



# Colorado Soccer Association

## League Rules and Procedures

### Fall 2025-Spring 2026

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# **Source, Mission, and Vision Statement**

## **Source**

These Rules and Procedures are established, reviewed and published at intervals by the Colorado Soccer Association Board of Directors, and are subject to change by the Board of Directors. Unless otherwise specified, changes in these rules shall take effect August 2024.

## **Mission Statement**

Colorado Soccer Association (CSA), a non-profit educational and service organization, oversees Colorado soccer, benefits players and members, advances and honors the game by providing critical infrastructure and promoting sportsmanship and fair play in a safe and enjoyable environment.

## **Vision Statement**

Colorado Soccer Association (CSA) will be an essential leader and caretaker of the game for the Colorado soccer community inspiring passion for generations of players, coaches, and fans who honor the game and enjoy it.

## Definitions

### The following apply to Associations and Programs:

**ADULT (SENIOR) SOCCER-** All programs, events, competitions, clubs, and associations, etc. for players whose age exceeds the limits for youth soccer as outlined in the chart in Section 2.

**AFFILIATION-** The process of associating as members of the successive associations administering soccer programs for USSF, USASA, and/or USYS. The Colorado affiliates of USSF (CSA) are responsible for governing all affiliated soccer programs in the state and for collecting and forwarding national registration fees for all players registered with the leagues/clubs/teams under their jurisdiction.

**ASSOCIATION/CLUB-** The basic organization for the administration of youth soccer programs and for the registration and development of players and teams.

**COLORADO SOCCER ASSOCIATION (CSA)-** The Colorado affiliate of the USASA and USYS.

**FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (FIFA)-** The world governing organization for soccer headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland is the highest authority for administration of international playing rules, international competitions, and technical and educational development programs.

**NATIONAL COACHING PROGRAM-** A program developed and administered by USSF/USASA/USYS for training coaches at all levels of soccer in the United States. The program also provides national licensing and registration of advanced coaches, as well as guidelines for training and licensing of entry-level coaches.

**COLORADO SELECT; AN EXTENSION OF OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (ODP)-** A program developed and administered by USSF and its affiliates to identify and develop players for participation on state, regional, and national teams.

**UNITED STATES ADULT SOCCER ASSOCIATION (USASA)-** The division of USSF that governs adult (senior) soccer, headquartered in North Bergen, New Jersey.

**UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (USOC)-** The national governing body for selecting and developing Olympic athletes and teams for Olympic competitions, headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

**UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION (USSF; U.S. Soccer)-** The national governing organization for soccer in the United States, headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. USSF is affiliated with FIFA and is recognized by the USOC.

**UNITED STATES YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (USYS; U.S. Youth Soccer)-** The division of USSF that governs youth soccer, headquartered in Frisco, Texas.

**USYS MEMBER/PLAYER PASS-** A registered CSA player's identification pass, which identifies the player's name, verified date of birth, and current club affiliation. This will allow the player to play on any age and sex appropriate team within their club subject to CSA Rules and Procedures.

**YOUTH SOCCER-** All programs, events, competitions, clubs, associations, etc. for players 19 and under for the respective seasonal year.

**The following apply to CSA Programs:**

**AGE DIVISION-** USYS's method of organizing competition by grouping players by birth year. The youngest age division in which a team may play is determined by the age of the oldest player team.

**APPEALS-** Actions arising from a decision by a CSA committee or official, by a member club, a quadrant, or by a sanctioned competition (ex- tournament, league). Only those parties to the original action are entitled to appeal.

**CLUB PASS PLAYER-** A registered player participating with a team within his/her club for which he/she is age and sex eligible.

**CLUB REGISTRATION COMMITMENT-** A youth player is registered for a seasonal year from the moment the player executes the registration form.

**DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE (DC)-** Shall consist of at least three (3) impartial members and shall have jurisdiction to act on any disciplinary matter in which the Articles of Incorporation, By Laws or Rules and Procedures of CSA may have been violated.

**ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY-** Registered and not under suspension.

**FOUL AND ABUSIVE LANGUAGE-** Verbal abuse or threats including racial or ethnic slurs whether or not directed to one or more individuals.

**GUEST PLAYER-** A registered player participating in a competition for a team to which the player is not rostered for purposes of tournament play.

**INVOLUNTARY RELEASE-** The removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of the team or club officials.

**LEAGUE-** A structured group formed to provide play between teams under a common set of administrative and competitive rules.

**LEAGUE, Advanced League (Premier)-** An application-only interleague which consists of teams wanting to participate in National/Regional competitions, out-of-state tournaments, and college showcases.

**LEAGUE, Advanced League (Elite and below)-** An interleague in which clubs are given the primary responsibility for placing their teams in the appropriate division based upon level of competition. Teams in the Centennial League Elite division that were omitted from the Colorado Champions League are encouraged to participate in National/Regional competitions, out-of-state tournaments, and college showcases.

**LEAGUE, Front Range-** An interleague which consists of Premier, Intermediate, and Recreational teams. Also see "League, Premier/Intermediate" or "League, Recreational"

**LEAGUE, IN-HOUSE-** A league composed solely of developmental teams from the same club.

**LEAGUE, INTERLEAGUE-** A league formed each season as needed, composed of teams from 2 or more clubs.

**LEAGUE, Mountain Region-** An interleague which consists of Western Slope and Southwest Slope teams in which clubs are given the primary responsibility along with CSA for placing their teams in the appropriate division based upon level of competition.

**LEAGUE, PREMIER/INTERMEDIATE-** A rec-plus league representing a higher level of recreational competition, composed of teams whose play has surpassed that of most other in-house and inter-club teams, in which:

1. The rostering of players to any team on the basis of talent or ability is permitted.
2. The club administering the league accepts as participants in the league any eligible youth players.
3. League rules require that each player must play one-half of each game except for reasons of injury, illness, or discipline.

**LEAGUE, RECREATIONAL-** An interleague in which:

1. The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any similar process to roster players to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited,
2. The club administering the league accepts as participants in the league any eligible youth players,
3. A system of rostering players is used to establish a fair or balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating,
4. League rules require that each player must play one-half of each game except for reasons of injury, illness, or discipline.

**MICRO SOCCER-** A game where each team is limited to three (3) players on the field of play.

**OFFICIAL-** Refers to not only referees, assistant referees, fourth officials, and others duly appointed to assist in officiating a match, but also to all officers, employees, or appointees of CSA/USYS/USSF or affiliated organizations as well as all volunteers working in an official capacity within these organizations and all visiting dignitaries at a sanctioned event.

**OPEN TRANSFER WINDOW-** The period between each year during which a player has the right to transfer from one CSA club to another CSA club.

**PARTICIPANT-** Any player, coach, manager or any other person associated with a team.

**PROTEST-** Actions arising from or related to specific game results or cautions or ejections. Only team representatives may protest a game result. Protests must be based on violations or misapplications of CSA Rules and Procedures, or Bylaws, or FIFA Laws of the Game. Protests submitted to a sanctioned competition (such as a tournament) must proceed in accordance with the rules of that competition; however, protests of matters for which discipline or suspension may be imposed by CSA shall proceed in accordance with these rules.

**RECRUITING-** The process of attracting players to join a team.

**REGION-** Geographical area established to administer interleague play.

**ROSTERING-** The assignment of a registered player to a team.

**SANCTION**- The authorization extended by USSF or one of its affiliates to conduct an official competition, travel out of state, and/or travel out of country.

**SEASON, LEAGUE**- The period of time designated for scheduled competitions of a league.

**SEASONAL YEAR**- The CSA seasonal year is August 1st to July 31st of each year due to seasonal influences.

**SMALL SIDED GAME**- A game where each team is limited to fewer than 11 players.

**SECONDARY SEASON**- The season offered to 15 & under players to continue league play during their respective high school season.

**SPECTATOR**- Any person at a soccer event who is not a participant or official. Spectators are subject to all CSA Rules and Procedures applicable to participants.

**SUSPENSION**- The temporary withdrawal of rights and privilege.

**TEAM, Advanced, Premier, or Intermediate**- A team composed of players selected by a tryout process. Its members may or may not be from a defined geographic area. The team plays in state league.

**TEAM, COED**- A team composed of male and female players. Coed teams are not permitted in either the Advanced Leagues or Premier and Intermediate divisions of Front Range League.

**TEAM, Recreational**- A team composed of players not selected by a tryout process, generally formed within defined geographical (neighborhood) areas. Emphasis is on participation by all players and on micro soccer or other small-sided games for younger players, except for special circumstances, such as disciplinary matters or illness, each member of the team plays at least 50% of each game.

**TEAM REPRESENTATIVE**- Any coach, manager, or club official who is appointed to be in charge of team.

**TRANSFER**- The removal of a registered player from one Advanced/Recreational team, and the addition of the same player to another Advanced/Recreational team.

**TRYOUTS**- Any training, practice, or evaluation session used to evaluate player ability for team placement.

**VOLUNTARY RELEASE**- The removal of a player from a team's roster at the request of the player.

## Section 1: General Provisions

- 1.1.** These rules shall govern:
  - a.** All members of the Association.
  - b.** All competitions sanctioned by the Association unless the rules of a specific competition, as approved in advance by the CSA Board of Directors, provide otherwise.
- 1.2.** Each club shall designate a Club Official who shall be responsible for the proper registration of its players, teams, and club officials, proper accounting of fiscal transactions, and accurate reporting to CSA.
- 1.3.** Each club shall register on or before the dates set forth by CSA. Registration deadline dates shall be established from time to time by CSA and shall be communicated to the membership at least 45 days prior to said deadline dates. Prior to participation in any sanctioned CSA event, each team and its players shall have:
  - a.** Paid appropriate registration and other fees, as determined by CSA.
  - b.** Registered by the appropriate Fall season and Spring season dates, as set forth by CSA.
- 1.4.** Each club is responsible for its players, coaches, managers, team representatives, and supporters adhering to these rules. Each club shall ensure the actions of all associated individuals, on and off the field, do not bring the Association into disrepute.
- 1.5.** A player may be registered for only one CSA affiliated club and may be rostered as primary for only one (1) team in any competition sponsored by CSA.
- 1.6.** A youth player is registered for a seasonal year from the moment the player or player's representative executes the registration form.
- 1.7.** A coed team shall be considered a male team for placement in any league or other sanctioned competition in which coed teams are permitted, if a coed league is unavailable.
- 1.8.** Each association/club shall complete and submit the association affiliation form and the association's officers' form each time there is a change to the information contained in the documents.
- 1.9.** All CSA member clubs must provide a full disclosure of all fees charged to participate in their program to the parents or legal guardians of their players. These disclosures are to be kept at the club offices and must be signed by the parent or legal guardian.
  - a.** Interpretation and Analysis:
    - i.** Clubs should provide to their membership and parents a complete and full disclosure of all fees and charges. This includes registration fees, coaching fees, CSA fees, and transfer fees. Clubs must also disclose their policy on the forfeiture and obligation to dues not yet paid if a player transfers during the seasonal year. Failure to provide proof of parent or guardian signature on a fee disclosure will waive the club's right to assert that as a reason for dropping or refusing to transfer a player.



## Section 2: Age Limits

- 2.1.** All leagues and all sanctioned competitions, unless otherwise approved in advance by CSA, shall divide play among their teams by the age divisions in Section 2.2.
- 2.2.** Age Division Chart: The age groups in Section 2.2 apply to recreational and advanced teams whenever they participate in state league games or other CSA sanctioned competitions.

### Age Chart

August 1, 2024 – July 31, 2025

Age Group	Birth Year
4 & Under	2021
5 & Under	2020
6 & Under	2019
7 & Under	2018
8 & Under	2017
9 & Under	2016
10 & Under	2015
11 & Under	2014
12 & Under	2013
13 & Under	2012
14 & Under	2011
15 & Under	2010
16 & Under	2009
17 & Under	2008
18 & Under	2007
19 & Under	2006

- 2.3.** A player whose birthday falls within the dates outlined in the chart may not play down.
- 2.4.** All players that participate in CSA leagues or sanctioned events (includes USYS events) must submit proof of age to CSA for verification.
- 2.5.** Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173) issued by the uniformed services of the United States, a birth registration issued by an appropriate governmental agency or board of health records, passport, an alien registration card issued by the United States Government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, a current driver's license, or a certification of a United States citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted. Foreign birth certificates must be translated and verified according to the current rules used by the US Youth National Championship Series. To protect the identity of our players, birth certificates are not required to be kept by team officials and shall not be carried to any CSA sanctioned event.

# CSA Advanced League Rules

## Section 3: Advanced Team and Player Registrations

- 3.1.** A youth player must register each seasonal year in the State Association in which they reside with their parent(s) or guardian(s), or for a student in residence at a boarding school, college, or university, the player may register in the state in which the boarding school, college, or university is located. The State Association in which the player is registered to vote or holds a current license may determine any other questions of residency.
- a.** Any youth player wishing to play on a team of a member of a State Association other than the State Association where the player is registered, must receive written permission from:
    - i.** The State Association where the player is registered; and
    - ii.** The State Association of the team on which the player wishes to play.
- 3.2.** Each player/coach participating in Advanced League competition shall be registered with CSA and must appear on the official roster and/or have a current USYS member/player pass with current photograph affixed thereto, approved by the Club Registrar. A USYS member/player pass is valid only for USYS recognized purposes.
- 3.3.** Each coach, assistant coach, and club coach participating in State League competition shall meet the requirements of the Risk Management Policy as described by CSA.
- a.** Any other individuals that wish to appear on the roster or travel with the team must complete the background check. This includes managers, chaperones, etc.
  - b.** A completed background check, SafeSport certificate, and completed concussion test are required for coaches, assistant coaches and any other parties with direct involvement with youth players, including but not limited to Directors of Coaching and/or Technical Directors. A completed background check and SafeSport certificate are required for team managers and chaperones.
  - c.** Background checks are required for other club staff (Direct involvement with youth players requires Safe Sport and Concussion test).
  - d.** Background checks are required for Registrars and Board Members.
- 3.4.** REGISTRATION
- a.** Team registration, fees, and roster updates for continuing teams must be submitted by the date designated by CSA and meet the following criteria:
    - i.** Teams must be male and female specific.
    - ii.** Teams must register in male/female specific leagues and divisions.
    - iii.** CSA Advanced League does not permit coed teams.
    - iv.** All players must be verified per Section 2.4.

- b.** Once a club has registered its teams with CSA and the team drop deadline has passed, they will not be granted a refund of registration fees should they withdraw for any reason.
- c.** All State League Advanced teams must register all players via the CSA online system. Each club must designate an Authorized User and Club Registrar. Each club must notify CSA, via email, the name and contact information of the designated Club Registrar. The designated Club Registrar must execute all roster updates/changes.
- d.** All USYS member/player passes and rosters must be signed by the Authorized Club Official on record with CSA. All teams must present the team's Game Day Roster and/or USYS member/player passes to the Game Official(s) prior to the beginning of each game.
- e.** A player's USYS member/player pass shall identify the club to which he/she is a member for the current seasonal year.

**3.5.** State League teams, which have the same name, must be distinguishable by a unique color, number or letter suffix, or teams may change names.

- a.** Teams cannot identify as Elite Clubs National League (ECNL) or non-USYS sanctioned league names.

### **3.6.** RELEASES

- a.** A team may release a player involuntarily from its roster only if the player is unable to play for one of the following reasons:
  - i.** The player has violated bylaws, policies, or requirements of USSF, USYS, CSA, or the member of the State Association through whom the player is registered.
  - ii.** A player that has moved more than 50 miles from his/her primary residence and the current club they are registered with.
  - iii.** The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season.
  - iv.** The club requesting the involuntary release has been unable to contact the parent or guardian of the player. Evidence of good faith attempt must be submitted.

### **3.7.** TRANSFERS/RELEASE

- a.** The club to which a player is currently registered shall have the sole discretion of whether to grant a transfer to that player, as players are bound to their club for the entire seasonal year once registered. The decision of their club on whether to grant a requested transfer shall be final.
  - i.** The following exceptions exist:
    - 1.** A player that has moved more than 50 miles away from his/her primary residence and the current club they are registered with, shall be granted a transfer from CSA.

- 2.** A player and his/her family may request and shall be granted a transfer at any time following their team playing its last league game or the last date to play league games as established by CSA so long as the following criteria are met:
  - a.** A player may not seek a transfer under this rule if his/her current team and the new team to which he/she is seeking to transfer are playing in the same tournament or a tournament occurring on the same dates. In this situation, the player is obligated to play with their existing team. If the player's new team has a scheduled tournament prior to the tournament date of the player's current team than the player shall be allowed to play as a guest player in that tournament or be transferred to the roster of the new team by the Advanced League Administrator for the sole purpose of playing in that tournament.
  - b.** The family is current in all their financial obligations set forth by their current club and team. If there are any outstanding financial obligations not met, the family will be considered to be in bad standing with their current club, as well as CSA, and will not be granted a transfer until financial obligations have been met.
- 3.** Open Transfer Window- A player may request a transfer between one CSA club to another CSA club between the fall and spring season. Requests for transfers during the Open Transfer Window, available December 1-3, shall be initiated by the receiving club via the software registration platform or by other means established by CSA. If no receiving club has been decided upon, email Katie Shaffer at [kshaffer@coloradosoccer.org](mailto:kshaffer@coloradosoccer.org) to initiate the release request on the player's behalf. Request notifications are reviewed by the player's current club (CC), the receiving club (RC), and CSA. The transfer request shall be promptly granted if the following conditions have been met:
  - a.** All Fall team fees have been paid to the CC.
  - b.** All Fall club registration fees have been paid to the CC.
  - c.** All Spring club and team fees have been paid to the CC. Spring fees shall not include any CSA fees but are fees that are solely paid to the CC.
  - d.** The CC shall have three (3) business days from the date of the request to dispute the transfer based only on the conditions above. Disputes must be sent via email and all parties to the transfer request must be copied.
  - e.** Player(s) from the same team can be released providing the roster numbers maintain a minimum total of the following, with the discretion left for CSA if already a low numbered roster:
    - i.** 11v11 – 14 players

**ii.** 9v9 teams – 12 players

**iii.** 7v7 teams – 10 players

**f.** The player will automatically be released by CSA if the CC does not deny the request within three (3) business days of form submission.

**3.8.** Registration of a player for a seasonal year will be determined by the date of registration and financial commitment to the current club.

- a.** Registration date and time begins at 12:00 AM on Tuesday following Memorial Day.
- b.** CSA recognizes the player registration as binding for the seasonal year if registration and financial agreement are submitted after Memorial Day by the player or the player's family.
- c.** Any agreement to pay or payment received prior to Memorial Day is not considered binding for any player who plays in CSA league. Any payment collected for CSA league teams will be refunded by the club who collected payment, and player will be released from their commitment.

## Section 4: Advanced League Operations Committee

- 4.1.** Prior to the start of each state league season, the CSA's League Operations Committee (LOC) shall meet and, using the rules in Sections 4.2 and 4.3, shall assign each team to a division within its appropriate age level league, based on either: 1) application or 2) automatic promotion/relegation.
- 4.2.** The CSA's LOC shall assign teams based on information supplied by the club on the application or registration. It is not the LOC's obligation to seek out information. If no data is provided, a team could be seeded lower rather than higher.
- 4.3.** Prior to the start of each state league season, CSA shall:
  - a.** Advise each club registrar in writing of the division to which each team in that club has been assigned for the forthcoming state league season. It is the registrar's duty to communicate the information about state league assignment to each team in the club.
  - b.** A team, which disagrees with its state league placement, may request, at no charge, that the CSA's LOC review its decision.
  - c.** The decisions of the CSA's LOC, however, are final and non-appealable.
- 4.4.** The LOC shall meet at such other times as appropriate for efficient and just league operations.
- 4.5.** In those rare instances where the rules of relegation fail to provide a fair migration of teams, the CSA's LOC reserves the authority to suspend the rules and modify the structure of a given league appropriately including, but not limited to, the size of given structure.

## Section 5: Advanced League Premier 1 through 4 Divisions

- 5.1.** Colorado Advanced League teams are considered Advanced teams.
- 5.2.** Each player/coach participating in Advanced League competition shall be registered with CSA and must appear on the official roster and/or have a current USYS member/player pass with current photograph affixed thereto, approved by the Club Registrar. A USYS member/player pass is valid only for USYS recognized purposes.
- 5.3.** All Advanced League registration, fees, roster updates must be submitted to CSA or other appropriate entity by the date designated by CSA or other entity.
- 5.4.** All Advanced League teams must register all players via the CSA online system. Each club must designate an Authorized User and Club Registrar.
- 5.5.** USSF certified referees shall be assigned to Premier 1-4 matches. One (1) center referee and two (2) assistant referees will be assigned to each Premier 1-4 match 13U and older, depending on availability. 11U/12U 9v9 games will be assigned one center referee. If resources are available, Premier 1-4 games may have assistant referees assigned.
- 5.6.** Each club shall monitor its own Advanced League team formation process.
- 5.7.** APPLICATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA
  - a.** Teams will request flight preference. If the team is not selected for the highest flight requested, they will drop into the pool of the next flight for consideration.
  - b.** There are no guaranteed placements.
  - c.** There is no limit of club teams in divisions and top teams will be placed in division regardless of club affiliation.
  - d.** The following information is required in the application process:
    - i.** Club
    - ii.** Team Name
    - iii.** Roster
    - iv.** Sex (Male/Female)
    - v.** Age group (birth year)
    - vi.** Coach name, email address, and phone number
    - vii.** Preferred division
- 5.8.** LEAGUE STRUCTURE
  - a.** Division names will be titled Premier 1, Premier 2, or Premier 3.
  - b.** 11U and 12U

- i.** Divisions are not combined.
- ii.** 9v9
- iii.** 3 flights of 10 teams each (30 total for each birth year)
- iv.** Mid-season promotion/relegation between Premier 1-3.
- v.** 3 flights: Top three (3) teams promote to the next division; bottom three (3) teams are relegated to the next lowest division.
- vi.** Promotion/relegation applies between Premier 3 and Elite in 11U only.
- vii.** The CSA's LOC determines the number of teams in the lowest flight.

**c.** 13U and 14U

- i.** Divisions are not combined, but teams may play up on request and approval of the CSA's LOC.
- ii.** 3 flights of 10 teams each (30 total for each birth year)
- iii.** Mid-season promotion/relegation between Premier 1-3.
- iv.** 3 flights: Top three (3) teams promote to the next division; bottom three (3) teams are relegated to the next lowest division.
- v.** Relegation does NOT apply to Premier 3.
- vi.** The CSA's LOC determines the number of teams in the lowest flight.

**5.9.** 15U

- i.** Standalone division, but teams may play up on request and approval of the CSA's LOC
- ii.** 3 flights of 10 teams each (30 total)
- iii.** No promotion/relegation due to high school season.
- iv.** 15U ONLY- SECONDARY SEASON- Competitive season which coincides with the respective high school season.
  - 1.** Eight-game season
  - 2.** The Secondary season will be a player pass league (allowing age-appropriate player movement to sustain the integrity of the league).
  - 3.** Being in Advanced League, teams are required to have:
    - a.** Matching uniforms (shirts, shorts, and socks)
    - b.** 3 referees per game

**c.** Scores reported

**v.** No roster is required but passes are required.

**vi.** There will be three flights:

**1.** Gold

**2.** Silver

**3.** Bronze

**vii.** The CSA's LOC has the discretion to suspend the rules and modify the league structure.

**b.** 16U and 17U

**i.** Age divisions are combined.

**ii.** 3-4 flights of 10 teams each (30-40 total)

**iii.** No promotion/relegation due to high school season.

**c.** 18U and 19U

**i.** Age divisions are combined.

**ii.** 3 flights of 10 teams each (30 total)

**iii.** No promotion/relegation due to high school season.

## Section 6: Advanced League Elite through Bronze Divisions

- 6.1.** Colorado Advanced League teams are considered Advanced teams.
- 6.2.** Each player/coach participating in Advanced League competition shall be registered with CSA and must appear on the official roster and/or have a current USYS member/player pass with current photograph affixed thereto, approved by the Club Registrar. A USYS member/player pass is valid only for USYS recognized purposes.
- 6.3.** All Advanced League registration, fees, and roster updates must be submitted to CSA or other appropriate entity by the date designated by CSA or other entity.
- 6.4.** All Advanced League teams must register all players via the CSA online system. Each club must designate an Authorized User and Club Registrar.
- 6.5.** USSF certified referees shall be assigned to Elite through Bronze matches. One (1) center referee and two (2) linesmen will be assigned to each Elite through Bronze match 13U and older, depending on availability. 11U/12U 9v9 games will be assigned one center referee. If resources are available, Elite through Bronze League games may have assistant referees assigned.
- 6.6.** Each club shall monitor its own Advanced League team formation process.
- 6.7.** APPLICATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA
  - a.** Teams will select flight preference upon registration/submission of application. Clubs are given the primary responsibility for placing their teams in the appropriate level of play.
  - b.** The Advanced League consists of 5 different levels of competition at club request to participate in. Each season (Fall and Spring), clubs may adjust where their teams are placed based on the assessment of performance from previous season(s). The following exceptions/guidelines apply:
    - i.** The division champion(s) must register for a higher division the next season unless the club can provide compelling evidence to the LOC on why they should not play in a higher division. In divisions with multiple flights, the winner of each flight will be considered a champion for the purpose of this rule.
    - ii.** Champions of the Elite division and the flights there in are encouraged to apply for admission to the Premier divisions of Advanced League at the end of the seasonal year.
    - iii.** The LOC has the discretion to adjust a club's request when absolutely necessary for numerical or competitive reasons. In determining flights within a division, geographic factors may be taken into consideration when appropriate.
  - c.** There are no set limits on the number of teams in each division/flight. In some instances, a team may not play all the other teams in its division/flight.
- 6.8.** LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- a.** Division names will be titled Elite, Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze.
  - i.** In the Fall, if division team registration numbers are large, teams will be randomly divided into Group A, Group B, and so on within each respective division. There is no hierarchy between the groups within the divisions.
  - ii.** In the Spring, if Group A/B divisions need to be created for the Elite division, teams will be placed by the following criteria:
    - 1.** Top half finishers in Elite from Fall season standings in Group A and Group B will be placed in Group A for Spring season.
    - 2.** Bottom half finishers in Elite from Fall season standings in Group A and Group B will be placed in Group B for Spring season.
    - 3.** New teams registered in Elite for the Spring season will be placed in Group B.
      - a.** Explanation of how 6.8.a.ii.3 affects the following Fall season team placement consideration: LOC will consider the top finisher of Elite Group A from the previous Spring season for promotion, as this division is now considered to be "weighted" with the top teams in Elite. The top finisher of Elite Group B from the previous Spring season may still apply for Premier 3 placement consideration. Placement will depend on team application numbers and team qualifications.
- b.** Age groups are not combined in 11U through 17U.
- c.** 18U through 19U will be a combined age division.
- d.** The Fall and Spring season are separate and shall consist of eight (8) games each.
- e.** The only exception to the league structure is 15U due to the birth year mandates (8th grade and high school freshman participation):
  - i.** PRIMARY SEASON- Competitive season in which the respective sex's high school soccer program is not offered.
    - 1.** Amount of flights/division and number of teams per flight/division are dependent on the number of teams that register and is at the discretion of the LOC
    - 2.** No promotion/relegation due to high school season.
  - ii.** SECONDARY SEASON- Competitive season which coincides with the respective high school season.
    - 1.** Eight-game season
    - 2.** The Secondary season will be a player pass league (allowing age-appropriate player movement to sustain the integrity of the league).

- 3.** Being in Advanced League, teams are required to have:
  - a.** Matching uniforms (shirts, shorts, and socks)
  - b.** 3 referees per game
  - c.** Scores reported.
- 4.** No roster is required but passes are required.
- 5.** There will be three flights:
  - a.** Gold
  - b.** Silver
  - c.** Bronze
- 6.** The CSA's LOC has the discretion to suspend the rules and modify the league structure.

## Section 7: Rules for Advanced League

- 7.1.** Game day rosters shall contain no more than: 16 players for 11U-12U; 18 players for 13U-19U.
- 7.2.** No team may change age groups or divisions at any time during the season.
- 7.3.** No more than four (4) credentialed coaches per team shall be allowed on the team sideline during the course of the game. A parent may sit-in if the coach is sent off due to disciplinary action.
- 7.4.** Scoring shall be three (3) points for a win (including forfeits), one (1) point for a tie, and no points for a loss. When a team has been awarded a forfeit, they will be awarded three (3) points for a win, and the score shall be recorded as 3-0 for purposes of tie-breaking procedures. If the game is not played and CSA determines that the game was forfeited, the team that forfeited may be required to pay a \$500 fine and/or have three points deducted from their points total in the league standings at the end of the season.
  - a.** The following shall be used in sequence as tiebreakers when two or more teams are tied in points in divisional standings:
    - i.** Head-to-head competition between the tied teams during the regular season (these criteria not used if more than two teams are tied).
    - ii.** Goals differential.
    - iii.** Goals against.
    - iv.** Team red cards issued to players or coaches during league play. For purposes of tie breakers, a red card shall apply to the team at the time of the infraction regardless of roster changes.
    - v.** A coin toss shall decide the winner (coaches to be invited).
    - vi.** If more than two teams are tied, the sequence will be followed until a team is eliminated. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at the second tie breaker above until the tie is broken.
  - b.** All games count in the standings.
  - c.** In all age group divisions where a team drops during the season, the following will be used to score those divisions:
    - i.** In a 10-team division in Premier 1-4 and a 9-team division in Elite through Bronze, each team will be awarded a forfeit for all games previously played and for all games that are remaining to be played against the dropped team.
    - ii.** In all other sized divisions, no points will be awarded for any game remaining to be played against the dropped team and all points previously awarded will be removed from the standings. All standings will be "point averaged" to determine final standings.

**d.** In uneven divisions, point averaging will be used to determine final standings.

**7.5.** If a game is terminated because of weather or other environmental considerations, CSA shall deem it a completed game if the first half was completed before the game was terminated. If the match was of lesser duration, then it shall be replayed.

**7.6. CLUB PASS PLAYER RULES**

**a.** The Club Pass shall permit the player to play on any team within his/her club for which he/she is age and sex eligible. Players may play up an unlimited number of years but may not play down in age group. Players may only play on a team of their own sex.

**b.** Club Pass Players shall appear on the game day roster created by the Club Registrar. The most current roster, time stamped through Sports Connect, will supersede any other game day roster.

**c.** A player may not play on more than one club team on any given day without prior written approval by CSA. Requests must be submitted by noon on Wednesday of the game weekend.

**d.** The Club Pass Rule only applies to players who are members of a club that have the same club number. Movement of players between satellite clubs who have different club numbers is the same as a transfer between two different clubs.

**e.** 9v9 teams must have at least 12 (twelve) primary players on the game day roster, meaning no more than 4 (four) club pass players per game.

**f.** 11v11 teams must have at least 13 (thirteen) primary players on the game day roster, meaning no more than 5 (five) club pass players per game.

**g.** In instances where teams do not meet the minimum primary player requirement, a special request must be sent to and approved by CSA prior to game day.

**7.7. PROVISIONS FOR POSTPONING AND RESCHEDULING ADVANCED LEAGUE GAMES**

**a.** Each club shall be responsible for designating their own USSF certified referee assignor who shall be responsible for providing the full crew for each club's games. The number of officials for Advanced League game can be referenced in rules 5.5 and 6.5.

**b.** The assignor shall be responsible in assigning referees based upon level of game and experience of the referee.

**c.** Each club will designate a club official that all rescheduling of games must go through for approval.

**d.** Any game changes that are requested after the initial 7 (seven) days after schedules post and fall outside the exceptions, shall be assessed a \$100 fine.

**i.** Exceptions shall include, but not limited to:

**1.** Family tragedy

## **2. Natural disaster**

## **3. State Cup and Presidents Cup Semifinals and Finals weekend**

- e.** CSA shall designate each Tuesday at 11:59 PM prior to the weekend of play as the last day for changes to reschedule a game. The club must notify the assignor within the established time as well.
- f.** Those teams that do not follow the established policy shall be subject to the set penalties and fines;
  - i.** The said team club may need to pay the referee fees for game rescheduling or cancellation directly to the home club, if the referee assignor is unable to bill the club that made the cancellation.
  - ii.** See Rule 7.7.d.i for exceptions.

## **7.8. PROCEDURE FOR MAKE-UP GAMES DUE TO FIELD CLOSURES AND PERMISSION TO TRAVEL GRANTED BY CSA**

- a.** Please make up games as soon as possible.
- b.** All make-up games must be played (and reported to CSA) by the date established by CSA. If one or more games remain incomplete after the date established by CSA, then only the games completed shall be used to determine that team's standings.
- c.** Scheduling make-up games is the responsibility of the home team. The home team shall contact the opposing team within 10 days of the date of the canceled game and shall offer 3 reasonable make-up dates and times. The visiting team shall have 48 hours from contact to either accept one of the three dates or offer 3 alternative dates and times to the home team. If no agreement is reached within 72 hours, both teams shall submit their positions in writing to the LOC, who shall decide (after the date of the last approved make-up game) the disposition of the game. For the purpose of this rule, contact with the office of the soccer club shall be sufficient as contact with the coach. It is highly recommended that you have documented proof of each contact (i.e., email, fax receipt, etc.) as CSA can only consider written documentation when making a decision.

## **7.9. FORFEITS**

- a.** If one team is present and ready to play but the opposing team does not show up, the team that was present must submit in writing to CSA a written statement of their attendance. Upon receipt and review, a forfeit will automatically be granted to the team that was present. Any request to review a forfeit does not require a \$100 protest fee.
- b.** In the judgment of the referee, if one team is not ready to play by ten (10) minutes after the scheduled start of a match, then the other team shall be awarded a victory by forfeit, by action of CSA. For awarding a victory due to forfeit, please refer to Rule 7.4.
- c.** No teams may participate in a scheduled match without a coach or team representative, who is a participant with the team's club, present to coach the team within 10 minutes

after the scheduled start of a match. If a coach/team representative is not present within 10 minutes, then the other team shall be awarded a victory by forfeit by action of CSA. If there is any doubt about the official capacity of a team's coach at the time of the match, the game shall be played, and after the match CSA may contact the team's coach-of-record and/or club to verify the coach's credentials and authority to represent the team at the match(s) in question.

- d.** During a game, if a coach is ejected from the game and no additional coach, team representative or parent is available to coach, the match will be terminated, and the opposing team shall be awarded a forfeit.
- e.** CSA will not consider forfeits for games unable to be rescheduled that were originally postponed for the following two reasons:
  - i.** Field closures, or
  - ii.** Permission to travel granted by CSA
- f.** Forfeiture requests must be submitted in writing to the CSA Advanced League Administrator. A request must include the following information:
  - i.** Game number and original scheduled date.
  - ii.** Reason for cancellation of original game (must meet above criteria).
  - iii.** Number of attempts to reschedule the game.
  - iv.** Any and all information regarding the attempts to reschedule the game.
  - v.** The LOC CSA will review such requests after the date of the final make-up game deadline.
- g.** When a team has been awarded a forfeit, they will be awarded three (3) points for a win, and the score shall be recorded as 3-0 for purposes of tie-breaking procedures. If the game is not played and CSA determines that the game was forfeited, the team that forfeited may be required to pay a \$500 fine and/or have three points deducted from their points total in the league standings at the end of the season.

#### **7.10. NOTIFYING CSA OF GAME SCORES**

- a.** The winning team shall submit game scores via the Sports Connect system for each league game within 72 hours. If the game is not reported in the standings by the date of the last approved make-up game for the season, then the game will NOT count in the team placement by league standings during the next season.

# CSA Front Range League Rules

## Section 8: Recreational Team and Player Registration

- 8.1.** Each club shall submit to CSA all team rosters electronically by the deadline date established by CSA.
- 8.2.** Each coach, assistant coach, and club coach participating in State League competition shall meet the requirements of the Risk Management Policy as described by CSA.
  - a.** Any other individuals that wish to appear on the roster or travel with the team must complete the background check. This includes managers, chaperones, etc.
- 8.3.** All recreational teams must be formed under the following guidelines:
  - a.** By age group,
  - b.** By sex(male/female),
  - c.** By neighborhood/school,
  - d.** By request, and
  - e.** By registration date set by club.
- 8.4.** No recreational leagues or scheduled competitions may be conducted without prior approval of CSA.
- 8.5.** Member organizations must register all players including those who play in-house programs including 4U players.
- 8.6.** A club must register 100% of their recreational players by the registration deadlines set by CSA. For those who do not 100% affiliate, additional fees may be charged to participate in CSA programs and tournaments. Member benefits may also be limited to including, but not limited to, grants.
- 8.7.** 4U players shall be limited to in-house play, festivals, camps, and clinics.
- 8.8.** A player may play for only one (1) team in any competition sponsored by CSA with exception of tournaments.

## Section 9: Recreational League Operations Committee

- 9.1.** Prior to the start of each state-league season, the CSA's League Operations Committee (LOC) shall meet and assign each team to a division within its appropriate age-level league based on application.
- 9.2.** The CSA's LOC shall assign teams based on information supplied by the coach or manager. If the coach or manager provides no data, it is not the LOC's obligation to seek out information. If no data is provided a team could be seeded lower rather than higher.
- 9.3.** Prior to the start of the state-league season, CSA shall:
  - a.** Advise each club registrar in writing of the division to which each team in that club has been assigned for the forthcoming state-league season. It is the registrar's duty to communicate the information about state-league assignment to each team in the club.
  - b.** A team, which disagrees with its state-league placement, may request, at no charge, that the CSA's LOC review its decision.
  - c.** However, the decisions of the CSA's LOC are final and non-appealable.
- 9.4.** The CSA's LOC shall meet at such other times as appropriate for efficient and just league operations.
- 9.5.** The LOC reserves the authority to suspend the rules and modify the structure of a given league appropriately including, but not limited to, the size of given structure.
- 9.6.** The CSA's LOC shall have all rights to final seeding of the CSA Cup.

## Section 10: Rules for Premier and Intermediate Divisions

- 10.1.** Each player/coach participating in any Premier/Intermediate competition shall be registered with CSA and appear on the official roster and/or have a current USYS member/player pass with current photograph affixed thereto, approved by the Club Registrar. A USYS member/player pass is valid only for USYS recognized purposes.
- a.** Picture rosters will be accepted in place of roster and laminated USYS member/player pass for the Premier and Intermediate divisions of Front Range League.
    - i.** Pictures are required on team documents, including USYS member/player passes and picture rosters and must be printed in color.
    - ii.** Pictures must be passport style, with a clear picture of the face, zoomed in with the full face in view.
- 10.2.** All Premier/Intermediate team registration, fees, and roster updates must be submitted to CSA or other appropriate entity by date designated by CSA or other entity.
- 10.3.** All Premier/Intermediate teams must register all players via the CSA online system. Each club must designate an Authorized User and Club Registrar.
- 10.4.** USSF certified referees shall be assigned to Premier/Intermediate matches, depending on availability. In addition, each team shall provide a club linesman who is knowledgeable regarding the Laws of the Game and any CSA modifications thereto, especially pertaining to linesman duties.
- 10.5.** Each club shall monitor its own Premier/Intermediate team formation process.
- 10.6.** Premier/Intermediate level of play for the Front Range League is for the 9U and 10U age groups.
- 10.7.** In the event of a team requesting to play up in an older age group, they will be required to play in at least the Intermediate Gold division or higher. No teams will be permitted to play in an older age group unless they plan to play in the highest divisions.
- 10.8.** The prior season shall be defined as the last season that the team played.
- 10.9.** A player's USYS member/player pass or roster shall identify the club to which he/she is a member for the current seasonal year.
- 10.10. CLUB PASS RULES**
- a.** The Club Pass shall permit the player to play on any team within his/her club for which he/she is age and sex eligible. Players may play up an unlimited number of years but may not play down in age group.
  - b.** Players shall appear on the gameday roster created by the club's registrar. The most current roster, time stamped through Sports Connect, will supersede any other game day roster.
  - c.** A player may not play on more than one club team on any given day.

- d. The Club Pass Rules only apply to players who are members of a club that have the same club number. Movement of players between satellite clubs who have different club numbers is the same as a transfer between two different clubs.
- e. For Premier/Intermediate teams, males may not club pass to a female team and females may not club pass to a male team.
- f. Each player is required to have a unique number affixed to the back of their jersey for the purpose of player identification during a game.

**10.11.** State league teams, which have the same name, must be distinguishable by a unique color, number, or letter suffix, or teams may change names.

**10.12.** APPLICATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

- a. Teams will select flight preference upon registration/submission of application. Clubs are given the primary responsibility for placing their teams in the appropriate level of play.
- b. In the event of a team requesting to play up in an older age group, they will be required to play in at least the Intermediate Gold division or higher. No teams will be permitted to play in an older age group unless they plan to play in the highest divisions.

**10.13.** Scoring shall be three (3) points for a win (including forfeits), one (1) point for a tie, and no points for a loss. When a team has been awarded a forfeit, they will be awarded three (3) points for a win, and the score shall be recorded as 3-0 for purposes of tie-breaking procedures. If the game is not played and CSA determines that the game was forfeited, the team that forfeited may be required to pay a \$500 fine and/or have three points deducted from their points total in the league standings at the end of the season.

- a. The following shall be used in sequence as tie breakers when two or more teams are tied in points in divisional standings:
  - i. Head-to-head competition between the tied teams during the regular season (these criteria not used if more than two teams are tied).
  - ii. Goals differential.
  - iii. Goals against.
  - iv. Team red cards issued to players or coaches during league play. For purposes of tie breakers, a red card shall apply to the team at the time of the infraction regardless of roster changes.
  - v. A coin toss shall decide the winner (coaches to be invited).
  - vi. If more than two teams are tied, the sequence will be followed until a team is eliminated. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at the second tie breaker above until the tie is broken.

**10.14.** LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- a. 9U Premier will only take place in the Spring season, while 10U takes place in Fall and Spring.
- b. Premier and Intermediate divisions play 7v7 on a 7v7 size field. For dimensions and specifications, please go to [http://www.coloradosoccer.org/front\\_range\\_league/](http://www.coloradosoccer.org/front_range_league/).

#### **10.15.RELEASES**

- a. A team may not release, voluntarily or involuntarily, any player from its roster unless a written request, stating the reason why the release has been requested, has been sent to, and approved by both clubs.
- b. A team may release involuntarily a player from its roster only if the player is unable to play for one of the following reasons:
  - i. The player has violated by laws, policies, or requirements of the Federation, USYS, CSA, or the member of the State Association through whom the player is registered.
  - ii. A player that has moved more than 50 miles from his/her primary residence and the current club they are registered with.
  - iii. The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season.
  - iv. The transfer rule shall apply to all CSA registered Premier and Intermediate players in our leagues.
  - v. The Club requesting the involuntary release has been unable to contact the parent or guardian of the player. Evidence of good faith attempt must be submitted.

#### **10.16.TRANSFERS**

- a. A transfer of a player shall be defined as adding a currently USYS registered player to a roster, or as returning a currently dropped player to a roster.
- b. The following exceptions exist:
  - i. A player on a Front Range team going to a competitive team not in the same year.
  - ii. A player who is not currently registered.
- c. Players are bound to their club for the season or seasonal year, whichever is indicated in the registration agreement/contract signed and on file with the club. If a player is registered with a club for a full seasonal year and all financial obligations are met, the club will review release outside the scope of the contract. Contractual release is at the discretion of the club.
- d. The following exceptions exist:
  - i. A player that has moved more than 50 miles away from his/her primary residence

and the current club they are registered with, shall be granted a transfer from CSA.

- ii. A player and his/her family may request and shall be granted a transfer at any time following the earliest of their team playing its last league game or the last date to play league games as established by CSA so long as the following criteria are met:
  - 1. For the betterment of the player, at the completion of the season, clubs will release player from all current club/team commitments beginning the first day of tryouts so long as all reasonable financial obligations have been met.
  - 2. A player may not seek a transfer under this rule if his/her current team and the new team to which he/she is seeking to transfer are playing in the same tournament or a tournament occurring on the same dates. In this situation, the player is obligated to play with their existing team. If the player's new team has a scheduled tournament prior to the tournament date of the player's current team then the player shall be allowed to play as a guest player in that tournament or be transferred to the roster of the new team by CSA for the sole purpose of playing in that tournament.
  - 3. The family is current in all their financial obligations set forth by their current club and team. If there are any outstanding financial obligations not met, the family will be considered to be in bad standing with their current club, as well as CSA, and will not be granted a transfer until financial obligations are met.
  - 4. The player is in good standing with existing teams.
- e. All requests for transfer of a player between two different clubs shall be approved by both clubs.

#### **10.17. PROCEDURES FOR POSTPONEMENT AND RESCHEDULING GAMES**

- a. If the field is closed because of bad weather, the home team coach shall notify the referee assignor and the opposing coach as soon as possible that the game has been postponed.
- b. Except for coaching conflicts within the Front Range League, postponements from field closures, and Permission to Travel, all games will be played as scheduled. If a game is cancelled with or without the knowledge of CSA and the home club is not notified in accordance with their published policies, the away team shall be responsible for the payment of any additional fees for the game in question.
- c. A TBA game is the responsibility of the home team to schedule. The home team must follow the scheduling procedure as stated in Section 10.17.

#### **10.18. PROCEDURE FOR MAKE-UP GAMES DUE TO FIELD CLOSURES AND PERMISSION TO TRAVEL**

- a. Please make up games as soon as possible.
- b. Scheduling make-up games is the responsibility of the home team. The home team

shall contact the opposing team within 10 days of the date of the canceled game and shall offer 3 reasonable make-up dates and times. The visiting team shall have 48 hours from contact to either accept one of the three dates or offer 3 alternative dates and times to the home team. If no agreement is then reached within 72 hours, both teams shall submit their positions in writing to CSA, who shall decide the disposition of the game. For the purpose of this rule, contact with the office of the soccer club shall be sufficient as contact with the coach. It is highly recommended that you have documented proof of each contact (i.e., email, fax receipt, etc.) as CSA can only consider written documentation when making a decision.

#### **10.19.FORFEITS**

- a.** When a team has been awarded a forfeit, they will be awarded three (3) points for a win, and the score shall be recorded as 3-0 for purposes of tie-breaking procedures. If the game is not played and CSA determines that the game was forfeited, the team that forfeited may be required to pay a \$500 fine.

#### **10.20.NOTIFYING CSA OF GAME SCORES**

- a.** The winning team shall submit game scores via the Sports Connect system for each league game within 72 hours. If the game is not reported in the standings by the date of the last approved make-up game for the season, then the game will NOT count in the team placement by league standings during the next season.
- b.** Scores for the 9U and 10U age groups will be reported to CSA via the online system but will not be posted on the public pages. No awards will be given out for final league placements.

## Section 11: Rules for Recreational Divisions

- 11.1.** Each player/coach participating in any Recreation competition shall be registered with CSA and have a current USYS member/player pass with current photograph affixed thereto, approved by the Club Registrar. A USYS member/player pass is valid only for USYS recognized purposes.
- a.** Picture rosters will be accepted in place of roster and laminated USYS member/player pass for the Premier and Intermediate divisions of Front Range League.
    - i.** Pictures are required on team documents, including USYS member/player passes and picture rosters and must be printed in color.
    - ii.** Pictures must be passport style, with a clear picture of the face, zoomed in with the full face in view.
- 11.2.** All recreational team registration, fees, and roster updates must be submitted to CSA or other appropriate entity by date designated by CSA or other entity.
- 11.3.** All recreational teams must register all players via the CSA online system. Each club must designate an Authorized User and Club Registrar.
- 11.4.** USSF certified referees shall be assigned to recreational matches, depending on availability. In addition, each team shall provide a club linesman who is knowledgeable regarding the Laws of the Game and any CSA modifications thereto, especially pertaining to linesman duties.
- 11.5.** Each club shall monitor its own recreational team formation process.
- 11.6.** Recreational level is for 9U and up.
- 11.7.** The formation of an all-star recreational team is prohibited.
- 11.8.** The prior season shall be defined as the last season that the team played.
- 11.9.** A player's USYS member/player pass or roster shall identify the club to which he/she is a member for the current seasonal year.
- 11.10. CLUB PASS RULES**
- a.** The Club Pass shall permit the player to play on any team within his/her club for which he/she is age and sex eligible. Players may play up an unlimited number of years but may not play down in age group.
  - b.** Players shall appear on the game day roster created by the club's registrar. The most current roster, time stamped through Sports Connect, will supersede any other game day roster.
  - c.** A player may not play on more than one club team on any given day.
  - d.** The Club Pass Rules only apply to players who are members of a club that have the same club number. Movement of players between satellite clubs who have different

club numbers is the same as a transfer between two different clubs.

**11.11.** State league teams, which have the same name, must be distinguishable by a unique color, number, or letter suffix, or teams may change names.

**11.12.** APPLICATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

- a. Teams will select flight preference upon registration/submission of application. Clubs are given the primary responsibility for placing their teams in the appropriate level of play.

**11.13.** Scoring shall be three (3) points for a win (including forfeits), one (1) point for a tie, and no points for a loss. When a team has been awarded a forfeit, they will be awarded three (3) points for a win, and the score shall be recorded as 3-0 for purposes of tie-breaking procedures. If the game is not played and CSA determines that the game was forfeited, the team that forfeited may be required to pay a \$500 fine and/or have three points deducted from their points total in the league standings at the end of the season.

- a. The following shall be used in sequence as tie breakers when two or more teams are tied in points in divisional standings:
  - i. Head-to-head competition between the tied teams during the regular season (these criteria not used if more than two teams are tied).
  - ii. Goals differential.
  - iii. Goals against.
  - iv. Team red cards issued to players or coaches during league play. For purposes of tie breakers, a red card shall apply to the team at the time of the infraction regardless of roster changes.
  - v. A coin toss shall decide the winner (coaches to be invited).
  - vi. If more than two teams are tied, the sequence will be followed until a team is eliminated. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at the second tie breaker above until the tie is broken.

**11.14.** LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- a. 9U and 10U
  - i. 9U and 10U recreational divisions play 7v7 on a 7v7 size field. For dimensions and specs, please go to [http://www.coloradosoccer.org/front\\_range\\_league/](http://www.coloradosoccer.org/front_range_league/).
- b. 11U through 14U
  - i. 11U-14U recreational divisions play 9v9 on a 9v9 size field. For dimensions and specs, please go to [http://www.coloradosoccer.org/front\\_range\\_league/](http://www.coloradosoccer.org/front_range_league/).
- c. 15U through 19U
  - i. 15U-19U recreational divisions play 9v9 on an 11v11 size field. For dimensions

and specs, please go to [http://www.coloradosoccer.org/front\\_range\\_league/](http://www.coloradosoccer.org/front_range_league/).

#### **11.15.RELEASES**

- a.** A team may not release, voluntarily or involuntarily, any player from its roster unless a written request, stating the reason why the release has been requested, has been sent to, and approved by both clubs.
- b.** A team may release involuntarily a player from its roster only if the player is unable to play for one of the following reasons:
  - i.** The player has violated by laws, policies, or requirements of the Federation, USYS, CSA, or the member of the State Association through whom the player is registered.
  - ii.** A player that has moved more than 50 miles from his/her primary residence and the current club they are registered with.
  - iii.** The player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season.
  - iv.** The transfer rule shall apply to all CSA registered Premier and Intermediate players in our leagues.
  - v.** The Club requesting the involuntary release has been unable to contact the parent or guardian of the player. Evidence of good faith attempt must be submitted.

#### **11.16.TRANSFERS**

- a.** A transfer of a player shall be defined as adding a currently USYS registered player to a roster, or as returning a currently dropped player to a roster.
- b.** The following exceptions exist:
  - i.** A player on a Front Range team going to a competitive team not in the same year.
  - ii.** A player who is not currently registered.
- c.** Players are bound to their club for the season or seasonal year, whichever is indicated in the registration agreement/contract signed and on file with the club. If a player is registered with a club for a full seasonal year and all financial obligations are met, the club will review release outside the scope of the contract. Contractual release is at the discretion of the club.
- d.** The following exceptions exist:
  - i.** A player that has moved more than 50 miles away from his/her primary residence and the current club they are registered with, shall be granted a transfer from CSA.
  - ii.** A player and his/her family may request and shall be granted a transfer at any

time following the earliest of their team playing its last league game or the last date to play league games as established by CSA so long as the following criteria are met:

- 1.** For the betterment of the player, at the completion of the season, clubs will release player from all current club/team commitments beginning the first day of tryouts so long as all reasonable financial obligations have been met.
  - 2.** A player may not seek a transfer under this rule if his/her current team and the new team to which he/she is seeking to transfer are playing in the same tournament or a tournament occurring on the same dates. In this situation, the player is obligated to play with their existing team. If the player's new team has a scheduled tournament prior to the tournament date of the player's current team than the player shall be allowed to play as a guest player in that tournament or be transferred to the roster of the new team by CSA for the sole purpose of playing in that tournament.
  - 3.** The family is current in all their financial obligations set forth by their current club and team. If there are any outstanding financial obligations not met, the family will be considered to be in bad standing with their current club, as well as CSA, and will not be granted a transfer until financial obligations are met.
  - 4.** The player is in good standing with existing teams.
- e.** All requests for transfer of a player between two different clubs shall be approved by both clubs.

#### **11.17. PROCEDURES FOR POSTPONEMENT AND RESCHEDULING GAMES**

- a.** If the field is closed because of bad weather, the home team coach shall notify the referee assignor and the opposing coach as soon as possible that the game has been postponed.
- b.** Except for coaching conflicts within the Front Range League, postponements from field closures, and Permission to Travel, all games will be played as scheduled. If a game is cancelled with or without the knowledge of CSA and the home club is not notified in accordance with their published policies, the away team shall be responsible for the payment of any additional fees for the game in question.
- c.** A TBA game is the responsibility of the home team to schedule. The home team must follow the scheduling procedure as state in Rule 11.17.

#### **11.18. PROCEDURE FOR MAKE-UP GAMES DUE TO FIELD CLOSURES AND PERMISSION TO TRAVEL**

- a.** Please make up games as soon as possible.
- b.** Scheduling make-up games is the responsibility of the home team. The home team shall contact the opposing team within 10 days of the date of the canceled game and shall offer 3 reasonable make- up dates and times. The visiting team shall have 48 hours from contact to either accept one of the three dates or offer 3 alternative dates and times to the home team. If no agreement is then reached within 72 hours, both

teams shall submit their positions in writing to CSA, who shall decide the disposition of the game. For the purpose of this rule, contact with the office of the soccer club shall be sufficient as contact with the coach. It is highly recommended that you have documented proof of each contact (i.e., email, fax receipt, etc.) as CSA can only consider written documentation when making a decision.

#### **11.19.FORFEITS**

- a.** When a team has been awarded a forfeit, they will be awarded three (3) points for a win, and the score shall be recorded as 3-0 for purposes of tie-breaking procedures. If the game is not played and CSA determines that the game was forfeited, the team that forfeited may be required to pay a \$500 fine.

#### **11.20.NOTIFYING CSA OF GAME SCORES**

- a.** The winning team shall submit game scores via the Sports Connect system for each league game within 72 hours. If the game is not reported in the standings by the date of the last approved make-up game for the season, then the game will NOT count in the team placement by league standings during the next season.
- b.** Scores for the 9U and 10U age groups will be reported to CSA via the online system but will not be posted on the public pages. No awards will be given out for final league placements.

# CSA Mountain Region League Rules

## Section 12: Mountain Region Team and Player Registrations/Club Pass

- 12.1.** Each club shall submit to CSA all team rosters electronically by the deadline date established by CSA.
- 12.2.** Each coach, assistant coach, and club coach participating in the State League competition shall meet the requirements of the Risk Management Policy as described by CSA
- a.** Any other individuals that wish to appear on the roster or travel with the team must complete the background check. This includes managers, chaperones, etc.
- 12.3.** All recreational teams must be formed under the following guidelines:
- a.** By age group
- b.** By sex(male/female)
- c.** By registration date set by club
- 12.4.** No Mountain Region Leagues, or scheduled competitions may be conducted without prior approval of CSA.
- 12.5.** Member organizations must register all players including those who play in-house programs including 4U players.
- 12.6.** A club must register 100% of their recreational players by the registration deadlines set by CSA. For those who do not 100% affiliate, additional fees may be charged to participate in CSA programs and tournaments. Member benefits may also be limited to including, but not limited to, grants.
- 12.7.** 4U players shall be limited to in-house play, festivals, camps, and clinics.
- 12.8.** A player may play for only one (1) team in any competition sponsored by CSA.
- 12.9.** CLUB PASS RULES
- a.** The Club Pass shall permit the player to play on any team within his/her club for which he/she is age and sex eligible. Players may play up an unlimited number of years but may not play down in age group.
- b.** Players shall appear on the game day roster created by the club's registrar. The most current roster, time stamped through Sports Connect, will supersede any other game day roster.
- c.** A player may not play on more than one club team on any given day.
- d.** The Club Pass Rules only apply to players who are members of a club that have the same club number. Movement of players between satellite clubs who have different

club numbers is the same as a transfer between two different clubs.

## **Section 13: Mountain Region League Alignment**

- 13.1.** Prior to the start of each state-league season, the league clubs shall meet and assign each team to a division within its appropriate age-level league based on application.
- 13.2.** Prior to the start of the state-league season, CSA shall:
- a.** Advise each club registrar via email of the division to which each team in that club has been assigned for the upcoming state league season. It is the registrar's duty to communicate the information about state league assignment to each team in the club.
  - b.** A team, which disagrees with its state-league placement, may request, at no charge, that CSA review its decision.
  - c.** However, the decisions of CSA are final and non-appealable.
- 13.3.** CSA shall meet at such other times as appropriate for efficient and just league operations.
- 13.4.** In those rare instances where the rules of relegation fail to provide a fair migration of teams, CSA reserves the authority to suspend the rules and modify the structure of a given league appropriately including, but not limited to, the size of given structure.
- 13.5.** CSA shall have all rights to final seeding of the CSA Cup for both males and females.

## Section 14: Rules for Premier and Developmental Divisions

- 14.1.** Each player/coach participating in any Premier/Intermediate competition shall be registered with CSA and have a current USYS member/player pass with current photograph affixed thereto, approved by the Club Registrar. A USYS member/player pass is valid only for USYS recognized purposes.
- a.** Picture rosters will be accepted in place of roster and laminated USYS member/player pass for the Premier and Intermediate divisions of Front Range League.
    - i.** Pictures are required on team documents, including USYS member/player passes and picture rosters and must be printed in color.
    - ii.** Pictures must be passport style, with a clear picture of the face, zoomed in with the full face in view.
- 14.2.** The MRL will run as a 2 season league each calendar year commencing August 1st and ending July 31st. Fall season will consist of 8 games with games being played on both Saturdays and Sundays. The Spring season will consist of 8 games with games being played on both Saturdays and Sundays.
- 14.3.** Scoring shall be three (3) points for a win (including forfeits), one (1) point for a tie, and no points for a loss. When a team has been awarded a forfeit, they will be awarded three (3) points for a win, and the score shall be recorded as 3-0 for purposes of tie-breaking procedures. If the game is not played and CSA determines that the game was forfeited, the team that forfeited may be required to pay a \$500 fine and/or have three points deducted from their points total in the league standings at the end of the season.
- a.** The following shall be used in sequence as tie breakers when two or more teams are tied in points in divisional standings:
    - i.** Head-to-head competition between the tied teams during the regular season (these criteria not used if more than two teams are tied).
    - ii.** Goals differential.
    - iii.** Goals against.
    - iv.** Team red cards issued to players or coaches during league play. For purposes of tie breakers, a red card shall apply to the team at the time of the infraction regardless of roster changes.
    - v.** A coin toss shall decide the winner (coaches to be invited).
    - vi.** If more than two teams are tied, the sequence will be followed until a team is eliminated. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at the second tie breaker above until the tie is broken.
  - b.** All games will count in the standings.
  - c.** In 11U-19U, age group divisions where a team drops during the middle of the season, the following will be used to score those divisions:

- i. In all other sized division, no points will be awarded for any game remaining to be played against the dropped team and all points previously awarded will be removed from the standings. All standings will be "point averaged" to determine final standings.
- d. If a game is terminated because of weather or other environmental considerations, MRL shall judge it a completed game if the first half was completed before the game was terminated. If the match was of lesser duration, then it shall be replayed.
- e. Game day rosters shall contain no more than: 16 players for 11U-12U; 18 players for 13U-19U.
- f. No team may change age groups at any time during the season.
- g. No more than four (4) credentialed coaches per team shall be allowed on the team sideline during the course of the game. A parent may sit-in in case the coach is sent off due to disciplinary action.

**14.4. STRUCTURE-** The Premier division will be the highest division and the Developmental division will be the lowest division.

- a. 11U-12U (i.e., youngest male and female age groups)
  - i. Fall & Spring season: The best teams, as determined by the MRL Administrator on the basis of information provided by the club coaches and club registrars, shall be placed in the Premier division and the remaining teams shall be placed in the Developmental division.
- b. 13U-15U League Structure:
  - i. Fall & Spring season: The best teams, as determined by the MRL Administrator on the basis of information provided by the club coaches and club registrars, shall be placed in the Premier division and the remaining teams shall be placed in the Developmental division.
  - ii. In the 15U-league, no high school students will be permitted.
- c. 16U-19U League Structure:
  - i. Fall & Spring season: The best teams, as determined by the MRL Administrator on the basis of information provided by the club coaches and club registrars, shall be placed in the Premier division and the remaining teams shall be placed in the Developmental division.
  - ii. The 16U-19U division will be exclusive to high school students.

**14.5. PROVISIONS FOR POSTPONING AND RESCHEDULING STATE LEAGUE GAMES**

- a. Each club shall be responsible for designated their own referee assignor who shall be responsible for providing the full crew of referees for each of the club's games.
- b. The assignor shall be responsible in assigning referees based upon level of game and

experience of the referee.

- c. Each club will need to designate a club official that all rescheduling of games must go through for approval.
- d. The State shall designate each Wednesday at 3:00 PM MT prior to the weekend of play as the last day for changes to reschedule a game and assignor must be notified by the established time as well.
- e. Exceptions shall not be limited to:
  - i. Family Tragedy
  - ii. Natural Disaster
- f. Those teams that do not follow the established policy shall be subject to the set penalties and fines.
  - i. The said team shall pay the assignor's fees for game rescheduling or cancellation.
  - ii. Fines may be imposed based on the set fee by the respective club.

**14.6. PROCEDURE FOR MAKE-UP GAMES DUE TO FIELD CLOSURES AND PERMISSION TO TRAVEL GRANTED BY CSA**

- a. Please make up games as soon as possible.
- b. All make-up games must be played and reported to MRL by the date established by MRL. If one or more games remain incomplete after the date established by MRL, then only the games completed shall be used to determine that team's final standing. If a game is granted a forfeit and later gets played, it will not count in the final standings.
- c. Scheduling make-up games is the responsibility of the home team. The home team shall contact the opposing team within 5 days of the date of the canceled game and shall offer 2 reasonable make-up dates and times. The visiting team shall have 48 hours from contact to either accept one of the 2 dates or offer 2 alternative date and times to the home team. If no agreement is then reached within 72 hours, both teams shall submit their positions in writing to the MRL LOC, who shall decide (after the date of the last approved make-up game) the disposition of the game. For the purpose of this rule, contact with the office of the soccer club shall be sufficient as contact with the coach. It is highly recommended that you have documented proof of each contact (i.e., email, fax receipt, etc.) as MRL can only consider written documentation when making a decision.

**14.7. FORFEITS**

- a. If one team is present and ready to play but the opposing team does not show up, the team that was present must submit in writing to CSA a written statement of their attendance. Upon receipt and review, a forfeit will automatically be granted to the team that was present. Any request to review a forfeit does not require a \$100 protest fee.
- b. In the judgment of the referee, if one team is not ready to play by ten (10) minutes

after the scheduled start of a match, then the other team shall be awarded a victory by forfeit, by action of CSA. For awarding a victory due to forfeit, please refer to Rule 7.4.

- c.** No teams may participate in a scheduled match without a coach or team representative, who is a participant with the team's club, present to coach the team within 10 minutes after the scheduled start of a match. If a coach/team representative is not present within 10 minutes, then the other team shall be awarded a victory by forfeit by action of CSA. If there is any doubt about the official capacity of a team's coach at the time of the match, the game shall be played, and after the match CSA may contact the team's coach-of-record and/or club to verify the coach's credentials and authority to represent the team at the match(s) in question.
- d.** During a game, if a coach is ejected from the game and no additional coach, team representative or parent is available to coach, the match will be terminated, and the opposing team shall be awarded a forfeit.
- e.** CSA will not consider forfeits for games unable to be rescheduled that were originally postponed for the following two reasons:
  - i.** Field closures, or
  - ii.** Permission to travel granted by CSA
- f.** Forfeiture requests must be submitted in writing to the CSA Advanced League Administrator. A request must include the following information:
  - i.** Game number and original scheduled date.
  - ii.** Reason for cancellation of original game (must meet above criteria).
  - iii.** Number of attempts to reschedule the game.
  - iv.** Any and all information regarding the attempts to reschedule the game.
  - v.** The LOC will review such requests after the date of the final make-up game deadline.
- g.** When a team has been awarded a forfeit, they will be awarded three (3) points for a win, and the score shall be recorded as 3-0 for purposes of tie-breaking procedures. If the game is not played and CSA determines that the game was forfeited, the team that forfeited may be required to pay \$500 fine and/or have three points deducted from their points total in the league standings at the end of the season.

#### **14.8. NOTIFYING CSA OF GAME SCORES**

- a.** The winning team shall submit game scores via the Sports Connect system for each league game within 72 hours. If the game is not reported in the standings by the date of the last approved make-up game for the season, then the game will NOT count in the team placement by league standings during the next season.

## **Section 15: Rules for 10U Recreational Division and In-House**

### **15.1. 10U RECREATIONAL TEAM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION**

- a.** Each club shall submit to MRL all team rosters electronically by the deadline date established by CSA.
- b.** Each coach, assistant coach and club coach participating in CSA Recreational competition shall meet the requirements for credentialed coaches as outlined above. No more than four (4) credentialed coaches per team shall be allowed on the team sideline during the course of the game.
- c.** 10U teams will play a maximum of 7v7 in any MRL sanctioned competition with the exception of summer tournaments commencing Memorial Day Weekend and ending July 31st.
- d.** Clubs are responsible for keeping the roster changes of their developmental teams updated with CSA.
- e.** No developmental leagues or scheduled competitions may be conducted without prior approval of CSA.
- f.** Member organizations must register all players including those who play only in- house programs including 4U players.
- g.** A club must register 100% of their recreational players by the registration deadlines set by CSA. For those who are not 100% affiliated, additional fees may be charged to participate in CSA programs and tournaments. Member benefits may also be limited to including, but not limited to, grants.
- h.** A player may play for only one team in any competition sponsored by MRL.

### **15.2. NOTIFYING CSA OF GAME SCORES**

- a.** The winning team shall submit game scores via the Sports Connect system for each league game within 72 hours. If the game is not reported in the standings by the date of the last approved make-up game for the season, then the game will NOT count in the team placement by league standings during the next season.
- b.** Scores for the 9U and 10U age groups will be reported to CSA via the online system but will not be posted on the public pages. No awards will be given out for final league placements.

# Misconduct, Disciplinary, and Protest & Appeals

## Section 16: Misconduct

- 16.1.** All participants and spectators in CSA activities shall be subject to all misconduct rules contained herein, regardless of whether they have passes, regardless of whether the referee displayed a yellow or red card, and regardless of suspension notification from CSA. The proper authority may investigate misconduct that is not noted in a referee's game report but is reported in writing to the CSA office by any individual. "Misconduct" shall include but is not limited to harassing behavior, abusive behavior, verbal and physical assault and verbal and physical threats of harm.
- 16.2.** A participant whose pass has been retained or has received a sendoff shall be ineligible to participate in any CSA sanctioned game until the pass is returned to the team representative or the suspension satisfied. Any individual who participates in a game while ineligible shall be subject to further disciplinary action. Any team or team representative that plays an ineligible or non-rostered player shall forfeit all games in which that player participated, and the team representative may appear before the Disciplinary Committee for further action, which can include, but is not limited to, a six-month suspension.
- 16.3.** If an individual engages in prolonged harassment of officials, or abusive disagreement or interference with officials, the team representative may be asked to control the individual. If the team representative has no control over the individual or situation, the team representative shall not be penalized. Instead, the referee shall take other appropriate action.
- 16.4.** The referee may suspend play when necessary due to spectator or participant interference until the individual(s) creating the disturbance leaves the playing area to a minimum of 100 yards from the field. Said individual(s) shall remain silent for the duration of the game and take no further part in the game. Failure of (an) individual(s) to comply with the referee's request within 2 minutes may result in the referee's terminating the game. Such incident may result in forfeiture of the game as well as further disciplinary action.
- 16.5.** Any team representative, whose team refuses to take the field without cause, refuses to travel to an assigned game site without cause or quits a game prior to its completion, shall be reported in writing by the referee. The team representative and the team shall be subject to a disciplinary hearing.
- 16.6.** Any participant or spectator who refuses to give his or her correct name to the referee while being cautioned, sent off or otherwise disciplined, shall be subject to additional disciplinary action.
- 16.7.** All allegations of referee misconduct, unethical conduct, or conflict of interest occurring as a result of sanctioned youth matches shall be directed to the Director of Referees at the CSA Office. The Director of Referees shall communicate such allegations promptly to Colorado Referee Committee Disciplinary Committee. The CRC Disciplinary Committee shall handle the matter and submit a written report of the resolution of the allegations to the Director of Referees and State Referee Administration.
- 16.8.** Misconduct Towards Game Officials

a. Refer to Appendix 1 (Misconduct Towards Game Officials)

**16.9. Misconduct Of Game Officials**

a. Refer to Appendix 2 (Misconduct Of Game Officials)

## Section 17: Disciplinary Procedures and Penalties

### 17.1. RED CARDS

- a.** When sent off the field of play and shown the red card for infringement of the Laws of the Game, players and substitutes shall be disciplined by further game suspensions as follows:
  - i.** Serious foul play(S1).
    - 1.** Examples include but are not necessarily limited to when a player, in a violent or dangerous manner intentionally trips, holds, pushes, charges, or tackles an opponent from behind the penalty shall be: ALL AGE GROUPS- Suspend for minimum of one (1) game.
  - ii.** Violent Conduct(S2).
    - 1.** Examples include but are not necessarily limited to striking or attempting to strike another player, team official or spectator, unlawfully entering the field of play during an altercation. ALL AGE GROUPS – Suspend for a minimum of two (2) games.
    - 2.** Pushing in an act of aggression, striking or attempting to strike a referee, linesperson or fourth official. ALL AGE GROUPS- Suspend for a minimum of one (1) year, unless serious injuries are inflicted then the minimum suspension period will be at least five (5) years.
  - iii.** Spits at an Opponent/other Person(S3).
    - 1.** Examples include but are not necessarily limited to spitting or other unseemly acts on or at another person. ALL AGE GROUPS – Suspend for a minimum of two (2) games.
  - iv.** Denies opponent goal or goal scoring opportunity by deliberately (S4) handling the ball.
    - 1.** ALL AGE GROUPS – Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game.
  - v.** Denies obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving (S5) towards the players' goal.
    - 1.** ALL AGE GROUPS – Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game.
  - vi.** Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language. (S6)
    - 1.** Examples include but are not necessarily limited to uttered in frustration and in the referee's opinion, loud enough to be heard. ALL AGE GROUPS – Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game.
    - 2.** Examples include but are not necessarily limited to words or actions directed towards any person. ALL AGE GROUPS – Suspend for a minimum of two (2) games.

**vii.** Second Caution: (S7) ALL AGE GROUPS – suspend for a minimum of one (1) game

**viii.** Actions listed above are to be regarded as minimum suspensions.

**b.** Miscellaneous

**i.** Any player, substitute or coach who refuses the referee's request for their name, or gives a false name, while the referee is gathering data to report an infringement of the "Laws of the Game", involving them, shall have a minimum of one game added to the suspension that would normally be levied by the Disciplinary Committee.

**c.** Reports of a participant's violent conduct or serious foul play shall be reviewed by the CSA CEO, who may recommend that the incident be subject of a disciplinary hearing, by the Disciplinary Committee.

**d.** Club Pass Red Card Procedures

**i.** A player who receives a red card in a given game shall sit out the next match for the team on which he was playing when he received the red card or for the team on which he is rostered for the following weekend whichever occurs first.

**17.2. YELLOW CARDS**

**a.** Any player/coach who accumulates five (5) stand-alone cautions during any 365- day period shall be suspended automatically for a minimum of one game. CSA shall monitor the accumulation of stand-alone cautions and shall notify the participant and the team representative in writing of a participant's one-game suspension when five (5) such cautions have been accumulated within a 365-day period.

**b.** Cautions issued during non-league competition shall not carry forward to league play.

**17.3. DISCIPLINARY POLICY**

**a.** Players, parents, referees, spectators and coaches (Participants) shall abide by the policies and the by-laws of FIFA, the United States Soccer Federation, United States Youth Soccer Association, and the by-laws and policies of Colorado Soccer Association (CSA). In addition, Participants shall abide by any requisite league or tournament rules and standards of conduct.

**b.** Clubs and Club Representatives including coaches, team managers, club executives and club board members will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship. Club Representatives shall endeavor to provide a safe playing experience for players and encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other team related event. CSA has the authority as it deems appropriate to suspend any Participant from further CSA associated activities if their conduct is considered detrimental in any way and to any degree to the Colorado Soccer Association.

**c.** Club Representatives shall provide support to referees and game officials at all times.

- d.** Prohibited actions at CSA sanctioned activities include:
- i. Fighting or physical violence;
  - ii. Threatening, bullying, or abusive behavior;
  - iii. Discriminatory, racial, sexual, xenophobic, sexist, obscene, abusive, and/or homophobic statements, utterances, signs representations, chants, or gestures;
  - iv. Intentionally damaging to real or personal property;
  - v. Disrespectfully throwing any items onto the field of play or at any participants;
  - vi. Possession or use of any illegal substance;
  - vii. Brandishing weapons or other items in a manner which may threaten or intimidate other Participants
- e.** Disciplinary actions based on accusations of disciplinary policy violation shall be addressed by the accused Participant's team and club. In the event that the alleged violations cannot be resolved at the team or club level as to all parties involved, the matter should be reported to the CSA CEO or other representative designated by CSA.
- f.** Within 48 hours of CSA's receipt of a disciplinary complaint CSA staff will inform the Participant accused of a violation(s) of the proposed sanctions or penalties issued to the accused Participant of the reported violation(s). The accused Participant may accept the penalties or may request, within 48 hours of receiving notice, a hearing of the Disciplinary Committee.
- g.** Should a hearing be requested or become necessary, notice will be provided to the Participant(s) and to the club(s) involved. The notice will include:
- i. The name of the Participant being charged/accused;
  - ii. The alleged violation(s) and the events as reported;
  - iii. The relevant rules/bylaws/policies associated with the alleged violation(s);
  - iv. The possible sanctions and penalties that may be imposed including expulsion; suspension; community service; completion of education modules; and warnings.
  - v. The date, time and location of the hearing;
  - vi. The procedural rules applicable to the hearing;
  - vii. The timeframe for a decision to be rendered.
- h.** As provided for in the CSA By-laws, any disciplinary event shall be heard by a hearing panel of the Disciplinary Committee within 7 business days from the date the CSA received the request for hearing. If more time is needed to prepare a defense, and/or

the time and place is not practicable for the accused Participant, a request for additional time may be made and will not be unreasonably withheld. Repeated requests for delay may be denied except in the case of extraordinary circumstances.

- i.** The hearing panel will consist of only disinterested persons. Should a person who normally serves on the hearing panel be involved in the incident in question or have any other potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest, they shall recuse themselves and an alternate person shall be appointed according to the Disciplinary Committee procedure set for in the CSA Bylaws.
- j.** Should a Participant require assistance of any type in the hearing, assistance shall be allowed. Any person assisting the party shall only be allowed to speak at the hearing if permitted by the Disciplinary Committee.
- k.** All Participants have the right to call and confront witnesses. Should a witness be unable to attend the hearing, the hearing panel may consider any written statements and the accused Participant shall have the opportunity to answer the allegations in any written statements. Participants shall be notified of witnesses in reasonable time prior to the hearing. Should a Participant have no notice of a witness, that Participant may request a delay in the hearing. The hearing panel shall consider the specific circumstances and importance of the witness when considering a delay request.
- l.** Each Participant has 60 minutes to present their case, in its entirety, including any witness testimony. Additional time may be granted by the chair of the hearing panel.
- m.** A record shall be kept of the hearing. The record is anticipated to be an electronic recording, but when not possible, the record shall consist of notes kept by a disinterested, unassociated third party.
- n.** The hearing panel shall issue a written decision based solely on the evidence of record. The written decision shall be rendered within 7 days of the conclusion of the hearing, unless a different time frame is agreed to in advance by the principal Participants. The specific evidence which led to the decision shall be included within the written decision, as well as any penalty to be imposed and any appeal rights available.
- o.** Notice of the substantive and material action of the hearing panel in the course of proceeding shall be provided should the panel decide during the course of the hearing that it needs to proceed in some way that was not originally planned (i.e. considering new witnesses or asking for additional arguments).
- p.** No ex parte communication is permitted between a Participant and any person involved in making a decision or procedural determination, except to clarify procedures to be followed.
- q.** Any appeal of the decision of the hearing panel of the Disciplinary Committee shall be made to the Protests and Appeals Committee. Notice of the appeal shall be sent to the CSA CEO.

#### **17.4. GENERAL DISCIPLINARY PROVISIONS**

- a.** Any suspension stated in these rules shall commence with the next sanctioned game in which the suspended individual would otherwise be eligible to participate. In any

game, whether in-state or out-of-state, that a participant is "sitting out", it is the responsibility of the coach or team representative to inform the referee of the name of the individual not participating. It is also the responsibility of the coach or team representative to provide written evidence for the "sitting out" which satisfies CSA as to its authenticity. It is not the ultimate responsibility of the referee to report a player's or coaches "sit out". Any participant other than a player who wishes credit for sitting out must be more than 100 yards from the field of play.

- b.** Participants whose misconduct outside of Colorado is reported to CSA shall be subject to CSA discipline as though the offense had occurred in Colorado. The written or verbal report must be received by CSA within 90 days of the date of the misconduct, in order for the participant to be subject to CSA discipline.
- c.** During a participant's probation period the accumulation of three stand-alone cautions or one send-off shall require the participant to appear before the DC.
- d.** Any participant who is suspended for a total of 4 games during any 365-day period shall be automatically suspended for an additional four (4) games and shall automatically be placed on probation for a period of six (6) months. This rule does not apply as a result of a disciplinary hearing.

## Section 18: Protest & Appeals

**18.1.** The line of authority for protests and appeals shall be as follows:

- a. CSA Disciplinary Committee Hearing Panel,
- b. CSA Protest and Appeals Committee,
- c. USSF Appeals Committee.
- d. No protest or appeal shall be heard or determined by the next higher authority until a decision on the matter has been rendered by the lower authority. Any higher authority may decide any protest or appeal upon review of the record of proceedings and decision of the lower authority.

**18.2.** Any person wishing to protest (or appeal) must submit a written Notice of Protest (or Notice of Appeal) to the CSA office, which Notice is postmarked or delivered within 5 calendar days following the date of the alleged violation or misapplication (or in the case of an appeal, following the date that the person received notice of the action or decision being appealed). The Notice of Protest (or Notice of Appeal) must set forth the protesters (or appellants) full name, address, and telephone numbers (home and work); describe each violation or misapplication (or describe the action or decision being appealed), state the relief or redress sought; and be accompanied by the required fee. Any protest (or appeal) which does not substantially comply with the requirements of this paragraph may be summarily dismissed by the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee Hearing Panel.

**18.3.** FEES

- a. The CSA protest and appeals fee is two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for each protest or appeal. All protest and appeals monies are non-refundable.

**18.4.** Any protest or appeal which the Protest and Appeals Committee determines to be lacking in good faith or substantial justification shall be grounds for disciplinary action against the protester/appellant.

**18.5.** A properly filed protest or appeal of an action against an individual shall delay the effect of the protested action or ruling pending decision by the Protest and Appeals Committee. Decision of the Disciplinary Committee, Protest and Appeals Committee, and/or Board of Directors, directed against a team and/or club shall stand and be in full force and effect until changed by a higher authority.

**18.6.** No CSA affiliated club or individual member may invoke the aid of any court in Colorado or in the United States without first exhausting all available remedies within the body of organized soccer. For violation of this rule, the offending party or parties shall be subject to suspension from this organization and any affiliated organization and be liable for all expenses incurred for legal costs and time of any officials of this organization or any affiliated organization. These include court fees, attorneys' fees, compensation for time spent by CSA/USSF offices and employees, travel expenses and expenses for special meetings necessitated by said court actions.



# Tournament and Travel

## Section 19: Team Travel Procedures

- 19.1.** Travel applications are recommended to be submitted to CSA at least thirty (30) days prior to travel to guarantee approval.
- 19.2.** Any CSA team wishing to travel to USYS state sanctioned tournaments outside the jurisdiction of CSA (out of state travel) shall submit the following:
- a.** A properly completed "Application for Travel,"
  - b.** Approved Application to Host form from the tournament,
  - c.** Copy of approved league roster,
  - d.** CSA teams within West Region do not need required documents listed above (Section 16.2, a-c)
- 19.3.** Any CSA team wishing to travel to a tournament not sanctioned by a USYS state association shall complete the request to postpone section of the Application to Travel form if travel is scheduled during league play. Teams will not be covered by the CSA insurance for travel, nor will they be denied the right to travel.
- 19.4.** CSA teams participating in non-USYS sanctioned events cannot use CSA rosters or a USYS member/player pass, nor will they be provided any documentation or insurance when traveling to or participating in these non-USYS sanctioned events.
- 19.5.** INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL- Travel outside the United States requires approval of USSF. All teams requesting International Travel approval must submit the following thirty (30) days prior to travel date:
- a.** All documents as listed for out of state travel,
  - b.** USSF Application (must be original. No fax copy will be accepted.),
  - c.** Copy of official brochure, pamphlet, invitation, or other applicable material of the tournament or games host,
  - d.** Copy of official roster of applying team which is in good standing, which includes all players and team officials, signed and/or stamped by appropriate registrar,
  - e.** International Travel Fees,
    - i.** \$50.00 made payable to U.S. Soccer
- 19.6.** NOTE: Notification of International Travel approval or denial will be sent directly to the team's coach or team representative and the Tournament Director or Host Organization.

## Section 20: Participation in CSA Sanctioned Tournaments

- 20.1.** Only teams and participants in good standing with CSA/USYS/USSF and affiliated organizations may participate in tournaments sanctioned by CSA. Participants and teams playing in tournaments that have not been sanctioned by CSA or USYS will not have the privileges, benefits, and protection of CSA. All players and coaches must have USYS player/coaches passes before each game played in any CSA sanctioned tournament.
- 20.2.** All tournaments sanctioned by CSA shall adhere to and abide by all Articles of Incorporation, By Laws, and Rules and Procedures of CSA.
- 20.3.** If an assault on a referee occurs in a Colorado event/tournament by a player from another state, the referee shall immediately notify the Event/Tournament Chairman and forward a copy of the game report and his/her comments on the incident to the Event/Tournament Chairman on the day of the incident, and the National State Association President and the player's home state within ten (10) days. The Event/Tournament chairman shall have the right to immediately convene a hearing at the site of the event/tournament, at which the player, his/her coach and the game official shall be present. The Event/Tournament Chairman shall promptly relay action taken at this hearing to the player's State President, verbally and in writing.
- 20.4.** Obtaining a CSA Sanction for and running a CSA Sanctioned Event. See Addendum- CSA Tournament Manual.

## High School, Adult Games and Other Matters

### Section 21: Play During a High School Season

- 21.1.** A player who is a member of a high school soccer team should consult all applicable Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) rules concerning State League play during the high school season.
- 21.2.** A player who is a member of a high school soccer team may participate with a CSA Colorado Select, an extension of ODP, during the high school season only with appropriate written approval from the school.
- 21.3.** A player who is not a member of a high school soccer team may play in the 15U-19U age groups of the CSA Front Range League during the appropriate high school season. A participant in this league may return to his or her competitive team for the regular CSA league competition. Neither the player nor the competitive team shall be in violation of transfer rules.

## Section 22: Adult Games

- 22.1.** A youth player may play an unlimited number of adult games without losing his or her youth eligibility. The youth player must notify his or her youth coach or authorized team official of the player's intention to play adult games. The youth player shall request, in writing:
- a.** Eligibility clearance from the Youth State Association through which the player is registered.
  - b.** Permission from the appropriate Adult State Association. When the clearance and permission have been granted, the Adult State Association has sole discretion in permitting a youth player to play adult games and will be responsible for establishing the procedures under which the youth player will be allowed to play. In the event of a conflict between an adult game and a youth game, the youth game shall take precedence. A youth player who is required to sign an adult form shall retain youth eligibility.
- 22.2.** A youth team with the written permission and mutual consent of both the Youth and Adult State Associations may play in an adult-approved league and not lose its youth eligibility to compete in the US Youth Soccer National Championship competitions. If the youth team's players are required to sign an adult form, the team shall retain its youth eligibility.
- 22.3.** The youth team will be required to play under the rule of the Youth State Association concerning registration, roster rules, transfer rules, and any additional qualifications that are required to be eligible for the US Youth Soccer National Championship competitions. Whether participation in any adult league shall qualify a youth team for the US Youth Soccer National Championship competitions play shall be determined by each Youth State Association.

## Section 23: Insurance

- 23.1.** Participants who are registered with CSA have secondary medical insurance coverage when participating in USYS sanctioned activities.
- 23.2.** All known potentially significant injuries shall be reported in writing to CSA by the referee.
- 23.3.** All injury claims against the medical insurance program shall be reported to CSA within thirty (30) days of the occurrence of the injury on the proper insurance form. Forms are to be properly completed and signed by appropriate parties. Forms are available on the [CSA website](#).

## **Section 24: Alcohol, Drugs of Abuse, Controlled Substance, and Firearms**

**24.1.** The possession, consumption, or use of any alcoholic beverage, drug of abuse or controlled substance or the possession or use of any firearm at the field area by any player, coach, referee, team official or spectator prior to, during or after the playing of any CSA activity is prohibited. Any individual who violates this prohibition shall be subject to disciplinary action by CSA.

## **Section 25: Matters Not Provided For**

**25.1.** The above rules and procedures are not meant to be all-inclusive. Matters not provided for or extraordinary circumstances shall be brought to the attention of the CSA Board of Directors for determination and appropriate action.

# Appendices

## **Appendix 1 (Misconduct Towards Game Officials)**

### Section 1. General

Colorado Soccer Association (CSA) is fully committed to protecting every participant in the game of soccer from abuse and assault (misconduct). CSA recognizes that the participants who are the subject of the greatest misconduct are referees. Misconduct against referees may occur before, during and after the match, including travel to or from the match. Misconduct may occur also at later times when directly related to duties of a game official as a referee. This policy addresses misconduct towards game officials by Organization Members, players, coaches, managers, club officials, tournament officials and spectators at Colorado Soccer sanctioned games and tournaments. It defines the standard sanctions for misconduct toward game officials.

### Section 2. Addressing Misconduct During a Match

Though general dissent toward a referee is unfortunately commonplace, it is particularly unacceptable when directed toward a youth referee, and may result in a mandatory report to SafeSport and/or a National Governing Body. When possible misconduct is occurring during a match the following apply;

- (1) Any referee subjected to abuse is authorized to dismiss and eject the abuser immediately and without warning in accordance with Law 5 of the Laws of the Game.
- (2) Coaches and spectators are not entitled to, but may request, clarifications or an explanation for referee decisions. The referee may, at his/her discretion, provide clarification or an explanation of a decision.
- (3) Coaches are expected to intervene as necessary to monitor and control the conduct and behavior of players and spectators during and immediately after matches. A referee can request the help of the coach to address spectator misbehavior in the event that the referee is unable to.

### Section 3. Policy Application

- (1) This policy shall supersede any inconsistent rules of Organization Members that pertain to assault or abuse upon Federation referees, assistant referees, as well as the manner and means of hearings and appeals in matters pertaining thereto.
- (2) Nothing in this policy shall be construed to restrict or limit any league, event/tournament or Organization Member from applying equal or greater restrictions to anyone not listed in this policy (i.e., a spectator associated with a club or team).

### Section 4. Terms and References

As used in this policy --

- (1) "Referee" includes the following:
  - (a) all currently registered USSF referees, assistant referees, fourth officials or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match.

- (b) any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee.
  - (c) any club assistant referee.
- (2) "Hearing" means a meeting of at least three neutral members, one of whom is designated or elected to serve as chairman. The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to guidelines established by Colorado Soccer Association.
- (3) "Referee assault" is defined as follows:
- (a) Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee.
    - i. For purposes of this policy, "intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.
  - (b) Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.
- (4) "Referee abuse" is defined as follows:
- (a) Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.
  - (b) Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul, threatening or abusive language toward a referee that expressly or impliedly suggests or threatens physical harm; spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; spitting at (but not on) the referee; or words or behavior that threatens, intimidates, or demeans the referee.

## Section 5. Jurisdiction and Hearings

### (1) General

- (a) When any amateur or professional player, coach, manager, club official, spectator or game official assaults or abuses a referee, during, before or after a match sanctioned by Colorado Soccer Association the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in Colorado Soccer Association.
- (b) When an allegation of assault is verified by Colorado Soccer, the person committing the infraction is automatically suspended, pursuant to CSA Rules and Procedures 17.5.

### (2) Events and Tournaments

- (a) In the event an assault or abuse of a referee occurs in an event outside of Colorado by a player, coach, manager, club official, spectator or game official registered by Colorado Soccer Association, the referee shall (A) immediately notify the Event/Tournament Chairman, and (B) forward a copy of the game report and his/her comments on the incident to the Event/Tournament Chairman.
- (b) The Event/Tournament Chairman shall have the right to immediately convene a hearing at the site of the Event/Tournament, at which the alleged offender, the coach of the alleged offender when the offender is a player and the game official should be present. Information presented at this hearing shall promptly be relayed to Colorado Soccer Association by the coach or assistant coach of the alleged offender and by the Event/Tournament Chairman, both orally and in writing;

however, failure to provide written information shall not restrict Colorado Soccer from taking action with regard to any referee abuse or assault.

- (c) Final jurisdiction shall vest with Colorado Soccer for all Colorado Soccer Association registered participants. A hearing shall be held by within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the initial report of the abuse or assault on a referee per CSA and USSF policies and procedures regarding disciplinary proceedings, should one be requested following receipt of sanctions levied by the CSA Disciplinary Committee.

## Section 6. Penalties and Suspensions

### (1) Assault

(a) The person committing the referee assault must be suspended as follows:

- i. for a minor or slight touching of the referee or the referee's uniform or personal property, at least 3 months from the time of the assault;
- ii. except as provided in clause (i) or (ii), for any other assault, at least 6 months from the time of the assault:
  1. for an assault committed by an adult and the referee is 17 years of age or younger, at least 3 years; or
  2. for an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least 5 years.

(b) Colorado Soccer Association may not provide shorter period of suspension but, if circumstances warrant, may provide a longer period of suspension.

### (2) Abuse

(a) The minimum suspension period for referee abuse shall be at least three (3) scheduled matches within the rules of that competition. Colorado Soccer Association may provide a longer period of suspension when circumstances warrant (e.g., habitual offenders).

## Section 7. Appeals

A person who is found to have committed abuse and/or assault may request a hearing in front of the CSA Disciplinary Hearing Panel following receipt of sanctions levied by the CSA Disciplinary Committee. Procedure of further appeal process is pursuant to CSA and USSF policies and procedures regarding disciplinary proceedings.

## **Appendix 2 (Misconduct Of Game Officials)**

### Section 1. Terms and References

(A) "Game officials" includes the following:

- (1) All currently registered USSF referees, assistant referees, fourth officials or others appointed to assist in officiating in a match.
- (2) Any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee (under Rule 3040).
- (3) Any club assistant referee.
- (4) Any referee development program person performing any official function at a match.

(B) "Referee development program person" includes any referee, referee administrator, referee assessor, referee instructor, referee assignor, or other person serving in such

capacity in a line or supervisory position, including members of any referee committee appointed by the Federation, its Divisions, Affiliates or Associates, a State Association, or a competition, tournament or other appropriate authority.

- (C) "Hearing" means a meeting of at least five members, one of which is designated or elected to serve as Chairman. The Chairman of a hearing shall not vote except to break a tie vote. Such members, including the Chairman, shall not be the State Referee Administrator, the State Director of Referee Instruction, the State Director of Referee Assessment, a Federation National or FIFA Referee, or any other member of the State Referee Administration. The hearing panel shall be appointed by the State Referee Administrator and/or the Director of Referees.
- (D) "State Association" shall be that Colorado Soccer Association. Colorado Soccer Association has legal authority within the state to administer the registration of the referee or the appointment of the referee development program person charged.

## Section 2. Procedures

### (A) Misconduct at a Match

When any game official is accused of having committed misconduct toward another game official, participant, or spectator at a match, or of having a conflict of interest, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in Colorado Soccer Association if it has sanctioned the match in question.

### (B) Misconduct Away from a Match

When any game official, referee, referee assistant or referee development program person is accused of unethical conduct, misuse or abuse of authority or conflict of interest in any matter in the pursuit of or may affect the individual's official dealings within and as authorized by the Federation, its Divisions, Affiliates or Associates, a State Association or Organization Member, or a competition, tournament or other appropriate authority, the matter shall vest immediately in the State Association through which the accused game official is registered or through which the referee development program person is appointed.

(C) Any allegation of misconduct or of conflict of interest by a game official as described by subsection (A) of this section, or of unethical conduct, misuse or abuse of authority or conflict of interest as described by subsection (B) of this section, shall be made in writing to the State Referee Administrator or to the State Association(s) or Organization Member that shall report all such allegations including any allegations against the State Referee Administrator, to the State Association(s) or Organization Members through which the accused game official is registered or through which the accused referee development program person is appointed.

(D) Upon receipt by Colorado Soccer Association of a verified written complaint, a hearing shall be conducted within 30 days from verification pursuant to guidelines established by Colorado Soccer Association as provided by subsection (A) or (B) of this section.

- (E)The Chairman of the hearing committee shall transmit the findings of the committee in writing to all parties concerned including the accused and the accusers and to the State Association(s) or Organization Member within seven days of the hearing.
- (F)Any party subject to penalties shall receive, at the time of notification of the decision, a notice of the rights of appeal and a copy of the procedures and deadline dates required for such an appeal to be properly considered. Time for filing an appeal shall start with the date official receipt of the decision by the party making the appeal.

### Section 3. Penalties

- (A)The severity of the penalty imposed upon an individual shall be determined by the decision-making body having jurisdiction.
- (B)Penalties may be among the following:
  - (1)letter of reprimand;
  - (2)a fine;
  - (3)suspension from all active participation as a Federation-sanctioned referee for a fixed period of time;
  - (4)suspension from all active participation in the Federation for a fixed period of time;
  - (5)any combination of clauses (1), (2), (3) or (4) of this subsection, and;
  - (6)dismissal from the Federation.
- (C)Any individual while under suspension from all Federation activity may not take part in any activity sponsored by the Federation or its members.

### Section 4. Appeals

- (A)Any game official who is found guilty of misconduct as defined in this rule may appeal the decision of the hearing committee as follows:
  - (1)To the CSA Protest and Appeals Committee, as laid out in CSA rules and procedures regarding the disciplinary process, with committee members appointed by the State Referee Administrator and/or the Director of Referees in conjunction with the President of the Board of Directors;
  - (2)to the Federation Appeals Committee as provided under Federation Bylaw 705.

The party appealing the decision of a committee shall have ten (10) days to file the notice of appeal of a decision. Time for filing an appeal shall start with the date of official receipt of the decision by the party making the appeal.