

BINGHAMTON GROUP OF WESTERN NEW YORK STATE REFEREES ASSOC., INC. (BGSR)

BYLAWS

EFFECTIVE: May 20, 2015

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Binghamton Group of the Western New York State Referees Assoc., Inc., and may be referred to as Binghamton Group of Soccer Referees, or BGSR.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to:

1. Advance the understanding and application of the Laws of The Game of soccer;
2. Support the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) in registering and training referees;
3. Support affiliated leagues in assigning referees;
4. Further community participation in all aspects of the game of soccer;
5. Improve the status of member referees;
6. Improve the standards of refereeing;
7. Protect and promote the interests of member referees;
8. Make representations to the governing bodies for the good of the game and the benefit of member referees;
9. Promote a closer relationship between referees and soccer associations and kindred bodies;
10. Provide social activities, as desirable, for the membership; and
11. Retain in membership those who have given up active refereeing so that their experience may benefit others.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this organization shall be open to any person to promote interest and participation in the game of soccer specifically to officiating. All members shall be subject to these Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures of BGSR.

The following categories of membership are established:

1. "Active" membership is open to all referees, assigners, instructors, and assessors who are in good standing by the following criteria:
 - i) Registered officials in accordance with the requirements as set forth by USSF and WNYSRA;
 - ii) Registered member of BGSR;
 - iii) Pay the required dues to USSF, WNYSRA, and BGSR;
 - iv) Attend the required number of General Membership meetings each year, unless otherwise excused;
 - v) Abide by the by-laws of USSF, WNYSRA, and BGSR;
 - vi) Abide by the Policies and Procedures of BGSR; and
 - vii) Have no outstanding fines or fees to BGSR, WNYSRA, or USSF.
2. "Inactive" member status may be granted to any person interested in the promotion and participation of the game of soccer who:
 - i) Pays the required dues to BGSR; or
 - ii) Is an Active member in Active Military service who is deployed outside of the United States.

Note: Upon meeting USSF and WNYSRA requirements, such member shall revert to Active member status.

3. "Honorary" membership shall be open to any member who, after long service to the organization, desires to become inactive. Approval shall be by a majority of the vote by members at a General Membership meeting. Honorary members are not eligible to be an officer or be on the Executive Board, and shall not pay dues.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. Executive Board

There shall be an Executive Board that will consist of: President (who shall be the chair), Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, three (3) Chapter Managers, and three (3) At-Large members, each of whom shall have one vote on any matter placed before the Board.

The District Referee Administrator ("DRA"), may hold addition positions, but may not vote on matters placed before the Board. The DRA may participate in the discussions, actions and activities of the Board.

If a person holds more than one position they shall only have one vote on matters placed before the Board.

i) Executive Board Meetings

The Executive Board shall meet at least four (4) times per year, and may hold its meetings at such times and places as determined by a majority of the Board members. A majority of Board members in office shall constitute a quorum. The Chair or any two Executive Board members may call special meetings of the Executive Board at any time, provided the purpose of the meeting is specified and announced to all Board members in writing (email shall be sufficient for this purpose) at least five (5) business days prior to such meeting.

ii) Executive Board Responsibilities

The Executive Board shall be empowered by the membership to administer and address all issues brought to their attention for resolution, as well as other matters of interest to BGSR as provided for in these Bylaws. Decisions shall be reported to the membership during regular General Membership Meetings. The Executive Board shall also be responsible for negotiating match fees, approving agreements, and conducting other business necessary to maintain the organization and ensure the welfare and enhancement of soccer, consistent with the organization's stated Purpose, as well as cooperating with DRA, Assigners, Assessors, and Instructors at the local, state, and national level.

2. Officers

The officers of the organization, and their order of succession, shall be: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and shall have the following respective duties and responsibilities:

i) President - shall

- (1) Preside over all Executive Board and General Membership meetings;
- (2) Have general supervision over the affairs of the organization, and generally act as its official representative; and
- (3) Appoint committees.

ii) Vice President - shall:

- (1) Assist the President in the performance of their duties; and
- (2) Exercise the power of the President in their absence or unavailability.

iii) Secretary - shall:

- (1) Maintain a roll of members;
- (2) Give notice of all general membership meetings to all members;
- (3) Prepare and maintain full and accurate records of all meetings including both Executive Board and general membership meetings.
- (4) Keep an official copy of the Bylaws of BGSR and all amendments to the Bylaws;
- (5) Maintain a record of all correspondence when directed by the BGSR Executive Board;
- (6) Be responsible for preparing and dispatching minutes of all Executive Board and general membership meetings;
- (7) Provide each member with a copy via the BGSR website of the current Bylaws and membership list; and
- (8) Maintain an accurate record of meeting attendance and inform the Executive Board of members who have not met the required number of meetings.

iv) Treasurer - shall:

- (1) Receive all revenues and maintain a detailed and clear account of all funds;
- (2) Deposit the funds in a bank account in the name of the organization;
- (3) Be responsible for making all disbursements, as directed by the Executive Board or the organization at its general membership meeting;
- (4) Withdraw the funds to make said disbursements as directed by the organization at its meetings. In case of an emergency, the President shall exercise this responsibility;
- (5) Present a written financial statement to the membership at least once per year and provide detailed transactions on all accounts as directed by the WNYSRA Treasurer;
- (6) Performs all tasks under the guidance of the WNYSRA Treasurer; and
- (7) Be under the direct supervision of the WNYSRA Treasurer.

3. At-Large Members - shall:

- i) Attend and participate in Executive Board meetings; and
- ii) Assist in the operation and organization of BGSR as deemed necessary and required by the Board.

4. Appointment of Treasurer

The Executive Board shall appoint a Treasurer, who shall serve on the Executive Board for a term that is concurrent with that of the elected Board members. Such appointment shall be made from amongst those Active members.

5. Appointment of Chapter Manager(s)

The Executive Board shall appoint three (3) Chapter Managers who shall serve on the Executive Board for a term that is concurrent with that of the elected Board members. Such appointment(s) shall be made from amongst those Active members who have current USSF certification in the respective titles of Assignor, Assessor, and Instructor, and the President shall assign duties to such appointed Chapter Manager in line with their respective title. In the event that no such members exist or are available, the assigned Chapter Manager and Board seat shall be left vacant until such time that it can be filled in accordance with this provision.

6. Election of Officers and At- Large Members, and Terms of Office

- i) The President, Vice President, Secretary, and At-large members shall be elected biennially at a regular meeting of the General Membership to be held during the month of June or July immediately prior to the beginning of their term of office. They shall take office the first day of August immediately following the required election, for a term of two years.
- ii) In the event that an elected officer (other than President) or Board seat is vacated prior to the end of the term of office, the Executive Board shall appoint an Active member to complete such term. Should the President vacate his office prior to the end of his term, the Vice President shall succeed him and serve the balance of the President's term of office.
- iii) Elected At-Large Members shall consist of the three members receiving the most Active member votes.

7. Removal of Executive Board Members, Officers, and Appointed Committee Members

Any officer, Board, or committee member may be removed by an affirmative vote of two thirds of the Executive Board members present at a duly held meeting of the Board, or a two thirds vote of the Active membership present at a general membership meeting, provided notice stating such purpose has been given in advance of the meeting,

ARTICLE V: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Active referees shall attend all regular General Membership meetings, unless otherwise excused. General Membership meetings will be held and conducted as follows:

1. Regular meetings shall consist of four business meeting scheduled during the period of January through August. Additional meetings may be scheduled for the purpose of training. The times and dates will be identified and notice will be sent to all members of this organization at least 30 days in advance of the first such meeting of the year.
2. One quarter of the voting Active membership shall constitute a quorum at all General Membership meetings and a majority vote shall be used to approve issues, unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws.
3. Each Active member shall exercise one vote either by the show of hands or in ballots taken at the General Membership meetings.
4. The order of business at the General Membership meetings consist of the following elements:
 - i) Roll Call
 - ii) Reading of minutes from previous meetings and approval vote of such minutes
 - iii) Training
 - iv) Report of the Executive Board
 - v) General news
 - vi) Old business
 - vii) New business
 - viii) Adjournment
5. Other general membership meetings may be called as deemed necessary by the Executive Board or the President.
6. Any action or decision of the Executive Board may be overruled by an affirmative vote of two thirds of the Active membership present at a regular general membership meeting.

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES

The Executive Board may establish committees for purposes relevant to the organization. Committee members shall be appointed with the consent of the Executive Board. All committees shall operate in accordance with the Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures of BGSR. Committees shall serve until the purpose for which they were created has been fulfilled or until the Executive Board decides to disband the committee.

ARTICLE VII: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all motions, votes, and other business actions at all meetings of the General Membership, Executive Board, committee, and other official meetings of BGSR.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS

Changes to the Bylaws may be made at any general membership meeting by a vote of at least two-thirds of the Active members in attendance; provided written notice of the proposed change(s) has been presented at a prior regular general membership meeting.

ARTICLE IX: NOTICES

Notices to members shall be provided via email and/or BGSR newsletters.

ARTICLE X: REPRESENTATION OF ORGANIZATION

No member of this organization shall obligate, or speak, act, commit, or otherwise represent this organization in any manner without the express permission written of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XI: HIERARCHY OF BYLAWS

As a member group of the Western New York State Referees Assoc., Inc., Binghamton Group of Soccer Referees is subject to the Western New York Referees Assoc., Inc. jurisdiction and bylaws; and to those of the United States Soccer Federation. In the event of any conflict between these bylaws and the bylaws of the Western New York Referees Assoc., Inc. or to the United States Soccer Federation, the Bylaws of the higher level authority shall take precedence.