

PHILADELPHIA FALCONS SOCCER CLUB CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME

- 1) This organization will be known as the Philadelphia Falcons Soccer Club (hereafter called “the Club”). Its members will be known as Falcons.

ARTICLE II. MISSION

- 1) The Club is formed solely for:
 - a. Charitable, educational and outreach purposes;
 - b. Fostering local, national and international amateur soccer competition; and
 - c. Performing community-based missions within the bounds of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- 2) The Club’s main objectives are:
 - a. To educate its members in the sport of soccer by:
 - i. Providing competition and coaching on all levels; and
 - ii. Providing a supportive and friendly environment in all Club activities
 - b. To eliminate prejudice and discrimination based on sexual orientation through breaking down stereotypes about gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied persons who participate in sports by:
 - i. Disseminating information about the Club and its activities;
 - ii. Participating in competitions, exhibitions and /or clinics; and
 - iii. Promoting an integrated environment with people of all sexual orientations
 - c. To foster local, national and international amateur gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied soccer competition by:
 - i. Sponsoring an annual, national/international amateur gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied soccer competition held in Philadelphia
 - ii. Fielding teams in national and international amateur gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied soccer competitions; and
 - iii. Maintaining active membership in the International Gay and Lesbian Football Association (IGLFA).
 - d. To engage in community outreach as determined by members of the Board based on input from members.
- 3) No part of the Club’s activities shall consist of promoting agendas (propaganda) or otherwise attempting to influence legislation except when in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. The Club shall not participate in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

- 1) Membership is open to any person interested in joining a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied soccer league.
- 2) The Club seeks to include all potential/current team members regardless of ability to pay.
 - a. The Club will maintain a Student/Hardship policy to that effect available for open review on its website and in print.

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- 3) A Falcon is any individual who pays Club dues and is encouraged to volunteer their personal time and/or money during any of the following:
 - a. At least one annual City of Philadelphia-sponsored GLBT Pride events
 - b. Any Club sanctioned fundraising or promotional activities.
- 4) Annual dues will be set by the Executive committee at the annual general meeting and must be paid before a club member will be allowed to represent the Club in any activity. Dues and fees to be collected as follows:
 - a. Annual dues shall be paid in full within one month of the annual general meeting for current members;
 - b. Any person interested in joining the club will not be required to pay for their first two (2) practice sessions; however
 - i. If a separate fee for field usage is required of club members, any non-club members attending such practice sessions will be required to pay an additional fee no greater than 50% of the club member fee
 - c. Any person attending a practice session (after the two initial gratis practices) who has not paid the annual fee will be charged a standard fee to be set by the Executive Committee at the annual general meeting for each practice session attended until the annual fee is paid. A maximum of two (2) practice session fees may be applied to the Club's annual fee.
- 5) The Club will maintain active membership in the International Gay and Lesbian Football Association and Team Philadelphia unless deemed inappropriate by the team and voted as such by the majority of the team's membership.

ARTICLE IV. GOVERNING BODY

- 1) An executive committee will be responsible for running the Club between annual meetings of the membership. This body will consist of the following bidding officers: President, Vice President (up to two), Communications Officer, Treasurer, Deputy Vice President and Marketing Director. The executive committee will further consist of two non-voting Captains.
 - a. The President presides over the executive committee meetings and delegates responsibility, as needed, to run the Club's daily activities and plan for the Club's future needs. The President is expected to maintain and enhance support and success of the Club by:
 - i. Nurturing/maintaining contact with leadership/membership of similar sporting organizations locally, nationally and internationally;
 - ii. Developing new agenda items as deemed necessary by the executive committee;
 - iii. Insuring the image of the Club is positive by developing outreach programs in collaboration with the Vice President(s); and
 - iv. Coordinating with the Deputy Vice President for any requests of scholarship by potential/current members.
 - b. The Vice President(s) are responsible for notifying all Falcons of information relating to Club activities. They maintain a working

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relationship with the community, including the GLBT press. They are responsible for:

- i. Overseeing marketing and are expected to work with the Communications Officer on finalizing press releases;
 - ii. Assisting the President in developing outreach initiative in keeping with the Club's mission; and
 - iii. Serving as liaison between the Communications Officer and the President to insure that all press related to the Club is salient to the Club's overall mission.
- c. The Communications Officer is responsible for maintaining a current Club roster (to include home address, phone number, email address and other relevant point of contact). The main duties of the Communications Officer include:
- i. Maintain new membership information in conjunction with The Treasurer, thereby insuring that membership contact list is comprehensive and dues are paid;
 - ii. Maintaining the Club's internet website and distribution of the Club's weekly email regarding Club activities;
 - iii. Develop press releases in conjunction with the Marketing Director; and
 - iv. Approve said press releases via The Vice President prior to publishing.
- d. The Treasurer is charged with dues collection, Club membership roster information, accounts receivable and payable, and assets and liabilities management. The Treasurer is responsible for:
- i. Maintaining a list of actual and potential donors;
 - ii. Keeping an archive of the Club's activities and an inventory of the Club's property; and
 - iii. Providing a report on the Club's financial status at the annual meeting and as requested by the executive committee.
- e. The Deputy Vice President is responsible for supporting the activities of the other members of the executive committee. The Deputy Vice President is responsible for:
- i. Coordinating the Club's social and league/tournament activities;
 - ii. Setting the agenda for Club meetings and maintaining order at Club meetings; and
 - iii. For coordinating with the President for any requests of scholarship by potential/current members.
- f. The Marketing Director is responsible for the fundraising efforts of the Club. The Marketing Director works closely with the Vice President(s) and the Communications Officer to:
- i. Insure proper representation in any print or internet-based promotions; and
 - ii. Organizing—and preventing conflict between- fundraising efforts for tournaments, leagues and the Club.

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- 1) The members will hold an annual membership meeting at the earliest convenient date of each calendar year with a recommendation that it take place no later than February 1st. All members may vote in person or by proxy. The executive committee will determine eligibility to vote based on Article III.
- 2) The executive committee may change the date, time or location of the annual meeting, provided that all members of the Club are notified by email and, when necessary, by phone.
- 3) During the annual meeting, members shall elect the Club Officers and conduct such business as deemed appropriate.
- 4) The Club's fiscal year shall be February 1st through January 31st and the election of new Club officers should be complete prior to the start of the new fiscal year.

ARTICLE VII. REMOVALS AND SUSPENSIONS

- 1) Any Club officer will be deemed removed from office upon petition signed by a majority of members.
- 2) The Captain(s) may be removed at the discretion of the executive committee by majority vote.
- 3) Any vacancy created under this Article shall be filled in accordance with Article IV except that no Officer removed under this Article may serve on the executive committee until the next annual meeting.
- 4) A member may be suspended from participation in Club activities by unanimous vote of the executive committee for violation of these bylaws. Depending upon the severity of the circumstances, the member may be immediately suspended or up to two warnings may be issued before a suspension is imposed. The dues of a member suspended under this Article shall be refunded on a pro rata basis. A member suspended under this Article may be reinstated only upon the approval of the executive committee.

ARTICLE VIII. PUBLIC POLICY

- 1) The Falcons will be known as a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied soccer club. All new members will be advised of this before dues are accepted. Those dealing with the Club will also be advised of this, unless deemed inappropriate by the executive committee.
- 2) The Club's membership list is proprietary information accessible by Club members via the Club online newsgroup. In published writing or public speaking, no member should be identified by name without his or her permission, except in connection with reporting the results of a league or exhibition game. The consent form allows for a confidentiality stipulation that further safeguards the use of member names should they wish to remain completely anonymous.
- 3) Only members of the executive committee may speak for the Club. The Club's members may freely express their opinions but should realize they should be identified as personal views. Members should not disseminate information that is malicious or grossly inaccurate.

ARTICLE IX. FUNDS

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- 1) All applications for spending the Club's funds must be made through the Treasurer who must then consult with the President. All expenditures are subject to budget limitations adopted by the executive committee. Expenditures of Club funds are subject to review by the executive committee.

ARTICLE X. DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS UPON DISSOLUTION

- 1) The property of the Club is irrevocably dedicated to the purposes provided in Article II. Upon dissolution of the Club, the assets remaining after payment, or provision of payment, of the debts and liabilities of the Club shall be distributed in a manner that furthers the purpose of the Club to one or more non-profit funds, foundations, associations or corporations that are organized and operated for charitable and educational purposes, specifically other sporting organizations that have established their tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

- 1) Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed by any member of the Club. Amendments must be submitted in writing to the President who will then present any such amendments to the Club for review.
- 2) Enactment of any amendment will be by majority vote of the members and will become effective immediately afterwards.

END OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS