

The Rebellion By-Laws

ARTICLE I – NAME

- 1.1 The name of the organization shall be – The New England Rebellion Independent Supporters Association – which does business as “The Rebellion”. Hereinafter, The New England Rebellion Independent Supporters Association is referred to in this document as The Rebellion.
- 1.2 The Rebellion shall be a non-profit organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Rhode Island, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any other of the New England states (Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine), as applicable and/or necessary. No part of money collected, or proceeds generated to The Rebellion shall be paid or distributed to any member as compensation.

ARTICLE II – MISSION STATEMENT

- 2.1 The purpose of the organization is to grow soccer supporter culture throughout New England through social, charitable, and philanthropic endeavors. Our focus will be to grow the supporter’s group, The Rebellion, who support, but are and will remain independent of, the New England Revolution and other affiliated organizations. The Rebellion is all accepting and all welcoming to share our passion for soccer. We shall not discriminate on race, gender, orientation, religion, creed, or age. The Rebellion strives to foster goodwill and comradery amongst, and work with, other independent supporters’ associations, within national and international soccer communities. We strive to help ensure that the legal rights of supporters are not infringed upon by anyone, to provide all-welcoming and positive atmosphere at the matches, and to make charitable and philanthropic contributions, through time, money, and effort, to local and national charities consistent with our core mission.

ARTICLE III – BODY

- 3.1 The organization shall consist of a General Membership, an Executive Board, the Headquarters, the Advisory Board, and all committees and commissions of the organization.
- 3.2 All members shall abide by the Code of Conduct established with the Front Office of the New England Revolution.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

4.1 ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1.1 Membership is open to all persons regardless of race, gender, orientation, religion, creed, or age. Preliminary Memberships are granted after the completion of application and receipt of payment of dues.

- 4.1.2 The organization shall consist of all dues paying members. Annual membership shall last from the date of purchase through December 31 of the named year (hereinafter referred to as the “Rebellion membership year”).
- 4.1.3 Membership is open to persons under the age of twenty-one (21) with the understanding that some events of The Rebellion may be inaccessible due to venue requirements.
- 4.1.4 The Executive Board may establish memberships for a discounted rate.
- 4.1.5 Honorary Life Membership. Upon the signed recommendation of a member, seconded by another member, and by unanimous approval of the Executive Board, or three-fourths vote by ballot at the general meeting, honorary life membership may be conferred upon individuals who shall have rendered notable service to the organization. An honorary member shall have none of the obligations of membership, but shall be entitled to all the privileges, except those of making motions and of holding office.

4.2 DUES

- 4.2.1 Dues for membership of The Rebellion shall be decided by the Executive Board, plus any processing fees associated with electronic payment methods, unless otherwise changed by vote of the Membership Chair and Executive Board.
- 4.2.2 Membership dues shall be payable on the first day of the annual Rebellion membership year and thereafter be required annually to maintain membership in good standing. Dates for payments of annual membership dues shall be set by order of the Executive Board.

4.3 ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

- 4.3.1 All members must register with the Secretary of the organization. Registration is automatic when membership is purchased online. If purchased any other way, the members shall show a receipt of dues to the Secretary to be recorded in the active rolls.
- 4.3.2 All members must pay yearly dues.
- 4.3.3 Voting shall be open to all current members in good standing.
- 4.3.4 Voting on all matters that shall be limited to dues paying members in good standing.

- 4.3.5 Members in good standing of The Rebellion shall be entitled to the following privileges:
 - 4.3.5.1 Access to all officially sanctioned Rebellion events.
 - 4.3.5.2 Speaking privileges at all Rebellion general meetings.
 - 4.3.5.3 Ability to propose motions when appropriate for voting by the membership.
- 4.3.6 Any member may request termination of their membership by written request to the Secretary, doing so will result in a surrendering of their dues for the given membership year.
- 4.3.7 The Executive board retains the authority to review and revoke all current memberships.
- 4.3.8 All members must act in compliance with all State and Federal State laws and regulation.
 - 4.3.8.1 When traveling to away matches members must act in compliance with all state and municipal laws and regulations of the location they are visiting.
- 4.3.9 Actions that violate the Mission statement or the Core Mission of the Rebellion, including but not limited to, membership in a hate group, harassment, or other actions as the Executive Bord decides, shall be subject to discipline procedures stated in Article 10.
- 4.3.10 Members who fail to comply with Article 4 section 3.8 and Article 4 section 3.8.1 will be subject to suspension pending review.

4.4 GOOD STANDING

- 4.4.1 A member in good standing is a current dues paying member that has not been formally notified by the executive board that they have received a disciplinary notice according to *Article X*.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

- 5.1 One General Membership Meeting must be held every 12 months. The Annual General Membership Meeting shall be called by the President before the new Major Leage Soccer Season starts. Every reasonable effort shall be made to hold this meeting in January or February.
- 5.2 All General Membership Meetings must be announced thirty days prior to the meeting to the entire membership.

- 5.3 Special meetings may be called and held upon a majority vote (50%+1) of the total membership, by the simple majority of the Executive Board, or by the President.
- 5.4 Location, date, time, agenda, and method of the announcement of the meetings are to be set by the Executive Board and published to the general membership by reasonable means.
- 5.5 The active members in good standing present at the properly announced meeting shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote of those present and voting shall be required to transact any business brought at said meeting.
- 5.6 From time to time, the Executive Officers shall arrange to hold meetings of the Executive Board of Directors for the purpose of discussing organizational matters. These meetings may or may not include the members of the Headquarters and any Committees or Commissions, depending on the needs to be addressed. In all cases, a majority vote of those present and eligible is necessary to transact any business brought before the Board. A quorum must be present at the time of the vote. Said quorum shall consist of no fewer than three (3) Executive Officers. In the event that a quorum is unable to physically meet for a particular Board meeting, it shall be permissible to meet via telephone or video conferencing in order to establish a quorum.

ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE BOARD

6.1 MEMBERSHIP

- 6.1.1 The Executive Board shall consist of the officers of the organization, including the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other Director(s) as/when applicable.

6.2 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.2.1 Conduct general management of the affairs and purposes of the organization.
- 6.2.2 The Executive Board shall constitute the policy-making body and, by right, shall exercise all the powers and authority granted to the organization by law.
- 6.2.3 When necessary, the Board shall determine the need for and the responsibilities of standing or special committees to conduct projects or special programs.
- 6.2.4 Appoint member(s) to act as Headquarters Member(s), Advisory Board, and/or standing or special committees or commissions.
- 6.2.5 The Executive Board, by a majority vote of the Directors then in office, may create any new Executive Officer position, with associated duties and responsibilities, at the time the Board may deem necessary. For the provisional position a special election will be held of the HQ members internally. If a majority vote passes, said individual will fill the role for the remainder of the membership year. If the position is to be a standing permanent position, the title,

the duties, and responsibilities, are to be specified and amended to these by-laws and subject to an election at the next General Membership Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS, HEADQUARTERS, AND OTHER BOARDS & COMMITTEES

7.1 PRESIDENT

7.1.1 Is the chief executive of the organization.

7.1.2 Has the responsibility of the good and efficient management of the organization.

- 7.1.3 Serves as the official representative of the organization.
- 7.1.4 Presides over all meetings.
- 7.1.5 Appoints all committees and commissions of the organization with the advice and consent of the Executive Board membership.
- 7.1.6 Is an ex-officio member of all boards, committees, and commissions of the organization, but votes only in case of a tie.
- 7.1.7 Has all other duties and powers usually pertaining to the office of president & chief executive officer.
- 7.1.8 The President shall also be a secondary signatory for all financial accounts held in the name of the organization.
- 7.1.9 The President is one of the two Independent Supporters Council official contacts of the organization. The President decides on which individual is the second Independent Supporters Council contact. This other individual can only be selected from the Executive Board or Headquarters.

7.2 VICE PRESIDENT

- 7.2.1 Performs the duties of the President in their absence.
- 7.2.2 The Vice President is assigned as the second Independent Supporters Council official if none was appointed within the first 30 days of the President assuming office.
- 7.2.3 Assumes all other duties delegated by the President.

7.3 SECRETARY

- 7.3.1 Records all minutes of the organization's meetings.
- 7.3.2 Carries on the correspondence of the organization.
- 7.3.3 Makes the minutes of public meetings available to the membership.
- 7.3.4 Preserves letters, papers, and documents of the organization.
- 7.3.5 Keeps accurate counts of the membership of the organization.
- 7.3.6 Updates the Commonwealth with the corporate resolution adjustments that need to occur.

7.3.6 Assumes all other duties delegated by the President.

7.4 TREASURER

7.4.1 Responsible for management of the receipts and disbursements of the funds of the organization, while keeping an accurate and itemized account thereof.

7.4.2 Prepares the annual financing statements and advises the Executive Board about the finances of the organization and assists in formulating the budgets for all activities.

7.4.2 The Treasurer shall be the authorized signatory for all financial accounts held in the name of the organization.

7.4.3 Is the primary signatory of the financial accounts.

7.4.4 Assumes other duties delegated by the President.

7.5 HEADQUARTERS

7.5.1 Members of The Rebellion who have been appointed by the Executive Board for a specific position, committee, or commission, such as, but not limited to, overseeing social media management, pre- and post-game activities, coordinating travel for away games, membership development, internal/external communications, front office relations, supporter engagement, charitable and philanthropic endeavors, and any other duties deemed necessary by the Executive Board.

7.5.2 Reports directly to the Executive Board.

7.5.3 Assumes other duties delegated by the Executive Board.

7.6 ADVISORY BOARD

7.6.1 A non-voting board, with a minimum of three members, made up of members of The Rebellion who have been prior members in good standing of the Executive Board and/or prior or current members in good standing of the Headquarters for at least one full membership year, for the purpose of advice and consultation to the current Executive Board

7.6.2 Appointed by majority vote of the Executive Board for the term of one year, subject to successive re-appointment by the future Executive Boards.

7.6.3 Act as additional voting members on any jury in the event of any impeachment, expulsion, or reinstatement.

7.7 COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

7.7.1 Committees and Commissions shall report through their chairperson to the Executive Board for its review of all business conducted.

7.7.2 With the approval of the Executive Board, Committees and Commissions may adopt such policies and procedures as they determine necessary for the proper and responsible management of their duties and powers.

7.7.3 The organization may establish such ad-hoc Committees and Commissions as it deems necessary for a set time and charge, after which they shall report and expire.

7.7.4 Assumes other duties delegated by the Executive Board.

7.8 COMPENSATION

7.8.1 All Board, Headquarters, Committees and Commissions Members will serve without compensation, however, expenses incurred in the furtherance of the organization's business are allowed to be reimbursed with complete documentation and prior approval of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VIII – ELECTIONS

8.1 ELIGIBILITY

8.1.1 Any member of the organization who is current on their dues and is in good standing.

8.1.2 Any member of the organization who has attained the age of legal majority.

8.2 NOMINATIONS

8.2.1 An open nomination period shall be held two (2) weeks prior to the election and shall last until twelve (12) noon of the day of the election.

8.2.2 Any nominees must possess at least one (1) full calendar year of membership with the organization and be in good standing.

8.3 ELECTION MEETING

8.3.1 The incumbent President shall summon the membership for the General Membership Annual Meeting to elect all officers by and from the nomination list.

8.3.1.1 During the meeting, the incumbent President shall motion to hear last minute nominations prior to announcing all nominations to the floor.

8.3.2 The President shall preside, announce the meeting's purpose and the declared candidates for each office, conduct remarks, voting, and announce results.

8.3.3 A majority vote of members in good standing present shall be necessary to elect.

8.3.4 In the event that the incumbent President is running for re-election, a member not running for office shall preside.

8.3.4.1 This presiding member shall be nominated and voted on by the majority of the membership immediately prior to the election.

8.4 TERM OF OFFICE

8.4.1 The term of office shall run for the period of time between regularly scheduled annual general meetings.

8.5 MAJORITY

8.5.1 For all purposes, a majority will be defined as a simple majority of the membership, minus leaves of absences and abstentions, unless otherwise specifically noted.

8.6 FILLING OF VACANCIES

8.6.1 Vacancy in an office due to voluntary or involuntary resignation, expulsion, impeachment, or death of the incumbent shall be filled at a special election in accordance with *Article V and VIII*.

8.6.2 Any vacancy occurring within the last three months of the Rebellion membership year will be temporarily filled by the successive members of the Executive Board and the election will be held at the next General Annual Member Meeting.

8.6.3 A member recalled or impeached shall not be eligible to fill the vacancy so caused.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

9.1 All amendments to By-Laws must be presented by a petition to the Executive Board, or by a report of a special Committee or Commission created by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board.

- 9.2 If the petition is signed by at least twenty percent (20%) of the members of the organization, the Executive Board shall call a special meeting to vote on the amendments proposed by the petition.
- 9.3 If the petition contains less than twenty percent (20%) of the signatures of the organization, the Executive Board shall discuss the proposed amendment at their next Executive Board meeting and may create a special Committee or Commission for the purpose of addressing the proposed, or any other, amendments.
- 9.4 For the amendment to be passed and adopted, two-thirds (2/3) of those voting at a general meeting must approve it, so long as the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing with the notice and announcement of the meeting pursuant to *Article V*.
- 9.5 All amended By-Laws shall become effective as the constitution of the organization one (1) calendar day after adopted, unless otherwise stated in the motion or in the provisions of the amended By-Laws so amended.

ARTICLE X – GENERAL PROVISIONS

10.1 PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

10.1.1 Meetings of the organization shall be conducted under *Robert’s Rules of Order*.

10.2 STATEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE

10.2.1 The Rebellion asserts and declares that it is a fully independent and autonomous organization and is answerable to no entities or individuals other than the membership and any state, local or federal governmental agencies.

10.3 LEAVES OF ABSENCE

10.3.1 The President may grant excused absence to a member who is ill, on official business of the organization, or attending to personal business.

10.3.1.1 Leave of absences only pertains to members of the Executive Board.

10.4 EXPULSION

10.4.1 Executive Board Members of the organizations shall be expelled if absent without a leave from 5 meetings in a given calendar year.

10.5 RECALL OF OFFICERS

- 10.5.1 Officers of the organization shall be subject to recall from the office by the members of the organization.
- 10.5.2 A petition of twenty percent (20%) of the members in the organization shall be necessary to call a special election to determine whether an officer shall continue to serve.
- 10.5.2.1 A petition shall be defined as a letter expressing the reasons why an officer should be recalled that is signed by the appropriate number of people, 20% of active members.
- 10.5.2.2 Upon successful petition being verified by the Secretary (or stead), a special meeting shall be called pursuant to Article V.
- 10.5.3 A majority vote of those voting in favor of the recall shall be necessary for removal of the officer from office.
- 10.5.4 Upon conclusion of said majority vote, the officer shall be immediately removed from office and shall lose all rights and privileges thereof.
- 10.5.5 If less than a majority of members voting vote in favor of recall from office, the officer in question shall retain their office and shall retain rights and privileges thereof.
- 10.5.6 A recalled officer shall not lose their membership in the organization.

10.6 IMPEACHMENT

- 10.6.1 Members of the organization shall be subject to impeachment from office thereon for good cause only.
- 10.6.2 Any member of the organization may move for impeachment with the impeachment petition requiring a signature of the majority of active members.
- 10.6.3 Upon successful petition being verified by the Secretary (or stead), a special hearing shall be held within two (2) weeks to conduct a trial on the impeachment indictment.
- 10.6.4 Any and all impeachment hearings shall follow *Robert's Rules of Order*.
- 10.6.5 The impeachment hearing shall be conducted in public or private at the wish of the indicted member before the Executive Board and the Advisory Board. The member who moved for indictment shall show cause for the indicted representative to be removed. The indicted representative may show cause why he/she should not be removed from membership. Each shall be allowed to present evidence and call witnesses to justify their position.

10.6.6 When the hearing is completed, a roll call on the impeachment indictment shall take place. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of members voting shall be necessary to impeach, with any fractions rounded up, requiring a higher number for the vote.

10.6.7 Impeachment shall result in removal from the office and suspension for six (6) months from the organization.

10.7 DISCIPLINE

10.7.1 The Executive Board shall have full authority over all disciplinary matters within The Rebellion. Disciplinary options available to the Executive Board include, but are not limited to: warnings, reprimands, suspensions, fines, requirements to take corrective action, bans, and lifetime bans.

10.7.1 Disciplinary action may only be brought by a motion of a member of the Executive Board.

10.7.2 Once a motion to enact disciplinary sanctions against a member has been made and seconded, a 2/3 supermajority vote of the Executive Board is required to pass the motion. For a lifetime ban to be imposed, a unanimous vote of the Executive Board is required.

10.7.3 If a disciplinary action motion is passed, the Secretary shall note the vote and the sanction authorized in the official minutes of The Rebellion and draft a letter or e-mail to the sanctioned party informing them of the decision of the Executive Board and the type of sanction imposed.

10.7.4 Should a member of the Executive Board be accused of any violation the accusation shall be immediately reported to the Executive Board, and an ad-hoc special committee of four (4) other members in good standing of The Rebellion shall be created for the purpose of evaluating the accusation, gathering information, and presenting a recommendation to the Executive Board.

10.7.5 APPEALS

10.7.5.1 The decision of the Executive Board on matters of discipline other than ban lasting longer than one year is final.

10.7.5.2 For bans lasting longer than one year, the disciplined member may move for reconsideration of a ban, at the annual general meeting. If the disciplined member so moves, the disciplined member must present the case for lifting the ban, with the Executive Board presenting the reasons for the ban initially. A ban lasting longer than one year may only be overturned by a majority vote of all members present at the annual general meeting.

10.7.5.3 Should a ban be overturned, the Secretary shall note the vote in the minutes and draft a letter to the banned party, notifying them their ban has been overturned.

10.7.6 REINSTATEMENT

10.7.6.1 Any member who has served a term of suspension longer than six (6) months, or who has a lifetime ban or suspension lifted by means of a successful appeal, must re-apply for membership upon the conclusion of the suspension or lifting of the suspension or lifetime ban.

10.7.6.2 Granting of the re-application shall be conditional upon payment of dues and satisfaction of any conditions associated with the discipline.

10.7.7 Dues will not be refunded if a member is banned from the organization.

10.8 REVIEW OF RULES, REGULATIONS, AND BY-LAWS

10.8.1 The Executive Board shall order review of the Rules, Regulations, and By-laws of The Rebellion not less than once every three (3) years. The President shall appoint an ad-hoc committee for the purpose of reviewing the Rules, Regulations and By-laws and making any recommendations for changes thereto.

10.8.2 Proposed changes, if any, will be voted by the Executive Board, and if applicable, subject to the Amendments provisions herein.

10.9 INVALID PROVISIONS

10.9.1 In the event that any portion of these By-laws is found to be in violation of any local, state, or federal regulation, ordinance, or statute, the remaining portion of these Bylaws shall be unaffected and remain in full force and effect.

10.9.2 The Executive Board is authorized to make emergency necessary changes in these By-laws to bring them in compliance with the applicable local, state, or federal regulation, ordinance, or statute. Any such emergency changes shall be subject to ratification or further amendment at the next General Membership Meeting.

10.10 DISPOSITION OF ASSETS

10.10.1 Should The Rebellion cease to exist, the remaining assets and funds of The Rebellion shall be disbursed consistent with the Mission Statement and Purpose at the direction of the Executive Board prior to dissolution.

10.11 LIMITATION ON ACTIVITIES

10.11.1 The Rebellion shall be organized and operated for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended,

or any successor thereto (hereinafter, the “Code”) and shall engage in activities in furtherance of such purposes in accordance with the mission and objectives of its Rules, Regulations, and By-laws. It shall not exercise any power or authority, nor shall it engage in any activity that would prevent it from qualifying (and continuing to qualify) as an exempt organization described in the Code. No part of the net earnings, if any, of the organization shall inure to the benefit of any Director, Officer, employee, or any private individual, except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the organization. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, except to the extent permitted under the Code, nor shall the organization participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

10.12 DISCLAIMER AND INDEMNIFICATION

10.12.1 The Rebellion is in no way responsible nor can be held accountable for any injuries, financial penalties, damages, etc. that are obtained or caused by members of the organization.

10.12.2 The Rebellion shall indemnify its officers, directors, employees, and agents to the extent permitted by the applicable state and federal laws.

These amended By-Laws have been accepted and adopted by the unanimous vote of the Board of Directors at the January 7, 2024 meeting.