

**ASCENSION ASCENSION
FLIGHT SOCCER CLUB
CHARTER AND BYLAWS
February 16, 2016**

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ARTICLE I NAME

The Official name of this organization is the ASCENSION FLIGHT SOCCER CLUB.

ARTICLE II MISSION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES: The mission of the Ascension Flight Soccer Club is to provide every player, the opportunity to enjoy the game of soccer by providing a fun and safe environment, encouraging physical, mental, and social growth, therefore resulting in and promoting integrity, good sportsmanship and the growth of soccer in our community.

The core values of the Ascension Flight Soccer Club govern all aspects of the club, from leadership and management decisions, to expected conduct of all participants.

Ascension Flight Soccer Club is committed to our:

Pinciples

Leadership

Accountability

Youths

Education

Respect

Sportsmanship

We hold fast to these values

Winning is not the measure of success. The primary goal of the club is the enrichment of players, coaches, referees, and parents through participation that provides every player the opportunity to succeed.

We are a club of inclusion and strive to find everyone a place to play.

All participants are entitled to dignity, compassion, grace, integrity, honesty, and humanity in all facets of club operations.

Our vision for the future acknowledges that there may be circumstances where conventional wisdom will be laid aside to insure the best long-term situation.

We will always consider the long-term implications of decisions over short-term gains.

We acknowledge that our decisions now are and should be a foundation for the framework of the future, regardless of the individuals involved in the management of the club.

We will operate with a level of transparency and consistency in its decisions and communications that allows everyone to value the integrity of the organization.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this Club shall be composed of coaches, players, referees, parents and other officials. Voting members will constitute acting head coaches or team representatives (one vote per team), Executive Committee members, and league representatives. Coaches who coach more than one team may vote once for each team. Executive Committee members and league representatives who also coach may vote once for their position and once for each team they coach. For purposes of clarity, all Board members will be referred to as he/his.

There shall be no discrimination of race, religion, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, sexual preference, veteran status or disability with regards to the purpose of this club.

ARTICLE IV MEETINGS

Section 1 General Meetings

- A. The Board shall meet monthly at a regularly scheduled time and place appointed by the President. Closed sessions will be allowed only in matters concerning personnel or where privileged information would be discussed.
- B. General Membership Meetings shall be held twice yearly—once prior to the commencement of the Fall playing season (Fall Meeting), and once prior to the Spring playing season (Winter Meeting). General Membership Meetings may be held at any other time as the President shall designate, if approved by a majority of the Executive Committee.

Section 2 Quorum

One-half of the eligible voting membership shall constitute a quorum for an Executive Committee Meeting. In the absence of the President, the quorum should be half of the eligible voting membership plus one. All eligible-voting members in attendance at a General Membership Meeting shall constitute a

quorum. A quorum must be present to transact each item of business of the Club.

ARTICLE V ADMINISTRATION

Section 1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ASCENSION FLIGHT shall be governed by **an EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** composed of a President, Vice-President of Youth, Vice-President of Operations, Vice-President of Properties, Vice-President of Education and Training, Vice-President of Administration, Recreational Commissioner, and Competitive Commissioner. A representative of the soccer referees' Club will be invited to attend all Board meetings as a non-voting member to act as a liaison between ASCENSION FLIGHT and the referees' Club. Dual office holding is not permitted. All positions on the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE shall be voluntary and members thereof shall not receive any compensation for such position, except shirts identifying the member.

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE shall meet monthly to direct the activities of the Club. Specific duties of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE are:

- a. To establish ASCENSION FLIGHT policy and procedure;
- b. To establish the operational budget and fees for the Club;
- c. To recommend necessary Bylaw changes to the General Membership for approval;
- d. To maintain the operation of ASCENSION FLIGHT within the rules established by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), Louisiana Soccer Association (LSA), and ASCENSION FLIGHT;
- e. To approve the organization of tournaments, jamborees, and fund raisers;
- f. To review the appointment or dismissal of coaches;
- g. To ensure that each Officer and League Representative is fulfilling his responsibilities; and
- h. To determine the number of League Representatives and the distribution of same, prior to the Spring General Meeting.

ARTICLE VI DUTIES OF OFFICERS

All Executive Committee members are responsible for upholding all ASCENSION FLIGHT Bylaws, Operation Guidelines, Policies, and Procedures.

Section 1 President

The President shall:

- a. coordinate the day to day activities of ASCENSION FLIGHT;
- b. preside at all Executive Committee and General Coaches Meetings;
- c. coordinate legal matters;
- d. call and chair all Executive Committee, and Coaches Meetings;
- e. nominate members of committees under his jurisdiction;
- f. chair the Executive Committee;
- g. enforce the decisions of the Penalty and Protest Committee;
- h. chair the Penalty and Protect Appeals Committee;
- i. make the decision to cancel all games if catastrophic weather conditions warrant;
- j. coordinate all public relations activities; and
- k. establish a liaison with ASCENSION FLIGHT and public entities such as the Ascension Parish Recreation Commission (APRC) and the City of Gonzales Recreation Department.

Section 2 Vice-President of Youth

The Vice-President of Youth shall:

- a. coordinate the activities of the youth playing leagues;
- b. ensure that the League Representatives provide the appropriate levels of play and competition in keeping with the goals, objective and policies of ASCENSION FLIGHT;
- c. chair and appoint the Penalty and Protest Committee;
- d. oversee registration;
- e. approve team formation and player placements made by the League Representatives;
- f. approve the schedules developed by the League Representatives;
- g. resolve any player/coach/parent conflicts, which cannot be reconciled by the Competitive Commissioner, Recreational Commissioner, appropriate League Representative, either personally or by bringing the issue to the Executive Committee;
- h. coordinate and maintain a contact list of persons in other Clubs with which games are scheduled;
- i. preside at any meetings in the absence of the President.

Section 3 Vice-President of Operations

The Vice-President of Operations shall:

- a. coordinate the logistics of the Club;
- b. maintain the master schedule of fields and games;
- c. contact the referees Club for assignment of referees for games;
- d. accept the reservation of fields and referee requests only from the League Representatives;
- e. ensure that the scheduling of games and referees is fair and that scrimmages where the Club should not pay for a referee is clearly communicated to the referees Club;
- f. oversee the rescheduling of any officially postponed league games;
- g. oversee all tournaments or jamborees hosted by ASCENSION FLIGHT; and
- h. preside at any meetings in the absence of the President and Vice-President of Youth.
- i. maintain and distribute a calendar of events, highlighting dates of clinics, registrations, seasons, etc., for all coaches.

Section 4 Vice-President of Properties

The Vice-President of Properties shall:

- a. be responsible for all equipment and fields used by the Club;
- b. maintain a master plan for field development which ensures that adequate fields are available for the growth of the Club;
- c. purchase all field equipment (nets, goals, flags, etc.);
- d. purchase team equipment as directed by the Board;
- e. inspect all fields and practice locations for LSA insurance purposes;
- f. be the liaison with the APRC and City of Gonzales Recreation Departments, the school board and private sector firms or individuals in all matters dealing with playing fields, their maintenance or other ASCENSION FLIGHT activities involving the fields; and
- g. preside at any meetings in the absence of the President, Vice-President of Youth, and Vice-President of Operations.

Section 5 Vice-President of Education and Training

The Vice-President of Education and Training shall:

- a. coordinate all levels of coaching clinics, referee clinics, and player clinics in for the club membership;
- b. make information available to players and coaches on camps and clinics in surrounding areas;
- c. advise the Executive Committee on the purchase of educational materials deemed necessary for coach and player training;
- d. act as the ASCENSION FLIGHT liaison to any special soccer related representatives in order to provide additional presentations or training for coaches and player;
- e. ensure that all ASCENSION FLIGHT coaches meet the Club's licensing criteria as described in the Operational Guidelines;
- f. ensure that ASCENSION FLIGHT teams are properly represented in the referee pool as described in the Operational Guidelines; and
- g. preside at any meetings in the absence of the President, Vice-President of Youth, Vice-President of Operations, and the Vice-President of Properties.

Section 6 Vice President of Administration

The Vice President of Administration shall:

- a. record the minutes of all ASCENSION FLIGHT Executive Committee, and General Coaches Meetings;
- b. type or write legibly those minutes and make them available to all Board members at least three (3) days prior to the next scheduled meeting;
- c. maintain a file of all meeting minutes, (a copy of any committee minutes should be forwarded to the Vice-President of Administration for inclusion in ASCENSION FLIGHT records);
- d. maintain an operational file for special events;
- e. maintain the player registration files;
- f. file all player registration and team roster information with LSA;
- g. distribute player and team roster information to coaches and League Representatives;
- h. coordinate all insurance matters with LSA;
- i. collect and disburse the funds of the Club;
- j. maintain the Executive Committee Approved budget;
- k. provide a monthly balance sheet at each Executive Committee meeting, breaking down income and expenses for the current month and year to date;
- l. provide a balance sheet and financial statement for presentation at the Spring Coaches Meeting; and
- m. provide for an annual audit of finances at least one month before preparation of the statements for the Spring Coaches Meeting. <<<The audit will be performed by two non-board members of ASCENSION FLIGHT as approved by the Executive Committee

Section 8 Competitive Commissioner

The Competitive Commissioner shall:

- a. verify the credentials of prospective Competitive Coaches and make recommendations to the ASCENSION FLIGHT Executive Committee for Division 1 coaching assignments
- b. examine thoroughly each request by players to play outside of their appropriate age group and make recommendations to the ASCENSION FLIGHT executive Committee on each individual request per the Operational Guidelines;
- c aligns the teams within divisions in their league to insure appropriate levels of play and competition are provided;
- d. act as a liaison between their league and any other organizations to schedule games for teams within their league;
- e. provides rosters and schedules to the Vice-President of Youth as required for approval;
- f. provides a list of teams eligible for LSA State Cup tournaments;
- g. resolves any player/coach/parent conflicts within any Competitive teams or refers the issue to the Vice-President of Youth;
- h. serve as a member of the Penalty and Protest Committee for matters involving Competitive teams as assigned by the Vice-President of Youth; and
- i. presides over all Competitive Coaches meetings
- j. act as a member of the Competitive Committee
- k. accompany any ASCENSION FLIGHT members involved in an LSA disciplinary hearing

Section 8 Recreational Commissioner

The Recreational Commissioner shall:

- a. organize, appoint and oversee a system of league reps for each individual age and gender to place players on teams and enlist coaches as needed to develop teams;
- b. examine thoroughly each request by players to play outside of their appropriate age group and approve or disapprove the request per the Operational Guidelines;
- c. work with league reps to align the teams within divisions in their league to insure appropriate levels of play and competition are provided;
- d. act as a liaison between their league and any other organizations to schedule games for teams within their league;
- e. work with league reps to provide rosters and schedules to the Vice-President of Youth and VP of Operations as required for approval;
- f. resolve any player/coach/parent conflicts within their league or refer the issue to the Vice-President of Youth;
- g. serve as a member of the Discipline, Penalty and Protest Committee for matters concerning recreational teams as assigned by the Vice- President of Youth;

ARTICLE VII ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Executive Committee members shall be elected annually at the Spring General Membership Meeting by a majority of the eligible votes at the meeting. Nominations will be taken from the floor. The newly elected officers will serve a term of one year, which begins on August 1 following their election, unless a need or desire to start immediately is dictated by circumstance and approved by the existing ASCENSION FLIGHT Executive Committee

ARTICLE VIII

REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

Any officer may be removed by a vote of two-thirds of the voting membership present at a duly called General Membership Meeting of the Club. The filling of a vacated position shall be done by the Executive Committee, to stand until the next possible meeting to hold an election.

A League Representative will face a recall election if at least one-third of the active coaches in that League petition the President of the ASCENSION FLIGHT, in writing, requesting such an election. The Vice-President of Youth will call a meeting of all coaches in that League within one month and will give all active coaches a minimum of two weeks notice of the meeting. At the meeting, a vote of two-thirds of the active coaches in the league will be required to recall the League Representative. Only active coaches or their appointed representatives may vote. Representatives must present assigned letters of appointment from their coaches to the ASCENSION FLIGHT Officer conducting the recall meeting. Coaches absent will be counted as a vote against the recall. The active coaches, or their representatives, must replace a recalled league representative at the recall meeting.

If any member of the Executive Committee fails to attend three consecutive meetings without having sent, to such meeting, a substitute or a proper excuse, in writing, he shall be deemed to have resigned there from and it shall be the duty of the President to fill such vacancy in accordance with the provisions of section one of this article.

ARTICLE IX

COMMITTEES

Section 1

Membership

(A) Standing committees shall be composed of not less than three, or more than five members, unless otherwise specified in this Article. Membership shall be approved by the Executive Committee, unless otherwise specified in this Article.

Each standing committee shall be chaired by an Executive Officer or League Representative and approved by the Executive Committee, unless otherwise specified in this Article.

(B) Special Committees shall be appointed by the President or the appropriate Officer and are subject to approval by the Executive Committee.

Section 2

Standing Committees

(A) Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee will be chaired by the President.
2. Membership of the Executive Committee will consist of the President, all Vice-Presidents, Competitive Commissioner and Recreational Commissioner

3. A quorum of ½ of the presently filled Executive committee positions is required for a meeting. In absence of the President, the quorum should be half of the voting membership plus one. All members must be notified of the meeting at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.
4. Meetings may be called by the President or any three members.
5. The duties of the Executive Committee shall be as follows:
 - (a) To pass on those matters within it's assigned parameters of authority (ARTICLE XI, Section 1);
 - (b) To review appointments, hiring and firing employees, and the dismissal of coaches;
 - (c) To act as a discipline Board of Appeals, to hear all appeals on decisions by the Discipline/Protest Committee.
 - (i) Any member involved in the action or game on which a decision was made and appealed, or immediately related to a member who was involved, shall not sit on the committee for this appeal.
 - (ii) Should the appeal involve the President, the Vice-President of Youth will chair the meeting. Should the appeal also involve the Vice- President of Youth, the Vice-President of Operations will chair the meeting.

(B) Registration and Recruitment Committee

1. The Registration and Recruitment Committee is responsible for Fall and Spring registration efforts, under the oversight of the Vice-President of Youth.
2. The Registration and Recruitment Committee is responsible for coordinating recruitment activities with the League Representatives and is responsible for establishing and supporting special recruitment activities, such as booths, soccer-thons, demonstration games, and clinics.
3. Public relations activities will be coordinated with the President.

(C) Bylaws and Rules Committee

1. The Bylaws and Rules Committee shall review all proposed amendments to the Bylaws, Administrative Procedures, Operational Guidelines and Playing Rules to insure consistency and shall make a report to the Board.
2. The Bylaws and Rules Committee shall review all Bylaws, Administrative Procedures, Operational Guidelines and Playing Rules prior to the Spring General Membership meeting to insure consistency and shall make a report to the Board prior to the Spring General Membership meeting.

D. Responsibilities of the Disciplinary/Penalty Committee

A. Committee's Jurisdiction

The Disciplinary/Penalty Committee shall meet as required to:

1. Review properly submitted complaints regarding actions, behavior or violations of ASCENSION FLIGHT, LSA, USYSA, all applicable local, state and federal laws having an adverse effect on the ASCENSION FLIGHT playing experience;
2. To determine additional suspension of other punishments in cases of excessive cautions or send offs as defined in the Playing Rules, or the FIFA Laws of the game, or for send offs involving violent conduct or threats; and,
3. To deal with any discipline issues involving any member of ASCENSION FLIGHT. This includes but it not limited to, any player, coach, board member, parent, spectator or other participant.

- B. The disciplinary/penalty committee shall not hear nor consider coaching decisions of any ASCENSION FLIGHT coach regarding playing strategy or playing time.

E. Procedure

- A. Any request for a Disciplinary/Penalty Committee hearing must be in writing and authenticated by the person making the complaint. This can be done either through handwritten or typed communication or electronic, email communication. Any such complaint must be submitted to the Vice President of Youth.
- B. After receipt of any complaint, the Vice President of Youth shall notify the person against who the complaint is made within 72 hours of receiving the complaint. The notification shall include the nature of the complaint, the specific allegations made, the process by which the complaint will be resolved, and shall be afford the opportunity to respond in writing to the complaint. Such notification can be made through electronic email or conventional mail, but shall be in writing. The Board of Directors fro ASCENSION FLIGHT shall be copied on such notification.
- C. Following the notification set forth above, the Vice President of Youth shall convene the disciplinary/penalty committee for the purpose of hearing the complaint. The Vice President of Youth shall preside over said committee. The committee shall consist of at least three but no more than five members, which may consist of the following; a parent from a competitive team, a parent from a recreational team, a parent from an Academy team, a coach from a competitive team, a coach from a recreational team, a coach from an Academy team, a league representative, no more than one member of the community in good standing, who has no affiliation with ASCENSION FLIGHT.
- D. The hearing shall be set as soon as possible and convenient to the committee members, but not sooner than 72 hours after notification is given to the complainant person and the person against whom the complaint is made.
- E. The complainant shall attend the hearing, failure to do so will result in the complaint be deemed withdrawn. The complainant may present witnesses and other evidence which the Vice President of Youth may deem relevant in support of the complaint.
- F. The person against who the complaint is made can attend the hearing and present witnesses and evidence the Vice President of Youth may deem relevant in defense of the

complaint. The person against whom the complaint is made is not required to attend the

hearing, and his lack of attendance, provided he has been given notice of the complaint and the hearing set forth above, shall not be a reason for delaying or avoiding the hearing.

F. Roles, deliberations and outcome.

- A. The Vice President of Youth shall preside over the hearing and advise the committee on its roles and responsibility. The Vice President of Youth shall also determine at his discretion, the evidence to be reviewed by the committee. At all times the Vice President of Youth will ensure the fairness of the hearing and the opportunity of both sides to be heard and to present their case.
- B. Following the presentation of evidence, the committee shall deliberate and come to a decision. A majority vote of the committee is needed to render any action. The committee can dismiss the complaint if it finds there is insufficient evidence, or that there is not violation of the rules and laws set forth above. If the committee finds there is such a violation, it may render discipline as it deems appropriate. Such discipline may include suspension, attendance ban, the completion of certain clinics, or other punishments consistent with the By-Laws of ASCENSION FLIGHT. The committee cannot issue a fine or other monetary damages.
- C. One the committee renders a decision, the Vice President of Youth shall notify both parties of the decision and the reasons for said decision in writing within 72 hours of the hearing. The notification may be made through electronic, e-mail. If such decision involves some disciplinary or punishment action, the notification shall include the appeal procedure.

G. Appeal

- A. Any decision by the Disciplinary/Penalty Committee involving an attendance/participation ban of one month or greater, or six games or greater shall be immediately appealed and reviewed by the Board of Directors at the next monthly board meeting. There is no fee for such an appeal.
- B. For any other disciplinary or penalty action, the disciplined or punished party may request an appeal to the board of directors. Such request must be made in writing to the Vice President of Youth within 10 days of the mailing of the decision. Such request can be made through electronic mail or email. With any request for an appeal, an administrative fee of \$50.00 must be paid to Ascension Flight Soccer Club before any appeal will be considered.
- C. Once an appeal is requested and the fee is paid, the Board of Directors will consider the appeal at the next monthly meeting. At such meeting, the person appealing may appear and advocate his position. The Vice President of Youth shall speak on behalf of the Disciplinary/Penalty Committee, and shall not vote on the appeal
- D. Once the Board of Directors hears and decides the appeal, the matter is final and there is no further appeal.

(D) Competitive Committee

- 1) The Competitive Committee will be comprised of the ASCENSION FLIGHT President, VP of Youth, VP of Education and Training, the Competitive Commissioner and the Director of Development.
- 2) The Competitive Committee will be responsible for review and assignment of all coaches to ASCENSION FLIGHT Competitive teams.
- 3) The Competitive Committee will be responsible for examining

current Competitive procedure and making recommendations to the ASCENSION FLIGHT Executive committee for Policy changes.

- 4) The Competitive committee will oversee all Competitive related issues not specifically related to other committee parameters
- 5) All members of the Competitive Committee vote with the President breaking all ties.
- 6) Reviews recommendations from all Competitive Coaches meetings and presents minutes of those meetings to the ASCENSION FLIGHT Executive committee along with policy change proposals.

Section 3 Special Committees

Special Committees may be established as needed, when needed, for special purposes. Special Committees may be limited in scope as desired by the Board.

ARTICLE X FINANCES

ASCENSION FLIGHT is a non-profit organization, domiciled and chartered in the State of Louisiana, deriving all funds from registration fees and contributions. The Club shall have a checking account at an Ascension Parish financial institution. The books of the Club shall be audited or reviewed annually as determined by the Executive Committee. All Officers and coaches of the Club shall serve without pay.

The registration fees shall be established by the Executive Committee prior to the scheduled registration period and shall be used for expenses incurred in operating the program, such as equipment, field maintenance, referee's fees, and awards.

ARTICLE XI RULES AND REGULATIONS

ASCENSION FLIGHT will be governed according to FIFA laws of the Game and Universal Guide for Referees (current English edition), USSF rules and regulations, along with amendments and additions adopted by the ASCENSION FLIGHT.

ARTICLE XII ORGANIZATION

Section 1 Parameters of Authority

PARAMETERS OF AUTHORITY ASCENSION ASCENSION FLIGHT SOCCER CLUB					
	ASCENSION FLIGHT Executive Committee	Executive Committee in Reg. Meet.	Executive Officer	League Representative	
Budgeted Expenditures	over \$500 & Oversight*	Up to \$500 if within budget & Oversight	Up to \$100 if within budget	Per budget assignment without exception	
Non-Budgeted Expenditures	Over \$250 & Oversight	Up to \$250 if within budget & Oversight	Up to \$50 if within budget	None	
Fiscal Contracts	Over \$500 & Oversight	Up to \$500 if within budget	None	None	
Non-Fiscal Contracts	Authority	None	None	None	
Scheduling Games	Oversight	Oversight	Approval	Within total games allowed	
Scheduling Tourneys	Approval	Requests	None	Requests	
Waiver of Player Fees	Approval of more than 2 per team, 2 per family	Oversight	Oversight	Up to 2 per team, 2 per family	
Playing out of Age Group	Oversight	None	Approval	approval	

*Oversight in all cases is defined as the responsibility to review actions by lower levels of authority and require corrective action, if necessary.

Section 2 Teams

Teams shall be formed on the basis of players' ages, in accordance with groupings sanctioned by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), USYSA, and LSA. All teams of a particular age group shall constitute a league. ASCENSION FLIGHT teams may only play teams affiliated with USSF and currently in good standing. For purposes of this section, a player's age shall be determined by subtracting his or her year of birth from the year in which the seasonal year ends.

Section 3 League Representatives

League representatives may be assigned by the Recreational Commissioner

Section 4 Team Size

The team sizes will follow Louisiana Soccer Association (LSA) and US Youth Soccer guidelines.

Section 5 Registration Procedures

Registration procedures are to be determined by the Executive Committee in accordance with LSA Guidelines and ASCENSION FLIGHT Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII TOURNAMENTS

Section 1 Definitions

- (A) Tournaments are events requiring LSA approval and may involve any number of visiting teams.
- (B) Jamborees may require notification of LSA but consist predominantly of ASCENSION FLIGHT teams.

Section 2 Approval

The ASCENSION FLIGHT Executive Committee must approve all tournaments and jamborees held by the playing Club. The Executive Committee shall decide upon the Club's participation in the various tournaments sanctioned by the State Association of the tournament. The Tournament Committee shall be chaired by the Vice- President of Operations, who shall oversee all ASCENSION FLIGHT sanctioned Tournaments and Jamborees, and may, if necessary, appoint the appropriate officials for the event. Teams, leagues or divisions desiring to host a tournament or jamboree shall coordinate their plans with the Executive Committee for the purposes of providing fields, referees and/or other facilities. All requests for tournaments must be submitted to the Executive Committee, in writing, 90 days prior to the tournament play date. Permission to host jamborees must be submitted, in writing, a minimum of 45 days prior to the playing date.

ARTICLE XIV PROTESTS

Section 1 Basis for Protest

No protests can be entertained if they are based on judgement decisions made by the referee during play. There are only three acceptable causes for the protesting of a game. They are:

(A) INELIGIBLE PLAYER

A team plays an unregistered, ineligible or suspended player.

(B) MISINTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

There has been an obvious error made in the application of the Laws of the Game that directly affects the outcome of the match.

(C) GROUNDS, GOALPOSTS, ETC.

Any protest relating to the grounds, goalposts, crossbars, or other appurtenances or the match shall not be entertained unless an objection has been lodged with the referee before the commencement of the match. The referee shall require the responsible team to remove the cause of the objection if this is possible without unduly delaying the match. When an objection has been lodged with the referee, a protest, in writing must be made.

Section 2 Procedure for Submitting Protests

(A) Within four days of the protested match, the protesting coach must submit, in writing, to the Vice-President of Youth, or, if he is involved in the game protested, the Vice-President of Administration, his reasons for the protest, BASED SOLELY ON THOSE CAUSES OUTLINED IN SECTION ONE OF THIS ARTICLE.

(B) All protests must be accompanied by a check, made to ASCENSION FLIGHT SOCCER CLUB, in the amount of \$25.00. This fee is refundable if the protest is decided by the Protest Committee in the protesting coach's favor.

(C) All parties involved in the protest shall be notified of the meeting at which the protest will be heard by the Discipline, Penalty and Protest Committee

Section 3 Decisions of the Discipline, Penalty and Protest Committee

Upon hearing the evidence concerning the protest, the Committee must choose one of the following courses of action:

b. Deny the protest and allow the match results to stand.

c. Uphold the protest and nullify the match results. The Committee may not order the match replayed. The League Representative may order the match replayed, but only if the outcome of the game would determine league standings for tournament play.

Section 4 Appeals

Either coach may appeal the decision of the Protest Committee to the Executive Committee. All appropriate ASCENSION FLIGHT Policies and procedures must be followed. The appeal must be received, in writing, by the VP of administration, within four days

of the Protest Committee decision, accompanied by a \$50.00 appeal fee. The Executive Committee shall decide the protest at its next meeting. Both coaches and the Referee Club will be notified of the meeting at which the appeal will be heard. If the appealing team is not represented at the meeting, it will forfeit the appeal and the appeal fee. If the appealing team wins the appeal, the appeal fee will be returned. If not, the fee will be deposited in the ASCENSION FLIGHT general fund. The Executive Committee's decision on the protest is limited to the same choices available to the Protest Committee. Any ASCENSION FLIGHT Executive Committee decision may be appealed to the State Association.

ARTICLE XV PROCEDURES, GUIDELINES, AND POLICIES

Section 1 Establishment of Procedures

The ASCENSION FLIGHT Executive Committee shall establish administrative procedures and general operational guidelines and policies for the operation of the Club as directed under the Bylaws. Guidelines and Playing Rules for the coming soccer year (Aug 1 through July 31) shall be approved by the Executive Committee in time for publication and distribution at the Fall General Membership Meeting.

Section 2 Changes to Procedures, Guidelines, and Playing Rules

Any member of the Club may submit proposed changes to the Procedures, or Guidelines, in writing to the Vice-President of Administration. Proposed changes will be reviewed for consistency by the Bylaws and Rules Committee prior to the next regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting.

The Bylaws and Rules Committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee, including any inconsistencies or conflicts with LSA rules, Bylaws, Procedures, Guidelines, or Playing Rules.

Procedures and Guidelines may be amended by a simple majority vote of coaches present at a regularly scheduled General Membership Meeting. Proposed changes shall be submitted, in writing, to the Executive Committee at least one month prior to the next scheduled General Membership Meeting.

Section 3 Changes to the Playing Rules

Playing Rules may be amended upon request by a simple majority vote of the appropriate playing division. Proposed changes shall be submitted, in writing, to the Vice-President of Administration. Proposed changes will be reviewed for consistency by the Bylaws and Rules Committee prior to the next regularly scheduled-Executive Committee meeting.

The Bylaws and Rules Committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee, including any inconsistencies or conflicts with LSA rules, Bylaws, Procedures, Guidelines, or Playing Rules.

ARTICLE XVI AMENDMENTS

Section 1 Proposed Amendments

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws may be submitted by any member of the Club. They shall be submitted, in writing, to the Executive Committee at least one month prior to the next scheduled General Membership meeting.

Section 2 Executive Committee Review

After discussion, the Executive Committee will send the proposed amendments with any comments or recommendations it may have to the voting members of the Club. This will be done at least three weeks prior to the next General Membership Meeting.

Section 3 Adoption of Proposed Amendments

Amendments sent to the membership from the Executive Committee require a simple majority vote of the membership present for adoption. Changes represented from the floor to any proposed amendment under consideration must be directly related to that amendment. Such changes require a two-thirds vote of the membership present for adoption.

Section 4 Effective Date of Approved Amendments

Changes approved by the membership shall take effect immediately unless otherwise specified. Notification of such approved changes shall be distributed, in writing, to the voting membership prior to the start of the next soccer year.

Section 5 Effect Upon Other Sections of Bylaws

Amendments to any section of the Bylaws which alter another section of the Bylaws shall have the effect of also amending that section of the Bylaws. Amendments to the Bylaws with a specified length of effect (i.e., a program instituted for only one year) will automatically be deleted from the Bylaws as they expire.

Section 6 Responsibility of Implementation

The Executive Committee has the responsibility to see to the proper implementation of any transition and/or changes to the Bylaws in a prudent manner for the period of one-year following said changes.

Section 7 Existing Bylaws

All existing Bylaws presently in effect and not in direct conflict remain in effect until changed by the Executive Committee.

At the beginning of each playing year at the Fall General Meeting, an updated, chronologically dated version of that year's Bylaws will be distributed to each voting member of ASCENSION FLIGHT.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Section 1 OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Section 1.1 Registration Procedures

(A) Registration year and Deadlines

The ASCENSION FLIGHT registration year runs from August 1 to July 31 of the following calendar year.

(B) Open Registration

Open registration for the Fall season will begin no earlier than July 1 and close 15 days prior to the opening date of the Fall season. Spring registration will begin no earlier than January 2 and close 15 days prior to the start of the Spring Season.

(C) Closed Registration

Requests for registration during any other period of the registration year will be forwarded to the respective League representative. The name of the prospective registrant will be placed in the appropriate player pool for the registrant's age. Vacancies on existing teams will be filled on a first-come, first-placed basis in compliance with the section on team formation. New teams may be formed by the league representative from the player pool if the number of registrants and time allows.

(D) Team Registration

- a. At the end of the Fall soccer season all rosters of existing teams will be evaluated for adequate numbers and assigned players from the player pool through a try out process, or at random, to fill vacant or vacated roster spots.
- b. At the end of the Spring soccer season, all rosters of existing teams will be vacated and filled through a try out process, or at random, before the beginning of the next soccer season.
- c. Players not wishing to play for the same team, or whose team has disbanded will be placed in the player pool and assigned to a new team by the respective league representative.
- d. Recruiting to form Recreational teams is prohibited and will not be tolerated.
 - i. Recruiting is defined as the intentional solicitation of a player or coach to obtain a competitive advantage.
 - ii. Recruiting of players at registration will not be permitted or tolerated.

Coaches, players, and parents have an obligation to report attempts of recruiting. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action

(E) Registration Duties of League Representatives

- a. The elected League Representative shall form new rosters and review existing rosters to insure that they comply with the tenets set forth in the section concerning team formation.
- b. Completed rosters must be submitted to the Vice-President of Administration within 3 calendar days of the close of open registration. Rosters formed or modified during the period of closed registration will be given to the Vice- President of Administration within two calendar days of formation or modification.

(F) Age Groups

- a. Age groups shall be comprised of players who are:
- d. Age groups may be delineated by either the calendar year of birth (e.g. 2006s) or by using term "Under" along with applicable age.

The age of a player for the purpose of league play shall be determined by subtracting his or her year of birth from the year in which the seasonal year ends.

Section 1.2 Team Formation

(A) Rosters

- a. Each team will be required to submit and maintain a current and official roster with the Club.
 - i. Only players whose immediate relative volunteers to coach will be excluded from the random selection process and assigned to the team associated with the aforementioned relative. This policy will also be granted for one (1) assistant coach prior to roster creation.
- b. Only player's names appearing on the roster which are supported by registration forms, fees, and any other required documentation will be accepted as official.
 - i. Other required documentation is defined as proof of age (birth certificate or other acceptable verification) or any applicable waivers.
 - ii. Medical statements or waivers may also be required as additional documentation.
- c. Once a roster is submitted, changes in team composition cannot be made without the approval of the Vice-President of Youth.
- d. A player may register for and his name may appear on only one youth roster regardless of the competition level.

(B) Player Placement

- a. It is the policy of the ASCENSION FLIGHT that each individual desiring to play soccer be given the opportunity to play.
- b. Factors to be considered in placement of players from the ASCENSION FLIGHT player's pool are:
 - i. Geographic location of the player with respect to the team. It is

highly desirable to place players in situations, which most closely approximate neighborhood teams.

- ii. The desires of the parent (s). Valid reasons for parents influencing team placement may be, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Sibling on the same team.
 - 2. Parent or close relative coaching the team.
 - iii. Age of the player – teams should be balanced according to the ages of the players. Teams should be formed which closely approximate an equal representation from each of the years within the age group.
 - iv. Teams should be balanced according to the number of players appearing on each roster.
- c. Failure of a ASCENSION FLIGHT coach to accept a player from the ASCENSION FLIGHT pool must be documented and reported to the Vice-President of Youth. Documentation should include but not be limited to:
- i. Name of the coach and team involved.
 - ii. Date of contact with coach or date that notification of non-acceptance was received from another source. (The other source must be identified).
 - iii. Name of the player that was not accepted.
 - iv. A statement of facts pertaining to the incident. (Opinions are not acceptable).
 - v. Documentation of any actions. NOTE: In all cases, action must be based on ASCENSION FLIGHT Bylaws, latest edition and only applicable factual information.

(C) Playing Divisions

a. (4 v 4)

- i. Teams consist of a maximum of eight players. A total of four players on the field at all times during play are permitted. Teams shall not have goalkeeper.
- ii. All 4 v 4 team play is considered recreational, non-competitive soccer. No scores will be tallied, no standings kept, and no protests considered.

Trophies, patches, and other forms of recognition are given only for participation and must be dispensed equally to all players.

b. (7 V 7)

- i. Teams consist of a maximum of fourteen players. A total of seven players, including a goalkeeper, are permitted on the field during play.
- ii. All 7 V 7 team play is considered recreational, non-competitive soccer. No scores will be tallied, no standings kept, and no protests considered. Trophies, patches, and other forms of recognition are given only for participation and must be

dispensed equally to all players.

c. { 9 V 9)

- i. Teams consist of a maximum of eighteen players. A total of eight players, including the goalkeeper, are permitted on the field during play.
- ii. 89 v 89 team play can be either recreational or competitive.

d. Full sized (11 v 11)

All age groups, unless otherwise noted in this section, shall play 11 v 11, with the roster limitation as set in ARTICLE XII, Section 4. A total of eleven players, including the goalkeeper, are permitted on the field during play.

(D) Types of Youth Teams

a. Recreational Teams

- i. Must be formed in accordance with regulations governing player placement.
- ii. Team assignments will be made without regard to the player's race, creed, or color.
- iii. Players will play at least one-half of every game they attend. Players may have part of their guaranteed playing time withheld for disciplinary reasons in accordance with guidelines established by the Executive Board. Lack of skill is never considered grounds for disciplining players.
- iv. All teams U5 through U8 will play as recreational teams. Teams U9-U10 may play as either recreational or be a part of a transitional program.
- v. Play shall be intramural (within the club) or friendly matches except that neighboring clubs (within 100 miles) can establish intramural leagues if necessary.
- vi. Competition during the soccer year is limited as follows:
 - 1. U-5/6 maximum of 20 matches, 1 jamboree.
 - 2. U-7/8 maximum of 22 matches, 2 jamborees other than those hosted by their Club.
 - 3. U-9/10 maximum of 24 matches, 3 jamborees other than those hosted by their Club.

4. U-11 – U-19 maximum of 30 matches, 2 tournaments other than those hosted by their Club.

b. Transitional Programs

- i. The purpose of the transitional program shall be to build a bridge from the Recreational Teams to the Competitive Teams
- ii. Team assignments will be made without regard to the player's race, creed, or color.
- iii. All players interested in the transitional program will be accepted.
- iv. The ASCENSION FLIGHT Competitive Committee will approve and appoint coaches for each age and gender for the transitional programs. Head coaches will have a minimum of a USSF ~~–D~~III level license or with ASCENSION FLIGHT Executive committee approval, will be working towards receiving one.
- v. Transitional program coaches may be compensated by ASCENSION FLIGHT based on current coach pay guidelines.
- vi. Players will play at least one-half of every game they attend. Players may have part of their guaranteed playing time withheld for disciplinary reasons in accordance with guidelines established by the Executive Committee. Lack of skill is never considered grounds for disciplining players.
- vii. Transitional programs are designed for U9 and U10 age groups.
- viii. Transitional p r o g r a m b a s e d teams may participate in unlimited invitational tournaments or jamborees as per LSA bylaws

c. Competitive teams

- i. Competitive teams are competitive teams that are permitted to use tryouts as a method of selection of players to the roster.
- ii. Team assignments will be made without regard to the player's race, creed, or color
- iii. The ASCENSION FLIGHT Competitive Committee will approve and appoint coaches for each age and gender for Competitive teams. Competitive team head coaches will have a minimum of a USSF ~~–D~~III level license, or with ASCENSION FLIGHT Executive committee approval, will be working towards receiving one.
- iv. Coaches of Competitive teams may Not charge additional fees in addition to club's current fee structure.
- v. All ASCENSION FLIGHT Competitive teams are bound and will abide by the LSA rules and procedures pertaining to roster formation, transfer limits, travel, documentation, and eligibility.
- vi. Players on Competitive teams are NOT guaranteed any minimum playing time per match, tournament or season.
- vii. Competitive teams are the only teams that will be eligible to represent

ASCENSION FLIGHT in the Louisiana Competitive Soccer League,
and will

- viii. only be able to do so with ASCENSION FLIGHT Executive committee approval.
- ix. Competitive teams will be offered in the U11-U19 age categories.
- ix. Competitive teams may participate in unlimited inter- or intrastate invitational tournaments or jamborees as per LSA bylaws

(E) Definition of Statewide and Interstate Youth Leagues

a. Statewide Leagues

- i. May be formed when the Executive Board determines there is limited competition in any given group within the Club.
- ii. Recreational Teams, having complied with the above guidelines on team formation, may play in stateside league competition. However, each age division must comply with the operational guidelines set forth by ASCENSION FLIGHT bylaws concerning play at that age level.
- iii. Must play by State Club rules.
- iv. Must follow ASCENSION FLIGHT playing rules while playing ASCENSION FLIGHT teams within the boundaries of Ascension parish.
- v. ASCENSION FLIGHT teams will only participate in a Stateside League if all other teams in the league are USSF affiliated.

b. Interstate Leagues

Teams have the same requirements as Stateside Leagues except they play under USYSF playing rules.

Section 1.3 Regular Season

- (A) The fall season for the Recreational Leagues will not begin before August 1, and the Spring season for the Recreational Leagues will not begin before February 15.
- (B) The Fall and Spring season will consist of no less than eight games each.

Section 1.4 Referees

(A) Referee Trainees.

Each team will be required to provide one referee or referee trainee per soccer year. The name (s) of the referee representative shall be provided to the Vice-President of Education and Training seven days prior to the beginning of each soccer year. The active status of the representatives and team compliance with this rule shall be reviewed by the Vice-President of Education and Training.

(B) RefereeSystem.

Referees shall use the three-man FIFA referee system.

(C) ClubLinesman.

Teams may be asked to furnish linesmen for the conduct of the game. The

linesmen must be impartial and are assigned to aid the referee in the conduct of

the game. The duties and amount of authority given to each linesman will be within the discretion of the game referee. His decisions will be based upon experience of the linesman and any other conditions apparent to him.

Section 1.5 Team Travel Procedures

- (A) For travel outside Louisiana boundaries, any team **MUST** have a travel permit approved by the State Association.
- (B) Permission to travel cannot be granted if you host is unaffiliated or in bad standing with his Club. Appropriate action will be taken against teams who travel to play teams out of state or in Mexico or Canada without proper permission.
- (C) You must obtain your Travel Permit as per LSA travel policy
- (D) Tournament or trip information must accompany the request for a permit. Travel rosters must coincide with the latest official team roster on file.
- (E) Player passes must be carried when playing out of state.
- (F) Travel forms are not necessary for U-19 National or Regional Cup games. They are mandatory for all other tournament or friendly (exhibition) games.
- (G) Teams must carry written ASCENSION FLIGHT Medical Releases from parents in case emergency medical care is required.

Section II PLAYING RULES

Section 2.1 Registration

Only registered players shall be permitted to play in Club competition. A team which uses unregistered, ineligible or suspended players shall automatically forfeit all games in which said players have participated.

Section 2.2 Playing Time

- (A) Lack of skill is not considered valid grounds to deny a player his mandatory playing time in a regularly scheduled game.

- (B) Each player on a team who shows up for the game must play at least one-half of each game. Violation of this rule by a team will result in automatic forfeiture of the game.
- (C) Exceptions will only be allowed for health reasons, because of injuries and for disciplinary reasons. (See Disciplinary Rules for exceptions). Health problems must be explained to the referee prior to the start of the game.

Section 2.3 Mandatory Player Equipment

- (A) All players must wear manufactured shin guards for practice and play.
- (B) All players must have numbered jerseys, except U-6 and U-8.
- (C) Shoes worn by players must be safe, as determined by the referee, for that player and other players.

Section 2.4 Player Discipline

- (A) The purpose of the ASCENSION FLIGHT is to teach soccer and good sportsmanship to all participants in the Club. With this goal in mind, the following criteria are established for disciplinary procedures to be taken by coaches.
 1. For failure to attend one-half of the scheduled practices within a week, a player may be kept out for a quarter of the game scheduled in that week.
 2. For failure to attend all of the scheduled practices in a week, a player may be kept out of the entire game scheduled in that week. (The above two rules take into consideration the mandatory playing time of one-half of each game. Therefore, the player who misses one-half of the practices can only expect to play one-fourth of the game).
- (B) A player who disrupts a team through misbehavior, belligerence, or disrespect may be disciplined by being denied the right to play in the entire game for that week. This action will only be taken by the coaches after they have advised the player's parents of the actions of the player and the course of action they will take.

Coaches and parents will make every effort to coordinate among themselves how players will be disciplined during the season. Any complaints as to the procedures taken by a coach should be forwarded to the Discipline Committee.

Section 2.5 Player/Team Conduct

- (A) Coaching during the game
 1. Competitive and Transitional teams (players aged U9-U19): only the Official coach or assistants are allowed to instruct players from the sideline and only from the designated team area.
 2. Recreational teams (players aged U5 and up): only the official coach or assistants coach are allowed to instruct and only from the designated team area. Coaches for age's categories that require self-officiating may instruct players on the field, but only in a way that does not slow the flow of the game or gain a competitive advantage.

3. Any coaching which is excessively loud or which interferes with play is prohibited, as is the use of coaching aids (i.e., megaphones, etc.)

(B) Responsibility for conduct

Coaches are responsible for controlling the actions of their players and spectators. A referee has full authority to terminate a game if a player, coach, or spectators become unruly or physically menace a referee or other players. Any person causing such disruption shall come under the jurisdiction of the Penalty Committee.

(C) Yellow Card Penalty

1. For receiving a second cumulative YELLOW CARD during the regular soccer year, a coach, assistant coach, trainer, or team manager shall receive a one-game suspension and will not be allowed to participate in the next regularly scheduled Club game of that team, and shall not participate in any other affiliated team play during the suspension period.

(D) Red Card Penalty

1. Any player or coach who receives a RED CARD will be sent off for the remainder of the game in which he received the RED CARD and will not be allowed to participate in the next regularly scheduled game of that team, nor coach or play or otherwise participate with any other team of which he may be a member during the period of suspension. The suspension period begins the moment the RED CARD is issued, and it ends as soon as the team with which he was participating when the card was issued, finishes its next regularly scheduled game. A scheduled game is one, which is scheduled by ASCENSION FLIGHT or a tournament game. A forfeited game, a rainout or a game otherwise not played will not count toward the suspension.

In the event a RED CARD is received in the team's final game of the season, the player/coach must sit out the next regularly scheduled game of whatever team with which he is next affiliated.

The Penalty Committee may assess more severe sanctions, with each case being judged on its own set of circumstances and degree of misconduct involved.

2. For receiving the second cumulative RED CARD during any 12-month period, a player or coach shall receive a two-game suspension. The suspension period shall commence at the time the RED CARD is issued and shall continue until the team on which the individual was participating has completed two consecutively scheduled games. Two consecutive league games, one league game followed by a tournament game, or two consecutive tournament games would satisfy this requirement.

The individual may not coach, play or otherwise participate with any other team of which he may be a member during the suspension period. In the event the second RED CARD is received during the next to last or last seasonal game of that team's league, the individual must sit out the first and, if applicable, second regularly scheduled game, including

tournament games, of whatever team he joins in the next available season.

The Penalty Committee may recommend more severe sanctions with each case being judged on its own set of circumstances and degree of misconduct.

3. For receiving the third RED CARD during a 12-month period a player/coach shall be suspended from all team play pending Penalty Committee inquiry. This is the minimum punishment to be taken. The Penalty Committee will recommend the sanctions to be applied, with each case being judged on its own set of circumstances and misconduct.
4. Provisions of this section apply to all ASCENSION FLIGHT teams in games played in or out of town. Failure of a coach to report a RED CARD received by a player or coach during out of town play shall be grounds for a Discipline Committee hearing.
5. A player or coach who is sent off shall leave the immediate vicinity or the playing area and is prohibited from further contact, direct or indirect, with the team during the remainder of the game.

(E) Assault of a Referee

Any player or coach who assaults a referee shall be suspended immediately and shall be subject to a hearing by a State appointed committee.

(F) Talking to Referees

Only team captains are allowed to address referees during the play of the game and only when absolutely necessary. Coaches may address the referee for clarification of decisions or for registering protests, but only prior to the game, or at the half or after the end of the game.

(NOTE: Referees are not obligated to explain decisions or to talk to any participant of the game).

(G) Team Areas

Where possible, the teams and their respective spectators are to be placed on opposite sides of the field and are to remain in an area at least two yards from the touchline extending a distance of twenty yards on either side of the halfway line. No one is permitted to remain behind the goal lines unless seated in bleachers. The home team has the choice of which side of the field to take as team area, unless the sides have been previously designated by the League Representative. If it is not feasible to place the teams on opposite sides of the field, then the respective team areas for players and spectators alike shall be limited to the area between the halfway line and twenty yards to one side.

(H) Appeals

A player or coach may not appeal the administrative penalty (see Section 5, D) which accompanies the issuance of a red card unless there is a clear misinterpretation of the Laws of the Games. The player or coach must notify ASCENSION FLIGHT office, in writing, stating the reasons for the appeal and include a \$50.00 fee, cash or money order, payable to ASCENSION FLIGHT, within 72 hours of the issuance of the

red card. The player or coach will be advised verbally of the next scheduled Penalty Committee Meeting.

If the Penalty Committee is already scheduled, the player/coach will be allowed the option of attending either that meeting or the next meeting.

Additional penalties assessed by the Penalty Committee may be appealed directly to the Board. All appeals to the Board must be in writing and received within ten days of the player/coach's notification of the Penalty Committee's action.

Section 2.6 Guest Players

- (A) In accordance with LSA-Youth Division policy, guest players are not allowed for friendly games or tournaments within the state. This provision may be waived for friendly games if both teams' leagues permit it.
- (B) A ASCENSION FLIGHT team traveling to a tournament out of state shall be allowed the use of not more than three guest players, providing the host organization has been authorized the use of guest players. To protect the player eligibility and insurance coverage of ASCENSION FLIGHT members, the use of guest players shall be in accordance with the following procedures:
 - 1. A LSA Guest Player Release Form must be filled out completely and returned to the LSA office prior to the tournament.
 - 2. Guest Player ID cards will have GUEST PLAYER stamped across the face of the card. Guest player ID cards will be returned to the ASCENSION FLIGHT office immediately upon return from the tournament.
 - 3. Failure to abide by the LSA Guest Player policy may result in the offending coach's suspension.

Section 2.7 Substitutions

- (A) All U9-U19 Leagues will be allowed unlimited substitutions, but only at the following times:
 - 1. Prior to a throw-in in the team's favor;
 - 2. Prior to a goal kick by either team;
 - 3. After a goal;
 - 4. After an injury when the referee stops play; or
 - 5. At halftime.
- (B) For U-10 and below, substitutions will be allowed at a quarter, at halftime, and at three-quarters, with the referee determining the quarters. Substitutions will be allowed for injuries, when the referee stops play.

Section III FOUL WEATHER POLICY

Soccer games and practices will be played whenever weather and field conditions permit. However, the first consideration in all games and practices is the safety of the players.

Section 3.1 Parental Discretion

The parents of the players have the ultimate decision as to whether or not their child will play or practice in any given foul weather situation. The following are guidelines to be used in making decisions pertaining to the play of games and practices in foul weather. Application of these guidelines will rest with the good judgement of the practice coaches, League Representatives, referees and parents.

Section 3.2 Considerations for Stopping or Canceling a Match or Practice

The following conditions are considered valid reasons for canceling or stopping a match or practice:

- A. Catastrophic Weather Conditions – All ASCENSION FLIGHT scheduled games will be cancelled under extreme weather conditions such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, etc.
- B. Excessive Rain
- C. Lightning
- D. Cold – Cold weather is not a reason for stopping play unless temperatures become extreme, 32 degrees F and dropping. However, cold weather accompanied by rain and wind may be a basis for stopping play.
- E. Condition of Field – A field is considered safe for play if the following conditions exist:
 - 1. The referee should be able to see one goal while standing at the other.
 - 2. The ball, when dropped from the shoulder, should bounce. If wet areas exist, they should be few in number.
 - 3. The ball, when placed on the ground, will remain so without being disturbed by the wind.

Section 3.3 Authority for Stopping or Canceling a Match or Practice

- (A) ASCENSION FLIGHT President – Under extreme weather conditions (hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, etc.) all scheduled ASCENSION FLIGHT games will be cancelled. The ASCENSION FLIGHT President or his delegate will inform the League Representatives and the referee coordinator as soon as the weather conditions are known.
- (B) Recreational Director (RD) or Commissioner (RC) – The RD or RC has the authority to cancel a match prior to twenty minutes before the scheduled start of play. The RD or RC will notify the respective coaches and the referee coordinator of the cancellation. (If possible, cancellation notification should be five and one-half hours before the start of the game). Reasons for cancellation are specified in Section 2 of this policy.
- (C) Referee – His authority and the exercise of the powers granted to him by the Laws of the Game commence twenty minutes prior to the scheduled start of the match. The referee has full authority and responsibility for the control of the game. The referee may suspend or terminate play at any time that he deems weather conditions make stoppage necessary.
- (D) Coach – A coach should stop or cancel practice if any of the conditions outlined in Section 2 of this policy exist. If referee not required, the two coaches should evaluate conditions and stop or cancel a match with the authority given the

referee. In case of disagreement, a coach may choose not to play, but the RD or RC will determine if the game will be rescheduled.

Section 3.4 Stoppage of Play

If the referee determines that the game must be terminated due to weather conditions, the following will apply:

- (A) If one-half of the game had been completed prior to the stoppage, the result of the match at the time of stoppage will stand. The match WILL NOT be replayed.
- (B) If less than one-half of the match had been completed at the time of the stoppage, the match will be replayed in its entirety.

Section 3.5 Games with out-of-town Teams

Due to the complexity of scheduling, time, travel and expense involved, when an out-of-town team is scheduled to play in the Ascension Parish area, every effort will be made to play the match.

Section IV Policy and Procedures Memorandums

Section 4.1 Alignment of Teams within a League

In order to insure responsible competitive play, the League Representatives will assign teams to divisions based on the following criteria:

- (A) Past season's performance;
- (B) Number of returning players from the previous season; and
- (C) Experience level of the team.

Section 4.2 Maintenance and Marking of Playing Fields

- (A) The Vice-President of Properties will assign fields to the various leagues for match play. The leagues using the fields for match play are responsible for marking and maintenance.
- (B) The Vice-President of Properties will make sprayers available for the purpose of marking fields.
- (C) Maintenance activities beyond the capability of the respective leagues will be coordinated with the Vice-President of Properties.
- (D) Marking for fields will be consistent with FIFA guidelines except for U-8 groups where smaller goals and playing fields are used.
- (E) Field Size Table (Optimum condition)

Age Group	Field Size (maximum)	Goal Size
Under 5 – Under 8	30 x 20 yards	4 x 6 feet
Under 9 – Under 10	47 x 30 yards	6.5 x 18.5 feet
Under 11 – Under 12	75 x 47 yards	6.5 x 18.5 feet
Under 13 – Under 19	120 x 75 yards	8 x 24 feet

Goals will be fabricated and installed in accordance with directions from the Vice-President of Properties.

Section 4.3 Scheduling of ASCENSION FLIGHT Match Play

- A. It is the policy of ASCENSION FLIGHT that the Recreational Director or VP of Operations is responsible for the scheduling of games for all teams in his league.
- B. Each ASCENSION FLIGHT team, by virtue of its prorated registration fees, is entitled to eight-matches..
- C. The Vice-President of Operations will arrange all scheduled matches with the referee coordinator for the purpose of referee assignment.
- D. It is the policy of ASCENSION FLIGHT that all matches be played as scheduled. Any changes to the schedule must be approved by the Recreational Director or the Vice-President of Operations. Changes should only be made if an emergency occurs or weather conditions, as outlined in the Foul Weather Policy, are present.

Section 4.5 Officiating By Unassigned Persons

- A. Ascension Ascension Flight Soccer Club is responsible for assigning referees and assistant referees for all scheduled matches. Only those persons assigned by the Ascension Ascension Flight Soccer Club are considered to be official.
- B. In the event that officials are not assigned by the referee Club or fail to show up for the match, the scheduled teams involved are to abandon the match and reschedule at a different mutually acceptable time. ASCENSION FLIGHT does not acknowledge liability or take responsibility for games not using properly assigned officials

Section 4.6 Officiating U5-U8 matches

- A. Officiating of all U-6 and U-8 matches may be done by the coach of each team or his designee who has taken the U-6/U-8 referee course.
- B. The coach of each team, or his designee, will officiate for one-half of the match. The home team will officiate for the first half and the visiting team for the second half.

Section 4.7 Recruiting in Youth Leagues

- A. Recruiting in Recreational Youth Leagues is prohibited. Recruiting is defined as the intentional solicitation of a player or coach to obtain a competitive advantage. Coaches, parents, and players have an obligation to report attempts of recruiting. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.
- B. When evidence is furnished that a player, parent or coach has been involved in recruiting activity, the Vice-President of Youth shall convene the Discipline and Protest Committee to review the evidence. Players, parents and coaches will have the right to furnish evidence to the Committee. After review of the evidence,

the Discipline and Protest Committee, upon finding that recruiting has occurred, shall:

1. Issue a reprimand to a player, coach, or parent; or
2. Assign the player to a team according to the current guideline in effect; or
3. Place the team on competitive recreation open status;
4. Order the forfeiture of all games, tournament play, or standings; or
5. Suspend the coach for a designated period of time; or
6. Fashion a penalty that includes any or all of the above.

Section 4.8 Placing Items on the Agenda

Items to be placed on the agenda of a Board Meeting may be submitted by any member of the Club. Agenda items should be submitted to the Vice-President of Administration by the Monday before the Board meeting. The agenda will be available to Board members with the prior meeting minutes 3 days before the meeting. The Executive Committee will review the agenda for appropriateness and may reject or defer an agenda item.

Section 4.9 Code of Ethics for Coaches

- A. Show respect and courtesy to the referee at all times. He is the final authority.
- B. Coach yourself before you coach others.
- C. Do your coaching at practice, not at game time. The game belongs to the players.
- D. Display sportsmanship and fair play.
- E. Control your spectators. They are your responsibility.
- F. Show respect and courtesy to other coaches and team players at game time and throughout the year.
- G. Teach soccer. Only professionals HAVE to win.
- H. Allow your players to retain their dignity.

Section 4.10 Field Use Policy

- A. Fields used for ASCENSION FLIGHT scheduled games are also available for team practices and scrimmages. A team is entitled to one half of the field for its use.
 1. Use of school fields should be coordinated through the school principal and must be approved by LSA.
 2. Use of ALL fields for practices or scrimmages shall be coordinated through the Vice-President of Operations.