

CHARLOTTE FOOTBALL CLUB SUPPORTERS' COUNCIL

BYLAWS—AMENDED (28 APRIL 2022)

*Supporters' Council*  
BYLAWS



---

**ARTICLE I—NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the SG Council, or just the Supporters' Council. The Supporters' Council was chartered on 1 August 2021, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**ARTICLE II—PURPOSE**

The Supporter's Council is an organization of Independent Supporters' Groups charged with representing fans and allocating monies from the Supporters' Fund; with the sole purpose of improving the gameday experience for Charlotte Football Club home matches.

**ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP**

The Supporters Council will govern membership according to the requirements in Section 1, and using the process in Section 2. Removal from membership is be governed by Section 3.

**Section 1. Requirements for Membership**

Supporters' Groups seeking representation in the Supporters Council must meet the following requirements, and must submit an application according to the procedures of Section 2 of this Article.

Supporters' Groups must have at least forty (40) Pledged Members with Season Tickets in the Charlotte Football Club Supporters' Section. No ticket account may count for more than five (5) pledged members. A pledged member can only be counted toward one SG. If a person has membership in multiple SGs, their primary allegiance must be determined for eligibility in Article III and for SG voting in Article IV. Supporters' Groups must have a unique logo.

Supporters' Groups must have a website and activity on at least one (1) social media platform.

Supporters' Groups must submit a Mission Statement and Supporters' Group Description. The mission statement or group description must include a group commitment to abide by the Supporters Code of Conduct then in force and posted on the Major League Soccer website.

Supporters' Group must have written bylaws, at least three (3) Pledged Members identified as leadership and a mechanism for adding new members.

Supporters' Groups must commit to and provide annual proof of participation in at least one (1) community service initiative per quarter.

Supporters' Groups must be established as a Legal Entity (Business or 501(c)3, 4, or 7)

**Section 2. Membership Admittance Process**

Supporters' Groups seeking voting membership on The Supporters' Council will complete an application that will be posted on the Charlotte Football Club webpage and will provide all evidence necessary to satisfy the membership criteria of Article III Section 1.

## CHARLOTTE FOOTBALL CLUB SUPPORTERS' COUNCIL

### BYLAWS—AMENDED (28 APRIL 2022)

Simply meeting the requirements for membership stated in Article III, Section 1 establishes eligibility to apply, and does not guarantee admittance or voting representation. Membership applications will be accepted on a rolling, continuous basis.

The Charlotte Football Club front office will verify the Section 1 criteria, and will then notify the Supporters Council of the new applicant group. The Supporters Council may conduct a due diligence process of requesting information from the applicant group, and/or interviews with its leadership. At the conclusion of due diligence, the Supporters Council will vote on admittance. A vote of 3/4th in favor is required for a qualifying Supporters' Group to be admitted.

- a. Membership of all newly admitted groups will take effect at the next meeting of the Supporters Council.
- b. A newly admitted Supporters Group will go through a probationary period of 60 days. During the probationary period the group shall have their full voting rights and Supporters' Council participation. During the probationary period, the full members of the Council may expel the new group according to the procedures of Section 3, with the exception of a simple majority vote being required to expel. Upon successful completion of the probationary period, the new Supporters Group is referred to as a "Recognized" Supporters Group.
- c. If a vote is unsuccessful, the Supporters Group may reapply after six (6) months, unless otherwise specified at the time of the application vote.

#### Section 3. Expulsion

- a. A Supporters' Group may be expelled from The Supporters' Council for behavior or representation counter to the Supporters' Code of Conduct or deemed to be detrimental to the vision and mission of Charlotte Football Club and its Recognized Supporters' Groups. A vote for Expulsion must be brought to the Supporters' Council by Representatives from at least two (2) Supporters' Groups, except during the probationary period when a motion can be made by one SG. Representatives will then vote on Expulsion with each Group casting one (1) vote. The Supporters' Group in question will not cast a vote. All other Supporters' Groups with Representation in the Supporters' Council must cast a vote. A Supporters' Group will be expelled from The Supporters' Council if votes to expel reach 3/4ths in the affirmative, except during the probationary period when a simple majority vote is sufficient to expel the group. A SG expelled may not reapply for two (2) years. A SG expelled during the probationary period may not reapply for one (1) year.

### ARTICLE IV—ORGANIZATION

The Supporters' Council will be organized as a Republic of Representatives from the Recognized Supporters' Groups of Charlotte Football Club.

#### Section 1. Representatives

- a. Each Recognized Supporters' Group will receive a number of Representative *votes* based on their Pledged Membership with Season Tickets in the Supporters' Section. For representation purposes, the number of Pledged Members in the Supporters' Section will be counted before the first game of each season. Representation for the duration of the season will be based upon the final pre-season count. Newly Recognized Supporters' Groups will have their Pledged Member count for the season upon admittance to the Supporters' Council.

# CHARLOTTE FOOTBALL CLUB SUPPORTERS' COUNCIL

## BYLAWS—AMENDED (28 APRIL 2022)

- i. Tier 1 - Supporters' Groups with one hundred twenty (120) or more Pledged Members in the Supporters' Section will receive three (3) votes.
  - ii. Tier 2 - Supporters' Groups with eighty (80) to one hundred nineteen (119) Pledged Members in the Supporters' Section will receive two (2) votes.
  - iii. Tier 3 - Supporters' Groups with forty (40) to seventy-nine (79) Pledged Members in the Supporters' Section will receive one (1) vote.
- b. Representatives to the Supporters' Council shall include the President and Vice President, only, of each Recognized Supporters Group.
- c. Attendance: Each Supporters' Group shall be represented at each meeting of the Supporters' Council. If any SG is not represented in two consecutive regular meetings, a motion may be entertained to reduce that SG voting rights for the next meeting they attend by one (1) vote. Such a motion is not automatic – it would need to be made and seconded with a passing vote to carry. This article authorizes the Council to entertain such a motion in the event of an attendance gap. If the motion is made and passed, the SG will, for one meeting, have their voting reduced by (1) vote.

### Section 2. Officers

a. Paragraph 1. Parliamentarian

Meetings of the Supporters' Council will be made, organized, and led by an elected Parliamentarian from the membership of Recognized Supporters' Groups. The Parliamentarian will set the agenda, meeting times, and meeting location, for meetings of the Supporters' Council and will serve as a moderator for discussions. The Parliamentarian will also work to ensure that the business of The Supporters' Council is in line with the governing rules established in The Supporters' Council Foundational Document and these Bylaws.

- i. The Parliamentarian will be elected at the First Meeting of The Supporters' Council for each calendar year.
- ii. The Parliamentarian must be a Pledged Member of a Recognized Supporters' Group and be a Season Ticket Holder in the Supporters' Section.
- iii. A simple majority of voting Representatives is required to elect a Parliamentarian. Should a majority not be attained by a single candidate, the lowest vote receiver will be dropped from the ballot and subsequent run-off elections will take place until a majority has been acquired.
- iv. The Parliamentarian shall not act as a Representative of a Supporters Group during the time they are acting as Parliamentarian.

b. Paragraph 2. Treasurer

a. The Treasurer of the Supporters' Council will monitor the budget of the Supporters' Council and provide updates at each meeting and upon request from the Supporters' Council.

a. The Treasurer:

- i. Must be a full member of a Recognized Supporter Groups.
- ii. Will be elected at the First Meeting of the Supporters Council for each calendar year. A simple majority of voting Representative, as identified in Article IV Section 1, is required to elect a treasurer. Should a majority not be attained by a single candidate, the lowest vote receiver will be dropped from the ballot and subsequent run-off elections will take place until a majority has been acquired.
- iii. Monitor the budget of the Supporters Section Fund, and provide financial reports during each Supporters Council meeting.

## CHARLOTTE FOOTBALL CLUB SUPPORTERS' COUNCIL

### BYLAWS—AMENDED (28 APRIL 2022)

- iv. Communicate the spending priorities of the Supporters Council to the Charlotte FC Front Office so they can execute purchases. Request financial records of the Supporters Fund from Charlotte FC, use these records to assess yearly budget and current month tracking;
  - v. Prepare and present an end-of-season financial report and a next season proposed budget at the last meeting of each year.
- c. Paragraph 3. Communications Director
- i. The Communications Director will communicate Council decisions to those outside the Council.
  - ii. The Communications Director will be elected at the First Meeting of The Supporters' Council for each calendar year. The Communications Director must be a Pledged Member of a Recognized Supporters' Group, and may be a member of the Council.
  - iii. If not a member of the Council the Communications Director shall attend all Council meetings to be informed on decisions, rationale, and specifics of messaging as approved by the Council.
  - iv. A simple majority of voting Representatives is required to elect a communications Director. Should a majority not be attained by a single candidate, the lowest vote receiver will be dropped from the ballot and subsequent run-off elections will take place until a majority has been acquired.

### Section 3. Committees

The Council will form ad hoc or permanent committees as needed to address Council or Supporter Section business

- b. Paragraph 1. Committee Creation
- i. Proposals for the creation of a new ad hoc or permanent committee may be brought to the Council by a recognized supporters group.
  - ii. A foundational document will be created that outlines the purpose, scope, structure, and type of committee requested.
  - iii. A motion properly made and seconded, that carries shall establish a committee.
- c. Paragraph 2. Committee Types
- Permanent** -- A permanent committee is one that will persist until the Council deems by a two-thirds majority vote that it is no longer needed.
- Established Permanent Committees – The following permanent committees are hereby established by these bylaws:
- Chant Committee
  - Tifo Committee
  - Away Travel Committee
- Ad Hoc** – A committee created on a temporary basis is an Ad Hoc committee.
- i. The creation procedure is identical to that of a permanent committee, excepting that the foundational document shall specify a limited purpose or duration.
  - ii. Unless otherwise specified in the foundational document, ad hoc committees will dissolve with one (1) year of formation
  - iii. Ad hoc committees may be converted to a permanent committee with a normal motion and second whose vote carries during any sanctioned Council session

# CHARLOTTE FOOTBALL CLUB SUPPORTERS' COUNCIL

## BYLAWS—AMENDED (28 APRIL 2022)

### ARTICLE V—MEETINGS

The Supporters' Council will hold meetings at least once per month. Meeting times and locations will be established by the Parliamentarian and agendas will be distributed to Recognized Supporters' Group Representatives ahead of the meeting time.

#### **Section 1. Meeting Attendees**

- a. Meetings are open only to designated representatives of each Recognized Supporter Group, Council officers, Chairs of Council committees, and the Chief Fan Officer of Charlotte FC.
- b. A Meeting may begin without a quorum (as defined in Article V section 3), but no vote may be taken until a quorum is present.
- c. Guest attendees, including other employees of Charlotte Football Club, or members of other SGs, may be invited to attend meetings of the Supporters Council upon agreement of the representatives from two (2) or more member supporters groups. Members of non-recognized supporters groups who are not invited but who request to attend must notify the council at least six (6) calendar days in advance of proposed meeting attendance. If Guest attendees wish to address the council, they must submit their topic six days prior, and their matter may be considered at the discretion of the Council if time permits.

#### **Section 2. Meeting Agenda**

- a. The Parliamentarian will begin each meeting with a Call to Order and a review of the agenda. Representatives may send topics for the agenda ahead of the meeting that will be added. Topics not provided in advance can be added to the New Business section of the meeting, and addressed only if time permits, unless otherwise voted during the agenda review portion of the meeting.
  - i. Discussion of Topics - The Parliamentarian will introduce each topic from the Agenda and then recognize the individual or Representative of the Supporters' Group from which the topic was submitted. An open discussion will follow the topic introduction and will be moderated by the Parliamentarian.
  - ii. Minutes: The Parliamentarian, if no other representative volunteers, shall record minutes of the meeting and shall publish them to the Supporters' Council members prior to the next meeting.

#### **Section 3. Voting**

- a. A quorum must be present for the Supporters Council to take a vote on any matter.
- b. A quorum shall consist of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the total votes of the council, as defined in Article IV, Section 1 Representatives, being present.
- c. A motion to vote on a resolution, adoption, or expenditure may be made by any Representative and must be seconded by a Representative from a different Supporters' Group.
- d. The Parliamentarian may offer a motion, but it would need to be seconded by representatives from two different Supporters' Groups to be recognized.
- e. Voting motions that are seconded must be brought to a vote before moving on to the next topic or adjournment
- f. A  $\frac{3}{4}$ th vote of Representatives in the affirmative is required for passage of motions, unless specified otherwise in the bylaws for specific types of votes. If one or more SGs are not present, but there is sufficient quorum to vote, a passing vote shall consist of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the total Council votes, not merely  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the votes present. For example if there are 13 votes in the council but there are 10 votes present, a motion would still require 10 votes ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) to carry.

# CHARLOTTE FOOTBALL CLUB SUPPORTERS' COUNCIL

## BYLAWS—AMENDED (28 APRIL 2022)

### Section 4. Adjournment

- a. At the conclusion of all business, the Parliamentarian will raise a point of order to request conclusion of discussions to begin meeting review. Meeting review will consist of reviewing the agenda, summarizing discussion, reviewing voting results, and actions.
- b. After the meeting review, the parliamentarian will ask for a motion to adjourn; a Representative will so move, a second, and a vote to adjourn.

### ARTICLE VI—ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

The Supporters' Council will allocate funds via Charlotte Football Club from the Supporters' Fund with the purpose of improving, supporting, and augmenting the gameday experience in the Supporters' Section for Charlotte Football Club home matches, which may include pre-game, in-game, and post-game experiences, subject to spending limitations below.

#### Section 1. Fund Allocation Process

- a. The Supporters' Council will vote on the allocation of funds and submit requests to Charlotte Football Club.
- b. All monies from the Supporters' Fund must be spent during the season for which it was collected. Unspent funds must be less than 5% of the overall amount of the Supporters Fund

#### Section 2. Spending Limitations

- a. The Supporters' Council will ensure that all spending of money is in line with the Supporters' Fund's stated purpose.
- b. Monies from the Supporters' Fund shall not be used for the sole benefit of any individual, Supporters' Council Representatives, or Supporters' Group. Funds shall not be spent on meeting locations, food, or other hospitality items.
- c. Monies from the Supporters' Fund may not be spent on any capital that is branded with the iconography of any of the Recognized Supporters' Group.
- d. Assets purchased by The Supporters' Council shall not be possessed by any individual Supporters' Group and must be kept in a location that is accessible to Representatives of all Recognized Supporters' Groups.
- e. Funds may not be spent on advertisements or promotional products.
- f. Fees or payments to Charlotte Football Club or Tepper Sports & Entertainment may not exceed one (1) dollar per transaction.
- g. Payments from The Supporters' Fund must not be allocated to any Representative of The Supporters' Council, member of a Recognized Supporters' Group, or business in which a member of a Recognized Supporters' Group has a financial interest.
- h. The Supporters' Fund shall not be used to make any permanent capital improvements to Bank of America Stadium.
- i. Pre-game and post-game expenses shall not exceed 25% of the Supporters Fund.
- j. Supporters Fund money may be used for web domains, remote meeting services (e.g. Zoom, Webex, Teams), collaboration software (e.g. Slack) or other incidental business expenses minimally essential for communicating among the Council and with the general public on behalf of the Council.

#### Section 3. Financial Disclosure

- a. Control of the Supporters Fund will rest with Charlotte FC. Expenditures in support of the purpose of these bylaws, according to the limits of these bylaws, shall be directed by the

## CHARLOTTE FOOTBALL CLUB SUPPORTERS' COUNCIL

### BYLAWS—AMENDED (28 APRIL 2022)

Supporters Council, for execution by the club, and monitored by the Treasurer. Transparency will be necessary to ensure that the provisions of these bylaws have been upheld.

- i. The Treasurer shall maintain regular contact with Charlotte FC to monitor the bank accounts of the Supporters Fund, and to monitor disbursements and deposits of the Fund. The Treasurer shall report to the Supporters Council periodically on the financial activity of the fund.
- ii. All Representatives to the Supporters Council, all officers of member supporter groups (as identified in their membership application, and as updated), the Parliamentarian, the Treasurer shall be authorized to receive the financial reports prepared by the Treasurer based on official financial statements provided by Charlotte FC.
- iii. The Supporters Council may, upon a vote, choose to disclose financial records outside the individuals identified above.

### **ARTICLE VII –DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS**

The Supporters Council desires to maintain a healthy and enjoyable fan experience in the Supporters Section, and will take action to curb unacceptable behavior as identified in the Charlotte Supporters' Code of Conduct and the MLS Code of Conduct. The Supporters Council desires for member groups to take first action, reserves the right to review the appropriateness of that action, and to coordinate with Charlotte Football Club including recommended actions for the club. People seated in the Supporters section could be members of a SG represented on the SC, members of a SG not represented on the SC, or unaffiliated fans.

The Supporters' Council will review fan violations of the Charlotte Supporters' Code of Conduct and determine appropriate action, including recommendations to Charlotte Football Club.

#### **Section 1. Supporters' Group Members**

- a. If the violation was committed by a Recognized Supporters' Group member, the respective group will share what action they are taking within their own organization. The Supporters' Council will discuss the action and may recommend possible next steps.
- b. Failure of a Supporters' Group to adequately manage their members could result in a motion for expulsion.

#### **Section 2. Unaffiliated Fans**

- a. The Supporters' Council will discuss the violation of fans not associated with a Recognized Supporters' Group and will make recommendations to Charlotte Football Club on action and possible next steps.

### **ARTICLE VIII—BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

The Supporters' Council will review these Bylaws and make amendments when appropriate. Amended Bylaws will be in effect immediately after passage.

#### **Section 1. Annual Review**

- a. The Supporters' Council will review these Bylaws before the first meeting of the calendar year and submit bylaw amendment motions prior to the first meeting of the year.
- b. The Supporters' Council Bylaws must be voted on during the first meeting of a calendar year.

**CHARLOTTE FOOTBALL CLUB SUPPORTERS' COUNCIL**

**BYLAWS—AMENDED (28 APRIL 2022)**

**Section 2. Running Amendments**

- a. Bylaws may be amended by a three-fourths (3/4th) vote of the representative present at a regular meeting provided that a copy of the proposed amendments shall have been provided to all members at least thirty (30) and not more than ninety (90) days prior to the meeting at which the proposed bylaws amendments will be considered for adoption.