

Toronto Soccer Referees' Association Constitution

(showing proposed changes)

1. Name

The name of the organization shall be the Toronto Soccer Referees' Association (the "Association").
Also to be known by the acronym TSRA.

2. Objectives

a) Promoting the maintenance and improvement of standards of refereeing within the jurisdiction of the Toronto Soccer Association (TSA) through regular education, evaluation and assessment opportunities.

b) Promoting the improvement of the welfare of referees within the TSA soccer community and beyond.

c) Promoting all phases of Association football to referees, potential referees and special members in order to bring the officiating of the game to a high uniform standard and level of professionalism.

d) Affiliating with ~~the Ontario Soccer Referees' Association (OSRA)~~ other referee associations and organizations.

e) Improving communication between the members.

f) Representing, protecting, ~~maintaining~~ and advancing the interests of the members in all matters pertaining to referee activities.

g) Acting as a unifying voice in representing the membership of the Association.

h) Providing the members with a forum for discussion of the issues relating to the laws of the game, the required standards of officiating and the professionalism of the members of the Association.

i) Providing the opportunity and the mechanism for members to achieve and maintain the level of physical fitness that the Association demands of the membership.

j) Further objectives include:

i) improving the status, protecting the interests and promoting the welfare of referees, and retaining in membership those who have ceased active refereeing;

ii) establishing, developing, assisting in the general work and coordinating the activity of fellow referee associations in order to encourage new candidates and to improve the standard of refereeing (appendix to be developed and attached entitled Referee Preparation Obligations);

iii) ensuring that all games at which members officiate are played in accordance with the Laws of the Game established by the International Football Board and with the rules of

competitions set by competent local authorities approved by the Ontario Soccer Association Incorporated (OSA);

iv) affiliating as an association ~~to a National Referees' Association in Canada, if one be compatibly constituted with other referee associations;~~

v) doing all such lawful things as may be or become necessary to fulfill these objectives.

3. Definitions

a) "Association" shall mean the Toronto Soccer Referees' Association or TSRA.

b) "Governor" shall mean a member of the Executive Committee.

c) "Board" shall mean the elected Executive Committee.

d) "Member" shall mean a ~~local~~ referee that has applied for and been accepted into membership by the Executive Committee.

e) "Director" shall mean an elected member of the Executive Committee in addition to the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar.

f) "Chairperson" shall mean the President, Vice-President or a member of the Executive Committee chosen to chair a meeting of the Executive Committee or general meeting.

g) "General Members" are those who have qualified as referees under the examination of the OSA and have paid the fee required.

h) "Special Members" are those who have paid the fee as required by the Constitution and are admitted by the Board as special members.

i) "Honorary Life Members" are those who have been nominated by a member, recommended by the Board and elected by a 51% majority of those present and voting at an Annual General Meeting (AGM).

j) "Youth Members" are those who have qualified as referees, are at least 16 years of age and not over 18 years of age, and have paid the membership fee required.

k) "Senior Members" are those in good standing, who are 55 year of age and older.

l) "New" or "First Year" Members is any referee who has never held membership in the Association before.

m) "Floor" shall mean members in attendance.

4. Head Office

The head office of the Association shall be located in the City of Toronto, Province of Ontario.

5. Affiliation

The Association may ~~maintain~~ establish any affiliation with ~~the OSRA, TSA and~~ other organizations if the Executive Committee deems that affiliation will promote the objectives of the Association.

6. Membership

Subject to the approval of the Board, membership shall be available to ~~local soccer~~ referees ~~in the City of Toronto and Province of Ontario~~ that support the objectives and agree to comply with the Constitution of the Association.

~~Ordinary General Members are:~~ (This block has been moved to “Definitions” section above.)

- ~~those who have qualified as referees under the examination of the OSA and have paid the fee required.~~

~~Special Members are:~~

- ~~those who have paid the fee as required by the Constitution and are admitted by the Board as special members.~~

~~Honorary Life Members are:~~

- ~~those who have been nominated by an ordinary member member, recommended by the Board and elected by a 51% majority of those present and voting at an Annual General Meeting (AGM).~~

~~Youth Members are:~~

- ~~those who have qualified as referees, are at least 16 years of age and not over 18 years of age, and have paid the membership fee required.~~

Termination/Suspension of Membership

- Termination or suspension of membership may occur when, in the opinion of the Board, the ~~objectives and aims of the Association have been violated~~ member has neglected their duties and responsibilities as a member.

Any such decision may be appealed by a submission, in writing to the Association Secretary, within 30 days of the date of the official notification of the decision, and must be accompanied by a fee of \$50.00 (fifty dollars). (In the event that the appeal is upheld, then the appeal fee shall be refunded in full.)

The rationale for the appeal must be detailed and a hearing specifically requested. Such appeals will be heard at a general meeting, which the Secretary shall call within 30 days of the receipt of the appeal. A majority of those votes cast by members present at the meeting shall be necessary to uphold any appeal.

[See Code of Ethics for Canadian Referees and the TSA Code of Conduct.](#)

Membership Year

The annual membership year shall be from January 1 to December 31. [Adhere to the calendar year.](#)

Membership Fees

a) The annual membership fee shall be established by a resolution of the Board from time to time.

b) [A properly completed Membership Form, accompanied by the required fee must be received by the TSRA for a membership to commence. The fee for renewal of membership is due no later than the beginning of the membership year.](#)

c) The membership fee for a new member is due upon approval of membership and ~~is not to~~ [may](#) be prorated for a partial year [on a quarterly basis.](#)

d) [First-year and Youth membership fees may be set at a different amount than that for Ordinary members, by approval of the Board.](#)

e) [Senior members shall receive a 50% reduction of the regular membership fee. Senior members who are 65 years old and older shall pay no annual membership fee. Senior members are required to complete and submit a membership form annually.](#)

7. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Association shall be elected at the AGM from the individuals who have membership with the Association. The Executive Committee shall consist of:

a) the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar; and b) two (2) Directors.

Executive Committee members shall attend all Executive Committee meetings. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to conduct the business of the Association during intervals between AGMs.

Executive Committee members shall:

a) be elected for a ~~threectwo~~-year term by a majority of the members present and voting at the AGM;

b) hold office until the election of Officers at the AGM at which they would normally seek re-election or resign, or earlier, upon vacating the office for any reason;

c) be eligible for re-election as long as they qualify individually under these rules;

d) include the Immediate Past President as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee for ~~one year only~~ three months, following his Presidency. The Executive Committee may extend this term, if both the Executive Committee and Past President agree.

e) the Past President holds responsibility to adhere to meeting the transition obligations contained in Board Transition Duties (to be completed and attached as an appendix.)

8. Elections

A member may be nominated for office in his/her absence, provided that the Secretary has been informed, in writing, before the AGM, of those office(s) for which the nominee is willing to stand.

Elections shall take place at the AGM by secret ballot. A Returning Officer shall be appointed by the retiring Executive to conduct the elections at the AGM.

Vacant Positions

The following positions shall be filled by nomination from amongst the membership at the AGM and elected by a majority of members present and voting:

- the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Registrar, plus two (2) Directors, for a total of seven (7); and
- a minimum of 2, maximum of three (3) Auditors shall be elected for a term of one (1) year.

Term of Office

The term of office of all elected Executive Committee positions is ~~two (2)~~ three (3) years. Members may be re-elected for subsequent terms.

Election at the AGM

Nominations shall be accepted from the floor.

~~A member may be nominated for office in his/her absence, provided that the Secretary, before the AGM, has been notified in writing by the nominee for which office(s) he/she intends to stand.~~

Prior to seeking office at the time of election, a member shall declare his/her membership of any board or executive of any soccer-related organization. Should any member of the Association Board subsequently become part of any board or executive of any soccer-related organization, he/she shall advise the members through the Secretary.

Candidates for the position of President shall be provided with the opportunity to address the membership prior to the voting.

Vacancies

In the event of a vacancy during the term of office, the Board may appoint a replacement from among the membership to hold office until the ~~next AGM~~[next election is conducted](#).

Holding Office/Meetings

- Members elected to office shall not accept subsequent referee appointments on dates set for any general meeting of the Association.
- Board members elected by the Board as delegates of the OSRA Board of Governors shall not accept referee appointments on dates set for any meeting of that board.

9. Finances

All funds of the Association shall be deposited to an account in the name of the Association in a Canadian financial institution authorized by the Board. All payments are to be made by cheque, with cheques to be signed by two (2) members of the Executive Committee, one of whom shall be an Executive Officer. Upon resolution of the Board, surplus funds of the Association may be invested in trustee securities offered by a Canadian financial institution. Such securities may, by similar resolution, be liquidated.

The financial year of Association shall be from November 1 to October 31.

10. Auditors

[A minimum of two \(2\), maximum of ~~4~~three \(3\)](#) individuals shall be elected at the AGM (or appointed by the Board if there are no nominees at the AGM) to audit the accounts of the Association. Upon request of the Board, each year as of October 31 and before the AGM, the auditors shall present a signed statement of audit at the AGM.

11. Quorums

At general meetings, one-quarter of members shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, the meeting will be reconvened within thirty (30) days. At each meeting of the Executive Committee, a quorum shall consist of four (4) members.

12. Voting

At general meetings and Executive Committee meetings, each member is entitled to one vote, with the exception of the Chairperson of a general meeting, who may exercise a casting vote. Decisions require the approval of a majority of those members in attendance.

13. Conduct

The Board shall regulate and govern the professional conduct of the members of the Association by imposing penalties for the contravention of the rules and/or standards of the Association, including suspension or expulsion from the Association.

14. Interpretation

Interpretation of this Constitution as well as questions in dispute shall be referred to the Executive Committee. The singular shall include the plural tense and vice versa. The masculine and feminine shall be interchangeable.

15. Indemnification

Every Executive member and any employee or volunteer of the Association shall be indemnified by the Association against all costs, losses and expenses incurred by them respectively in or about the discharge of their duties, except for those which happen as a result of an individual's own neglect or default.

Amended at the general meetings on:

November 9, 1965; November 22, 1972; November 17, 1974; November 8, 1981; November 11, 1990; November 8, 1992; November 13, 1994; April 24, 1998; November 13, 1998; November 4, 2001; February 20, 2002; November 2010; January 15, 2014.