



THE BURLINGTON OLD TIMERS SOCCER CLUB
Established 1985

A. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

The BOTSC Constitution contains 16 Articles that outline the fundamental objectives, organizational principles and governance for the Club.
Articles of the Constitution can be changed only by majority vote at an Annual General Meeting.

ARTICLE 4 -- CLUB MEMBERSHIP		
Meaning of "good standing"		
ARTICLE 4: Club Membership Add:		
f) A member is considered in good standing if all eligibility criteria described in the articles and by laws have been met and membership has not been revoked or denied, in the current and previous season		
Background		
The constitution uses the term "good standing" but does not define it.		
Article 4	Phil Prata	October 24th

ARTICLE 7 -- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		
Eliminate the Match Secretary position on the Executive		
Eliminate Match Secretary as an executive position		
Background		
This task is important to the club and is usually completed before the season starts with very little ongoing requirements and therefore does not need to be an executive position. Often the match secretary does not meet the minimum attendance requirement to be an executive member.		
Article 7	Phil Prata	October 24th

Eliminate the Equipment Manager as an Executive position		
Eliminate Equipment Manager as an executive position		
Background		
As with the Match Secretary, this is a pre-season task with very little ongoing involvement. Requiring the equipment manager to attend executive meetings after uniforms, balls, etc. have been procured is redundant.		
Article 7	Phil Prata	October 24th



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ARTICLE 9 – DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Add the Duties of the Past President

The past president is an important resource for the current president to ensure continuity and to leverage a wealth of knowledge. It is important that the past president does not usurp the current president and as such all formal communication with the executive committee should be conducted through the president and/or vice-president.

Background

This article describes the role of all executives except the Past President. The executive can have only one president and it is important that the past president does not try to act like the president.

Article 9	Phil Prata	October 24th
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ARTICLE 12 – EXECUTIVE VOTING PROCEDURES

Convenor reps at Executive Meetings

Add:

- e) Each division may appoint a convenor representative to attend ECMs
- f) The representative will cast a votes for each convenor represented and all convenors so represented well be marked as present and included in the calculation of quorum
- g) Notwithstanding the above, a convenor may attend the ECM, in addition to the division representative, and in doing so the representative will not represent that convenor for that meeting

Background

Most of our convenors are focused on organizing and engaging our players to have a great time as a group on the pitch and not on the minutiae of the club.

Article 12	Chris Waldock	October 21st
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ARTICLE 14 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Member Proxies at AGM

Add:

- c) Proxy Voting
 1. A member in good standing may appoint a proxy to vote or otherwise act for the member through use of an appointment form (as provided by the secretary).
 2. An appointment of a proxy is effective when received by the secretary prior to the start of the meeting. An appointment is valid only for the period expressly provided on the form.
 3. An appointment of a proxy is revocable by the member any time prior to the start of the meeting by notifying the secretary.

Background

We need to provide a way members can vote (if they want to) even if they are unable to attend the AGM. This is the only way we can be sure that we are listening to ALL of our members and not just to those who are most vocal and/or most present at meetings. It is commonplace in for-profit



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corporations and for nonprofits, ONCA requires a way members can vote if they do not attend a meeting and therefore this is good governance. Decisions taken at an AGM affect all members and yet they have NEVER been taken by a majority of members (as attendance at AGMs is usually below 25% of total members), and so a small minority of members are deciding on the future of the club.

Article 7	Phil Prata	October 24th
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B. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BY-LAWS of the CLUB

The BOTSC By-Laws are comprised of 21 By-Laws that outline the basic operating guidelines of the Club.

Club By-Laws may be amended by majority vote of the members attending the Annual General Meeting. The Bylaws may also be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive at an Executive committee meeting. Bylaws cannot be in conflict with the Articles of the constitution.

BY-LAW 3 – REPLACEMENT PLAYERS

Substitute players – B Division

Add to Section D

- b) During the regular (non-playoff) season, any player who meets the age eligibility criteria for the B Division may be used as a substitute player. The maximum number of substitute players per team is 2 and substitutes may only be used if a team has 12 or fewer drafted players available unless agreed otherwise by the convenors for that game.
- c) The use of 1 or more substitutes should not result in an imbalance between the teams and if it does then the substitute(s) should play one half for each team.

Background

The Club has ALWAYS allowed A division players to be substitutes for the B Division provided they meet age eligibility criteria. This change clarifies this and restricts the number of substitutes that are allowed.

By-Law 3	Phil Prata	October 24th
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BY-LAW 6 – TEAM SELECTION and PLAYER DRAFT

Draft Process – B Division Only

1. Amend by-law 6b to remove “by the Team Convenors”
2. Insert new by-law 6c: The B division draft is to be conducted by a minimum of 3 equally ranked players (**the Draft Committee**) selected by the Registrar and subject to approval by the Executive. Assuming there are 6 teams in **B division**, the first task will be to remove 3 other equally ranked players from the draft. The **Draft Committee** will conduct the draft, not knowing which team they will play for. The last round of the draft will be to assign the 3 Draft Committee



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members plus the 3 other players by random draw to the 6 teams. In the event there are more or less than 6 teams, the number of other players withdrawn from the draft at the start will be adjusted accordingly. The Registrar will solicit a Team Convenor from each of the teams, such appointment to be approved by the Executive.

3. Remaining clauses in by-law 6 to be renumbered and amendments to other articles and by-laws that mention Team Convenors to be consistent with this amendment

Background		
We have always had seasons where there has been imbalance in the team draft. In the B Division the emphasis is on recreational play, it is social as much as it is competitive. This change to the drafting process may remove the (unconscious) bias that comes from individuals who conduct the draft. As the draft committee have no idea which team they will play for there is greater likelihood that teams will be balanced, which results in greater enjoyment for the club as a whole.		
By-Law 6	Wally Rozenberg	October 22nd

BY-LAW 7 – TRANSFER OF PLAYERS		
Sin Bins		
Add:		
c) Rebalance teams following 3-4 games to make sure all teams & players have a realistic chance to enjoy healthy competition for the remainder of the season(s)		
Background		
All players must have equal playing opportunity despite their skill level unless they choose otherwise (everyone pays, everyone plays (B division). Keep away from league mentality creating an unhealthy football Club environment in the pursuit of winning at all cost.		
By-Law 7	Reza Soufian	October 27th



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BY-LAW 8 – FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME		
Sin Bins		
Add:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Any player receiving a yellow card will be required to leave the field of play for a minimum of 10 minutes AND may be replaced during this period i.e. a forced substitution. ii. The referee will advise when the player may return. iii. A second yellow card or red card will be handled as per normal FIFA laws. 	
Background		
<p>IFAB, the body that determines the Laws of the Game, have granted permission for grass roots leagues to make use of Sin Bins and the experiment is ongoing, so far with very positive feedback, particularly as regards to dissent towards the referee. In our case, a yellow card does not act as a deterrent and often it does the opposite by keeping “hot heads” on the field where serious injury may ensue. To remove the offending player(s) and give them a cool down period may result in fewer red card situations.</p>		
By-Law 8	Phil Prata	October 1st

BY-LAW 9 – CONDUCT and DISCIPLINE PROCESS		
Membership Reinstatement		
Add:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Any person whose membership has been revoked must submit a letter in writing to the executive through the Registrar, Secretary or President requesting consideration for membership reinstatement. The request will be reviewed at the next executive meeting. v. Any person requesting membership reinstatement may also request a presentation to the executive, at the discretion of the club president. vi. Reinstatement, returned to good standing, requires agreement by a minimum of 2/3 votes of the full executive vii. The executive’s decision is final and cannot be appealed. 	
Background		
<p>To clarify how a member no longer in good standing can be returned to good standing.</p>		
By-Law 9	Phil Prata	October 24th



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BY-LAW 12 – NON-CLUB TOURNAMENTS		
Remove References to Conflicting Events		
Remove By-Law 12 b.		
b). Players shall not let other soccer games conflict with the Club’s scheduled games.		
Background		
Many players attend events that conflict with scheduled games e.g. work, holidays, family events, other interests, etc. The Club requires players to satisfy 60% attendance (By-Law 2 and 19). To discriminate between voluntary absences is unfair (and the only penalty available is revoking membership). A player who is absent because they are attending their child’s soccer game, or going to their cottage up north is no “less absent” than a player playing in a non-Club soccer game.		
By-Law 12	Phil Prata	October 24th

BY-LAW 14 – CUP TOURNAMENT		
Playoff Formats		
Remove this whole clause and replace with:		
a) Convenors for each division will decide on the playoff format for their division, prior to the schedule being set for the season. In the event of a tied vote, the Registrar may cast a deciding vote. In the event no decision is reached, the executive will decide on the playoff format.		
Background		
This gives us the most flexibility and is what we essentially do each season. There is NO evidence that keeping points has caused any change in discipline issues. Excluding the playoffs both A and B divisions had NO change in the average number of red and yellow cards. There is copious evidence that playoffs cause discipline and playing time issues. We have lost members and/or members have gone on holiday due to the playoffs. The wooden spoon game has been defaulted for as long as I can remember because players do not bother to turn up for a game which means nothing.		
By-Law 14	Phil Prata	October 1st
Playoff Formats		
Remove Section B and add:		
a) Play all games in the regular season and do not keep standings. Subsequent to the regular season have a play off format where the club will keep standings, play approx 5 games each. The top Four teams play in a semi final, final and consolidation final (losing teams from semi finals play for third and fourth place). The bottom two teams play in the wooden spoon.		
Background		



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<p>The basis for the proposal is that the current system of keeping standings in the regular season has developed into more aggressive play compared to prior seasons where players are getting hurt, more red cards are issued and a player being expelled for the season.</p>		
By-Law 14	Frank Rosati	October 4th
Playoff Formats		
<p>Section B. B Division Only - Delete Section</p> <p>Section A. A Division Only - Amend to Read Section A. A and B Divisions</p> <p>Add to Section A. a. 2. ii.</p> <p>The Wooden Spoon Final will be played over 2 legs. The first leg on semi final day and the second leg on cup final day. In the event of a tie after the second game this will be resolved as outlined in section f. and g. below.</p>		
Background		
<p>To remove keeping points during the regular season and reinstate play-off tournament.</p> <p>Two legged Wooden Spoon game will enable teams to participate on semi-final day as well as cup final day.</p>		
By-Law 14	Peter Barrett	October 28th