laws for ALL Postseason game assignments.

**Note:** In the event of a vacancy in any of the MCSRA Officer positions, the President or acting President may appoint a successor to that position with approval of the board.

## **XIV. AMENDMENTS:**

Amendments to this constitution shall be made at the Annual General meeting by a simple majority of members present.

## **REVISION RECORD:**

- 24 January 1989
- 18 August 1994 – General Revision
- 23 August 2007 – Assignor and Assistant Assignor added.
- 18 September 2008 – Membership and Web Page administration added.
- 14 August 2014 – Membership, Meetings and Organizational Year amended.
- 08 September 2016 – Territory and Membership sections amended.
- 01 August 2018 – Secretary/Treasurer duties amended. Board of Regents added.
- 12 August 2019 – Election of Officers to 2-year terms.
- 27 August 2020 – Assistant Assignor removed, Assignor 1 & 2 duties amended.