

DOMINICAN YOUTH FUTBOL NETWORK (DYFN)

Governing Bylaws · Estatutos de la Organización

Adopted August 2026 · Ratified by the General Assembly

Dios, Patria y Libertad

Preamble — Adoption & Review

These bylaws are the governing framework for DYFN and are published for review, adoption, and member accountability.

Draft for review and adoption. These bylaws should be reviewed by an attorney licensed in the state of incorporation before final adoption, and read together with the fiscal sponsor agreement, which governs where the two conflict during the fiscal sponsorship period.

Article I — Name, Purpose & Cultural Foundation

DYFN is a Dominican organization, by and for the Dominican community — a recreational program grounded in Dominican identity, national values, and the principle that every child plays.

Section 1.1 — Name

The organization shall be known as the Dominican Youth Futbol Network (“DYFN”), with the community name Red Dominicana de Fútbol.

Section 1.2 — Mission and Purpose

The mission of DYFN is to create a joyful, safe, and proudly Dominican home for youth soccer — where every child plays, every family belongs, and technical development, unbreakable hermandad, and Dominican identity grow together, free of financial barriers, on and off the pitch.

Its vision is to be the home of Dominican community soccer in the diaspora — where no child sits out for lack of money, and where the culture, values, and pride of the Dominican Republic live every weekend on the pitch.

DYFN is a recreational community program built on two pillars: Community (foundational) and Recreational Play — an in-house league, clinics, scrimmages, festivals, and community tournaments, governed by an everyone-plays rule.

Section 1.3 — Recreational Character and Non-Competition

DYFN is strictly recreational. It shall not conduct tryouts or cuts, shall not scout or identify talent, shall not maintain a public directory of players, shall not recruit players from other clubs, shall not field teams in leagues sanctioned by US Youth Soccer, US Club Soccer, or any similar body, and shall not host sanctioned events.

Families seeking a competitive pathway shall be referred to existing sanctioned clubs. DYFN complements the sanctioned soccer ecosystem and does not compete with it.

Section 1.4 — Cultural Foundation

DYFN is a Dominican organization, by and for the Dominican community. Its cultural foundation is the motto of the Dominican Republic — Dios, Patria y Libertad — the courage of the Quisqueyanos Valientes national anthem, and the values, history, music, language, and traditions of the Dominican people. Every member, at every level, is expected to respect and embrace what it is to be Dominican.

- The Dominican flag shall be displayed at all DYFN events and carried with dignity and honor (Orgullo y Honor al Pendón).
- The Dominican national anthem may open major events (tournaments, festivals, the General Assembly).
- Programming shall integrate Dominican cultural education alongside futbol.

Section 1.5 — The Five Core Values

These five values are binding tenets of the organization. Every member — board, parent, and player — is held to them, and every program, decision, and event is measured against them:

1. Player-First Mastery (Maestría y Desarrollo). Each child's technical growth, confidence, and long-term love of the game take absolute priority over winning — and every player plays.
2. Unbreakable Hermandad (Brotherhood, Sisterhood & Belonging). DYFN is a dedicated sanctuary and family home (hogar) uniting Dominican-heritage youth in unconditional safety, pride, and belonging.
3. Indomitable Resilience (Espíritu Indómito y Superación). Inspired by the Quisqueyanos Valientes anthem, we refuse to let financial obstacles keep any child off the pitch.
4. Sacred Heritage & Honor (Orgullo y Honor al Pendón). Players carry the colors, flag, and history of the Dominican Republic with dignity, sportsmanship, and pride.
5. Integrity & Higher Purpose (Dios, Fe e Integridad). Grounded in Dios, Patria, Libertad — character and child safeguarding come before performance, with absolute transparency and selfless service (bien común).

Section 1.6 — Independence

DYFN is fully independent and is not affiliated with, associated with, or governed by any soccer federation or sanctioning body, foreign or domestic.

Article II — Membership

Membership is heritage-based, free, and attested by the family — never a documentation burden placed on a child.

Section 2.1 — Heritage Requirement

Membership in DYFN is reserved for persons of Dominican descent or heritage: a person who (a) was born in the Dominican Republic; (b) holds or is eligible to hold Dominican nationality; (c) has at least one parent or grandparent born in the Dominican Republic or holding Dominican nationality; or (d) has been legally adopted into a family qualifying under (a)–(c).

Persons without Dominican descent or heritage are not eligible for membership, holding office, or voting. Heritage is a community matter attested by the family — it is never a data-collection or documentation burden placed on a child.

Section 2.2 — Classes of Members

- Player Members. Registered players who accept the Parent & Player Code of Conduct and commit to respecting and embracing Dominican identity and culture. Player Members aged 16 and older hold one vote each; younger players have voice through their Parent Members.
- Parent Members. The parents or legal guardians of an enrolled Player Member. Each registered household holds one Parent Member vote.
- Board Members. Elected directors and officers meeting the requirements of Article IV. Board Members are also voting members of the General Assembly.

Section 2.3 — Family Exception

Where an eligible Player Member has a parent or guardian who is not personally of Dominican descent, that parent or guardian holds the household's Parent Member vote on behalf of the player, and is welcomed as full family of the community — the heritage requirement attaches to the player, not to each individual parent.

Section 2.4 — Guests and Supporters

Persons without Dominican heritage may be invited by the Board as guests, event volunteers under supervision, sponsors, or professional advisors (coaches, clinicians, attorneys, accountants). Guests and supporters hold no membership, no vote, and no office, and serve at the pleasure of the Board. All adults with player contact, without exception, must complete background checks and SafeSport-aligned training.

Section 2.5 — Dues

Membership is free. DYFN never charges fees that exclude families; voluntary contributions are welcome.

Section 2.6 — Duties of All Members

- Uphold these bylaws, the applicable Code of Conduct, and the cultural foundation and five core values

of Article I.

- Respect time and schedules (Article VIII).
- Keep registration information accurate and current.
- Treat every member of the community with respect — the strictness of these bylaws is matched by their fairness.

Section 2.7 — Good Standing

A member is in good standing unless suspended under Article IX. Only members in good standing may vote, hold office, or participate in events.

Article III — The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the democratic foundation of DYFN: it ratifies amendments, elects the Board, and receives the annual reports.

Section 3.1 — Composition and Authority

The General Assembly is the gathering of all voting members: Parent Members (one vote per household), Player Members aged 16+, and Board Members. It ratifies bylaw amendments, elects the Board, receives the annual impact and financial reports, and may direct the Board by resolution.

Section 3.2 — Meetings

- Annual General Assembly: held each year (target: the September season-kickoff festival), announced at least 21 days in advance, bilingual.
- Special Assemblies: called by the President, by a majority of the Board, or by written petition of 20% of voting members, with 14 days' notice.

Section 3.3 — Quorum and Voting

Quorum is 25% of voting members. Except where these bylaws require more, decisions pass by simple majority of votes cast. Voting may be in person or by verified electronic ballot. Proxies are not permitted; democracy in DYFN is exercised personally.

Section 3.4 — Bylaw Amendments

Amendments require: (1) proposal by a two-thirds vote of the Board, or by written petition of 20% of voting members; (2) publication of the full text to all members, in English and Spanish, at least 14 days before the vote; and (3) ratification by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at a General or Special Assembly.

Article I (Purpose, Recreational Character, Cultural Foundation, and Values), Article II Section 2.1 (Heritage Requirement), and Article X (Safeguarding) may only be amended by a three-quarters majority.

Article IV — Board of Directors

Every Board Member is of Dominican heritage, background-checked, SafeSport-trained, and bound by the Board Member Code of Conduct.

Section 4.1 — Qualifications

- Be of Dominican descent or heritage as defined in Section 2.1 — without exception.
- Be deeply rooted in Dominican culture, demonstrated through life, family, language, community involvement, and commitment to transmitting that culture to the next generation. The Governance & Nominations Committee evaluates this qualification for every candidate.
- Be at least 21 years of age.
- Complete a criminal background check and SafeSport-aligned training before seating.
- Sign the Board Member Code of Conduct and the annual conflict-of-interest disclosure.

Section 4.2 — Composition

The Board consists of the positions defined in the companion document “DYFN Board Roles and Positions”: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Recreational Programs & Coaching, Director of Community & Family Engagement, Director of Girls' Programming, Child Safeguarding Officer, Parent

Representative, and Coach Representative. The Advisory Board is non-voting.

Section 4.3 — Election and Terms

Officers and directors are elected by the General Assembly for staggered two-year terms (maximum three consecutive terms). The Parent and Coach Representatives are elected annually. Elections use secret ballot when contested.

Section 4.4 — Meetings, Quorum, and Attendance

The Board meets monthly in Year 1. Quorum is a simple majority of voting Board Members.

Attendance is a duty. Three unexcused absences in a twelve-month period constitute automatic resignation from the Board. Meetings begin on time (Article VIII).

Section 4.5 — Removal and Vacancies

A Board Member may be removed for cause (violation of these bylaws, the Code of Conduct, or the trust of the community) by a two-thirds vote of the remaining Board, or by majority vote of a General Assembly. Vacancies are filled by Board appointment until the next Assembly election.

Article V — The President & Executive Power

DYFN is a democratic organization whose President holds real executive power — elected by the members and accountable to them.

Section 5.2 — Executive Powers

Between meetings of the Board and Assembly, the President carries the executive authority to lead:

- Direct the day-to-day affairs of DYFN and supervise the Program Coordinator and volunteers.
- Act on urgent matters between Board meetings, including expenditures up to \$1,500 per matter, reported at the next Board meeting.
- Execute contracts, agreements, and grant documents authorized by the Board or within the adopted budget.
- Serve as chief spokesperson and lead the external relationships (fiscal sponsor, funders, community partners, municipalities).
- Appoint committee chairs and task-force leads, subject to Board confirmation.
- Cast the tie-breaking vote when the Board is deadlocked.
- Suspend, immediately and provisionally, any member or volunteer whose conduct endangers players or the organization, pending review under Article IX.

Section 5.3 — Checks on Executive Power

- The Board may override any presidential action by a two-thirds vote.
- The President cannot amend bylaws, remove Board Members, alter safeguarding policy, or spend outside the budget beyond the urgent-action limit.
- The President is subject to the same attendance, punctuality, conduct, and heritage requirements as every member, and may be removed under Section 4.5.

Article VI — Standing Committees

Committees recommend; the Board decides.

Standing committees are: Finance & Fundraising (Treasurer, chair); Programs & Events (Director of Recreational Programs & Coaching, chair); Safeguarding & Compliance (Child Safeguarding Officer, chair); and Governance & Nominations (Vice President, chair). Committee membership is open to members in good standing.

Article VII — Operating Procedures

Meetings, events and play, registration data, finance, and communications.

Section 7.1 — Conduct of Meetings

Meetings follow this order: call to order (on time); roll and quorum; approval of prior minutes; Treasurer's report; Safeguarding report; committee reports; old business; new business; community open floor; adjournment. Simplified Robert's Rules govern procedure. The Secretary records minutes and distributes them within seven days.

Section 7.2 — Events and Play

- Every event has a designated Event Lead, a safeguarding-compliant adult roster (two-adult rule), sign-in/sign-out for minors, and a published schedule.
- The everyone-plays rule is enforced at every match: each rostered player plays at least half the game. Coaches who repeatedly violate it are removed from coaching.
- Rosters are balanced and redrawn each season; no standings are kept for the youngest age bands.
- Events start at the published time. Check-in closes 15 minutes after the published start unless the Event Lead rules otherwise.
- The Dominican flag is displayed; cultural elements are part of event planning, not an afterthought.

Section 7.3 — Registration Data

Registration data exists for rosters, scheduling, and safety only. It is maintained under the Director of Recreational Programs & Coaching, with access limited to authorized persons, parental consent required for minors' data, no public directory of players, and no sale or commercial use of member data, ever.

Section 7.4 — Finance

The fiscal year is January 1 to December 31. Two approvals are required for any expenditure above \$500 (President-level urgent actions excepted, per Section 5.2). Restricted funds are used only for their stated purpose. The Treasurer reports at every Board meeting and annually to the Assembly.

Section 7.5 — Communications

Official communications are bilingual (Spanish and English). Only the President or a designee speaks for DYFN publicly. Internal disagreements are resolved internally — the community sees one united organization.

Article VIII — Punctuality & Respect for Time

Time is respect. Respect for schedules is a binding obligation of every member — board, parent, and player alike.

- Meetings and events begin at the published time. Members are expected to arrive at least 10 minutes early; coaches, Event Leads, and Board Members at least 30 minutes early.
- A member who will be late or absent must notify the appropriate lead (Event Lead, Secretary, or coach) in advance.
- Players: repeated unexcused lateness (three in a season) leads to a conversation with the family — never to loss of playing time for young players.
- Parents: late pick-up of a minor is a safeguarding matter — two adults will always remain, and repeated late pick-ups are addressed under Article IX.
- Board Members: arriving late to three meetings in a year is treated as one unexcused absence under Section 4.4.

Fairness clause: emergencies, work, and transit realities are understood — the standard is communication, not perfection. What these bylaws do not tolerate is silence and repetition.

Article IX — Accountability & Discipline

Fair in process, strict in standard, explicit in consequence.

Section 9.2 — Progressive Process

Except for serious violations, discipline is progressive: (1) documented verbal reminder; (2) written warning; (3) suspension from an event or meeting; (4) suspension of membership; (5) expulsion. Each step is recorded by the Secretary.

Section 9.3 — Due Process

A member facing suspension or expulsion receives written notice of the alleged violation, in their preferred language, and an opportunity to be heard before the Board (or a three-member panel it appoints) within 21 days. Decisions state their reasons in writing. Expulsion requires a two-thirds Board vote; a member may appeal to the next General Assembly, whose decision is final.

Section 9.4 — Serious Violations

Violence, abuse, discrimination, harassment, theft, or any child-safety violation results in immediate provisional suspension (by the President or Child Safeguarding Officer), review under Section 9.3, and — where substantiated — expulsion and report to the appropriate authorities. Safeguarding matters are never handled quietly.

Article X — Child Safeguarding Supremacy

The safety of players overrides every other provision of these bylaws.

No vote, office, tradition, or deadline may lower DYFN's safeguarding standard below SafeSport alignment: background checks for all adults with player contact, mandatory training, the two-adult rule, sign-in/sign-out for minors, and immediate reporting. Where any provision conflicts with player safety, player safety prevails.

Article XI — Indemnification & Insurance

Because DYFN is unaffiliated with any sanctioning body, it inherits no coverage and carries its own.

Section 11.1 — Indemnification

DYFN shall indemnify its directors, officers, and volunteers to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law for actions taken in good faith within the scope of their duties, except in cases of willful misconduct, gross negligence, or violation of the safeguarding provisions of these bylaws.

Section 11.2 — Mandatory Insurance

Commercial general liability, participant accident, and abuse & molestation coverage must be in force before any on-field activity, and certificates of insurance shall be provided for every venue and hosted tournament. Directors & officers coverage shall be obtained as funds permit. No event proceeds without coverage in force — this requirement may not be waived by any officer or vote.

Section 11.3 — Volunteer Coach Protection

Every volunteer coach shall complete a recognized safety-orientation and training program, and completion shall be recorded — a condition of the civil-liability protections applicable law extends to volunteer athletic coaches.

Article XII — Non-Partisanship & Non-Commercial Character

DYFN belongs to its community, not to any party or private interest.

DYFN does not endorse political parties or candidates in the United States or the Dominican Republic. No member may use the organization, its registration data, or its events for partisan politics or personal commercial gain.

Article XIII — Fiscal Sponsorship & Dissolution

Assets serve Dominican youth — never any member privately.

During the fiscal sponsorship period, the fiscal sponsor agreement governs charitable funds and, where required by law, prevails over these bylaws. Upon incorporation as an independent 501(c)(3) under applicable state law, these bylaws carry over as the governing document, amended as needed to satisfy the nonprofit law of the state of incorporation. Upon dissolution, all remaining assets shall be transferred to a charitable organization serving Dominican youth, selected by the final General Assembly — never to any member privately.

Article XIV — Adoption & Ratification

These bylaws are published to all members in English and Spanish.

These bylaws take effect upon (1) approval by two-thirds of the Founding Committee and (2) ratification by two-thirds of votes cast at the first General Assembly.

“Dios, Patria y Libertad” — for our players, our families, and our flag.