



**PRO<sup>23</sup>**

**AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION (USSF),  
UNITED STATES YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (USYS),  
VIRGINIA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (VYSA),  
MARYLAND STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (MSYSA),  
AND METRO DC-VIRGINIA SOCCER ASSOCIATION INC. (MDCVSA)**

**CCL PRO<sup>23</sup>  
RULES AND PROCEDURES  
Approved December 31, 2019**

**CLUB CHAMPIONS LEAGUE, INC.**

1683 Monet Hill, Charlottesville, Virginia 22911

# GENERAL

The Club Champions League (CCL) is a corporation as defined in the United States and the State of Virginia statutes whose principal purpose is to promote youth travel, amateur and adult soccer.

To insure the efficient and effective accomplishment of the purpose of the League, Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, and a Rules and Procedures Manual have been established. Properly registered clubs, teams and/or players abiding by the standards, guidelines, policies and procedures outlined in these documents will be deemed in “Good Standing.”

These Rules and Procedures apply to CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> equally unless otherwise noted.

Lack of knowledge of these CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Rules will not relieve any Coach, Team Official, Parent or Player of a team participating in CCL PRO<sup>23</sup>, or seeking entry into CCL PRO<sup>23</sup>, from the responsibilities and possible penalties herein. ALL CLUBS, TEAM OFFICIALS, PARENTS AND PLAYERS, BY PARTICIPATING IN CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> PLAY, AGREE THAT THEY ARE BOUND BY THESE RULES.

All CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> matches will be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game except as modified in these League Rules and Procedures.

The term “Director” as used in this document means the club member of the CCL Board of Directors, the Primary Contact of any provisional club or his/her designee. The designee must be named by the Director, and the opposing Director or Directors must be notified of the designee’s name and contact information. Directors are expected to be present at all CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> matches, or if unavoidably detained, available by cell phone. If the rule or procedure requires official action by the Board of Directors, use of a designee is prohibited.

CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Rules and Procedures may not be modified or waived by individual Directors unless permitted in the Rules and Procedures for a specific rule or procedure. Unless prohibited by the CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Rules and Procedures, games will be played and recorded as a forfeit for the offending teams. The forfeit will be declared prior to the start of the game.

## **I. PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**

The philosophy of CCL and CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> is that the player is a member of the Club as well as a member of the team. To provide the greatest opportunity for players to develop, the league has implemented the following rules:

### **A. The Club Development System**

CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> is open to Under 16 to Under 23 players registered to a CCL club through Metro DC-Virginia Soccer Association, Inc. (“MDCVSA”). No games may be played with a non-MDCVSA-registered player.

1. The Director of the club with a player(s) under the age of 19 (birth year 2002) must notify the Director of the opposing club prior to game time.
2. All CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> players must be on an official MDCVSA roster and have a member player pass or other acceptable identification.
3. A CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Official Matchday Roster listing all players who will participate in the game and their jersey numbers must be given to the referee prior to the start of the game.
4. Player pass checks are not required for league games. However, player passes or proper identification (picture and date of birth), matching the CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Official Matchday Roster, must be present at the game.
5. A registered player may play in more than one CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> match for their club in one day.

## **II. CLUB/PLAYER/TEAM ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION**

### **A. Club Eligibility/Registration with League:**

In January, each active member shall submit fees in full based on its declaration of CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Men's and Women's teams for the next seasonal year, as approved by the Board of Directors.

1. Fees for CCL member club teams are: \$2,020.00 per team which includes 20 MDCVSA player registration fees.
2. Fees for non-CCL member club teams are: \$3,020.00 per team which includes 20 MDCVSA player registration fees.
3. The seasonal fees for each team shall include referee fees; (4) officials at each match.
4. The seasonal fees for non-CCL member clubs shall include two (1) adidas Champions League mandated match ball per team. CCL member clubs will use their seasonal youth allocation provided by league.
5. The seasonal fees for each team shall include 20 MDCVSA player registration fees. The league will invoice any additional player registrations fees.
6. Fee for clubs more than 30 days in arrears shall be an additional \$750.00 per Club.

### **B. Player Registration with Club: CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> recognizes the registration of players with its member clubs prior to registration with MDCVSA:**

1. Registration with a CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> club occurs when a player accepts placement with the club in writing, electronically or on-line for the next seasonal year.
2. Movement of players registered with a CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> club prior to being registered/rostered with MDCVSA.
  - a. A player may leave the club but will be subject to all financial obligations to the club if stated in the club rules and/or policies available to the player and/or parent(s) in writing prior to the player registering with another club.
3. Players who have outstanding financial obligations to a member club will be ineligible to register with and play for any other member club until the obligation is satisfied provided:
  - a. The obligation is part of the stated club rules and/or policies available to the player and parent(s) in writing prior to the player registering with the club.
  - b. The player and his/her parent(s) were notified by certified mail that 1) the obligation was outstanding, 2) the obligation will be reported to the member clubs by a named date, and 3) the player has the right to appeal the obligation through a stated club appeals process.
  - c. The member clubs are notified in writing or electronically of the player's name, MDCVSA ID number, and financial status with the club PRIOR to May 1 of the current seasonal year.
  - d. Documentation of (a), (b) and (c) above is the responsibility of the club.
  - e. Outstanding financial obligations to the club for USYS, US Club Soccer or other club-sponsored activities are covered by this policy.

### **C. Player/Team Registration with MDCVSA: All players must be registered with the Metro DC-Virginia Soccer Association, Inc. The official MDCVSA League and Tournament Roster (official roster) is**

prepared and submitted for validation to the Assigned Registrar prior to the commencement of the soccer year (September 1 through August 31 and most specifically CCL PRO<sup>23</sup>, June 1 – July 31). Only those players included on a current Official Roster shall be deemed duly registered by MDCVSA. Changes to the official roster must be processed through the Assigned Registrar who initially registered the team. Registration resources are available through the CCL and MDCVSA.

1. Player passes or proper identification (picture and date of birth), matching the CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Official Matchday Roster, may be used. A Player pass may be issued to all players and team officials and remains valid through the seasonal year, September 1 through August 31. If a player changes teams, the league office and league registrar will need to approve the movement of the player for that new team. Once a player is approved to move to a new team, the player is eligible to be added to the new team's CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Official Matchday Roster. CCL and MDCVSA will approve the roster changes in compliance with MDCVSA Registration Policies and Procedures.
2. Each registered player is covered, September 1 through August 31, by secondary medical and liability insurance as part of his/her registration.
3. Roster Size: Team rosters shall be composed of registered MDCVSA players as follows:

	Minimum #	Maximum #
U23	7	Unlimited

\* NOTE: Although an Unlimited man roster is permitted for CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> teams, 20 players may be present in uniform to play in league games. The CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Official Matchday Roster will include only 20 players.

- a. There will be unlimited over-23 (birth year 1997 and older) players on the official team roster.
- b. There will be a maximum of (5) over-23 (birth year 1997 and older) players on a Matchday Roster.

- D. A team/player must be properly registered with MDCVSA prior to participation in league activities. Failure to meet this requirement will automatically result in forfeiture of any matches played while improperly registered. The Executive Committee, at their discretion, may also take appropriate disciplinary action against team officials who knowingly allow an unregistered player to participate in league match play.

### III. RECRUITMENT

- A. The CCL is opposed to the practice of recruiting players from one CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> club to another at any time during the seasonal year, and in particular, from the start of registration until the conclusion of the season at the end of July. The procedures outlined below govern player movement. CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> coaches and/or team or club officials who willfully recruit or attempt to recruit a player or players from a team participating in CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee.
  1. Any team may conduct publicly announced open tryouts to acquire players. Any player and/or his/her parents or guardians may initiate direct contact with any coach or team/club official for the purpose of joining that team.
  2. No coach or team/club officials affiliated with a CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> club may initiate contact with a prospective player or his/her parents with the intent of recruiting that player if the prospective player is listed on the official roster of another CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> club team.
  3. Transfers:
    - a. Any player rostered to a team in a CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> club (this includes MDCVSA teams that do not play in CCL PRO<sup>23</sup>) is ineligible to transfer to any other team affiliated with another CCL



PRO<sup>23</sup> club (this includes teams that do not play in CCL PRO<sup>23</sup>) within the same seasonal year except as follows:

- i. If both Directors agree, each Director must submit approval via email documentation to the League Office.
  - b. Transferring to a team affiliated with another league after being released from a CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> club team does not make the player eligible to then transfer to another CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> club team.
- B. Coaches and/or team/club officials who violate any of the above procedures shall be deemed to have recruited the player. Recruitment complaints shall be submitted in writing to the League Office within 30 days of the violation.

Any complaint will be reviewed by a Rules & Discipline Committee consisting of all the Executive Committee, excluding the Directors of the clubs named in the complaint. If the complaint is determined to be valid, a hearing will be held in accordance with Section XVI. BOARDS OF INQUIRY OR HEARINGS. If the Committee finds a recruiting violation has occurred, the Committee may impose one or more penalties including, but not limited to: forfeiture of one or more games, fines, and temporary or permanent suspension from CCL club activities.

- C. Protests of illegal players should be made prior to the start of the game. Illegal/ineligible players include:
- a. Player not listed on the official team roster.
  - b. Player not meeting the age requirement of the league.
  - c. Player serving a Red Card suspension.
  - d. Player without valid identification (picture and date of birth).

Any complaint will be reviewed by a Rules & Discipline Committee consisting of all the Executive Committee, excluding the Directors of the clubs named in the complaint. If the complaint is determined to be valid, a hearing will be held in accordance with Section XVI. BOARDS OF INQUIRY OR HEARINGS. If the Committee finds a recruiting violation has occurred, the Committee may impose one or more penalties including, but not limited to: forfeiture of one or more games, fines, and temporary or permanent suspension from CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> club activities.

#### **IV. FIELDS/GOALS/MATCH LENGTH/BALL SIZE**

##### A. Acceptable Playing Fields

1. Each club should invest whatever resources are necessary to adhere to league standards for fields.
2. Clubs must make a reasonable effort to meet field size and condition standards. Repeated failures to do so could result in league sanctions including forfeiture of the right to host matches.
3. Each club must have (1) backup field available in case of inclement weather.
4. An exception to the above shall be a letter from another club or organization allowing a club to play on that club's field(s).
5. Field requirements:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
U23	70 x 105	80 x 120	75 x 115

Turf Field sizes will be as close as possible to sizes above.

##### B. Field Preparation

1. The club sponsoring the home team shall be responsible for the following:

- a. Fields shall be legibly marked in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- b. Grass shall be cut at an even height. The height shall not impede the movement of the ball nor the players.
- c. Goals shall be secured or weighted to the ground to ensure safety.
- d. Nets shall be in serviceable condition and securely affixed to the goals.
- e. Corner flags shall be placed and conform to the specifications of the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- f. Team benches shall be provided for the home and away team.
- g. Water shall be provided for the home and away teams, and referees.

2. The referee may refuse to allow match play if, in her/her opinion, the field is improperly prepared.

C. Match Length and Ball Size:

Division	Length	Ball Size
U23	45m halves	5

Match Length	Time Block
45 min. halves	2 hours

- a. There shall be a 10-minute interval between halves.
- b. Regular season CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> matches ending in a draw at the end of regulation time will remain tied.
- c. CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Semifinals and Finals will play until a winner is determined. Two 10-minute overtime periods will be played. If at the end of the two overtime periods no winner has been determined, and under IFAB Laws of the Game, penalty kicks will determine the winner.
- d. The Executive Committee will have the authority to modify the length of a match at any time.

D. Game Balls

- a. The CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> adidas Champions League game ball must be used for all CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> matches.
- b. The home team is responsible for providing the properly inflated CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> adidas game ball(s) and a minimum of (1) adidas game balls for all home games.
- c. The away team is responsible for bringing the properly inflated CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> game ball to all away games. The CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> away game ball must be used if the home team ball is unplayable to keep the flow of the match.

**V. PLAYER EQUIPMENT**

- A. Shoes must meet IFAB Laws of the Game specification.
- B. Shin guards for all players and goalkeepers are MANDATORY. Socks must cover entire shin guard.
- C. When the color of jerseys is similar or identical and the match official requests a change, the HOME team must change colors.
- D. With the exception of the goalkeeper, all players must have uniforms with individual numbers on the shirt. The goalkeeper's shirt must be easily distinguishable from all other players and referees.



- E. Players must wear jerseys whose numbers correspond with the numbers on the team's CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Official Matchday Roster. Jersey numbers for all players must be entered on the CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Official Matchday Roster.
- F. No jewelry of any kind may be worn (excluding corrective glasses and wedding bands.)
- G. Players who are wearing corrective glasses may be allowed to play at the discretion of the referee.
- H. Casts are permitted if properly padded.
- I. CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> MANDATES that the home club provide one certified athletic trainer (ATC) to be present. The referee may start the match without an ATC present. If an ATC is not present, a player removed with a head injury that player may not return unless cleared by an ATC.
- J. CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> strongly encourages the use of sun screen and other protective measures as outlined in our Sun Safe Soccer program.
- K. Pursuant to VYSA and MSYSA, CCL requires clubs to implement a concussion policy, provide education and other protective measures.

## VI. SPECTATOR AND COACHING AREAS

- A. All coaches, players, and spectators will remain eighteen (18) yards from the goal lines.
- B. Coaches and players are to take opposite sides of the field from the spectators.
  - a. Spectators are encouraged to be on the opposite side (same half of field) as their team, facing their team bench.
  - b. Conditions A) and B) above are waived if playing in a stadium and the structure of the stadium does not allow the conditions.
- C. No coaching may take place from behind the goal lines.
- D. All coaches and spectators must remain at least one (1) meter from the touchline at all times.
- E. Coaches and bench players must remain within the technical area.
  - a. Bench players may leave the technical area to warmup, off the field of play, and on their half of the field.
  - b. Anyone else will be asked to leave the player's bench area and return to the spectator's side of the field.

## VII. SUBSTITUTIONS

CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> mandates no re-entry in a half. Substitutions may be made at the discretion of the referee at any time, under IFAB Laws of the Game, and/or at the following times:

1. Prior to a throw-in by the team in possession; if a substitution is made by the team in possession, the opposing team may also make a substitution.
2. Prior to a goal kick by either team.
3. After a goal has been scored by either team.
4. At the beginning of the second half of play.

5. After an injury.
6. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops play.
7. After the issuance of a caution, for the offending player. Opposing team may also substitute an equal number of players.

## **VIII. CANCELLED/TERMINATED MATCHES**

Participation in League play carries the responsibility to abide by the League Schedule, playing all matches, as scheduled, unless compelling reasons exist to reschedule.

### **A. Rainouts**

1. In the event of inclement weather or at any time there is a doubt as to the playability of the fields, the home club director shall notify the visiting club director in appropriate time allowed for driving distances. The following actions are required by the home team:
  - a. Home Club Directors shall verify the conditions of their fields.
  - b. Clubs canceling a match(es) due to weather or other conditions shall be responsible for notifying the opposing Director or alternate.
2. If the fields are under the control of another club or activity (e.g., schools, park authorities) and these organizations determine playability of fields, club Representatives must coordinate closely to ensure early decisions and proper notifications are made.

### **B. Referee Decision of Unplayable Conditions**

1. A referee may suspend or terminate a match due to weather conditions, i.e., lightning, rain, fog, etc. before or during a match. Under these conditions, the referee's decision is final. If at least half of the match has been played, the match shall be deemed completed and the score shall stand.
2. Liability for the referee fee shall be determined by the Referee's Association Contract and the league.
3. Inconvenience to the visiting team who has traveled or may travel to the site cannot be helped if weather conditions worsen during the visiting team's travel time.

### **C. Failure to Field a Team**

1. Unless the club is notified by PHONE CALL a minimum of five (5) days prior to the scheduled match date, and approval is received to reschedule, a team must field a minimum of seven (7) players at the scheduled start time.
2. When a match is declared a forfeit due to a team's failure to field seven (7) players, the following actions are required:
  - a. The Offended Team shall notify CCL Executive Director within 24 hours of the cancellation.
  - b. The Offending Team shall submit, in writing, within 48 hours their reasons for failure to field a team.
  - c. The Board of Directors shall review the written explanation and may impose one or more of the following penalties:
    - i. A fine in an amount equal to the referee fees.
    - ii. Forfeiture of the match, and/or



- iii. A penalty of \$375.00, equal to league referee fees, to be paid to the Treasurer prior to the next scheduled match.
- d. If the Offending Team fails to submit a written reason, all of the penalties outlined above shall be automatically levied.
- h. Repeat offenses will be subject to additional action by the Board of Directors.

**IX. RESCHEDULING**

- A. Matches cancelled due to weather or other compelling reasons will be rescheduled at another date (makeup date) mutually agreed to by the two Directors.
- B. If no mutual date is set, the matches must be played on a League Scheduled makeup date.
- C. If a mutual date is set, both teams are obligated to play on that date. The Home club should notify the league office of the rescheduled date so that referees can be coordinated.
- D. All matches must be played prior to a posted regular seasonal year end date, prior to playoffs.
- E. Failure to play on makeup date:
  - 1. If one team is unable to play, the game will be recorded as a forfeit for that team.
  - 2. If the makeup date is unplayable due to weather or other reason beyond the control of both teams, the game will be recorded as a tie.
  - 3. If both teams are unable to play, the game will be recorded as a dual forfeit with both teams receiving zero points.
  - 4. If a team fails to provide fields for a rescheduled match, the game will be recorded as a forfeit for that team.

**X. STANDINGS**

- A. The League Office will maintain all standings. Standings for CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> will be published on the CCL website and distributed to the Board of Directors. Scores will be published.
- B. Points shall be awarded as follows:
 

WIN	(3) Three points
TIE	(1) One point
LOSS	(0) Zero points
- C. The team with the most points in each division/conference will be declared Division Champions and/or placed into the CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> playoffs, known as the CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Championships. The format of the CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Championships will be determined by the league, culminating in a Semifinals and Finals format, or end-of-season positional placement playoff (i.e., if one division, #1 vs. #2, #3 vs. #4, etc. or, if two divisions, #1 division A vs. #1 division B, #2 division A vs. #2 division B, etc.).
  - 1. In case of a tie in a Division, where total points are equal, the following tiebreaker will be used:
    - a. Head-to-Head.
    - b. Goal differential.
    - c. Goals against.
    - d. Red cards.



2. If there is no CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Championships in a seasonal year, Division Champions will be awarded a Division Championship Trophy.
3. If there are CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Championships, two trophies will be awarded: CCL Men's PRO<sup>23</sup> Champion and CCL Women's PRO<sup>23</sup> Champion.

## **XI. MATCH REPORTS OR OFFICIAL MATCH REFEREE REPORTS**

Clubs will keep basic statistics for each match and submit to league office for promotional purposes.

## **XII. GAME DAY ROSTERS – ALL TEAMS:**

The CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Official Matchday Roster must be submitted to the referee prior to the start of the match. The CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Official Matchday Roster will list only those players who will participate in the match and their jersey numbers. No individual will be allowed to participate in any league matches or other activities unless a waiver form has been properly completed and the individual has been properly registered. Clubs are responsible for providing CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Official Matchday Roster using the CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Official Matchday Roster Template provided by the league. CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Official Matchday Roster can be printed for each individual team by authorized persons from each club. The number of players on each CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Official Matchday Roster shall be the following:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
U23	7	20

## **XIII. REFEREES/FAILURE TO APPEAR**

THE REFEREES AUTHORITY BEGINS WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT THE MATCH SITE AND CONTINUES UNTIL THEY DEPART THE MATCH SITE.

It is the responsibility of the League to contract with the Official CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Referee Assignor concerning all home club activities, matches, and schedule changes.

- A. CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Divisions: The league, on behalf of CCL clubs, will contract with the Official CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Referee Assignor to provide four (4) USSF certified officials for each match.
- B. The officials are responsible for conducting the matches in accordance with IFAB Laws of the Game and CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Rules and Procedures.
- C. If qualified referees are not available through the Official CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Referee Assignor, the home club may contract with qualified individuals to referee games provided:
  1. such individuals are capable of conducting the matches in accordance with IFAB Laws of the Game and CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Rules and Procedures and
  2. such individuals are registered in the MDCVSA, VYSA or MSYSA database for insurance purposes.
- E. Each CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Referee assigned will be instructed at the beginning of each season that player passes or proper identification (picture and date of birth), matching the CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Official Matchday Roster, will be presented by each club before each CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> game.
- F. Failure to Appear – When request for services was made to the Official CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Referee Assignor.
  1. A certified center referee must be present or the match will enter a 30-minute grace period. If there is no qualified center referee after a 30-minute grace period from the scheduled start time, the match may be cancelled/postponed and rescheduled to another date, or:

2. During the 30-minute grace period:
    - a. The directors may mutually agree to play the game with a substitute certified center referee as long as the game begins within the 30-minute grace period. The directors will agree before the start of the game if the assigned center referee will assume control of the match if he/she arrives late. The substitute center referee will be paid by the home club.
    - b. The directors may mutually agree to cancel the game, and the game will be rescheduled. No referee fee shall be incurred for the cancelled match.
  3. If an assigned/substitute certified center referee is available after the 30-minute grace period, the directors may mutually agree to play a scrimmage game. The substitute center referee will be paid by the home club.
  4. If a certified center referee is present at the scheduled start time but one or both official referee assistants fail to appear at the scheduled start time, the Directors shall mutually appoint club referee assistant(s) and play the match. Club referee assistant(s) who are not certified will be limited to helping with balls in and out of bounds.
- G. Failure to Appear - When request for services was NOT made to the Official CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Referee Assignor:
1. All games will be rescheduled to another date.
  2. The Directors may agree to play scrimmages on a team-by-team basis providing a qualified center referee is present. The scrimmages must fall within the time block allotted for the originally scheduled games.
  3. In case of a dispute, Directors are responsible for providing written confirmation from the Official CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> Referee Assignor to verify that a request for services was made.

#### **XIV. CONDUCT**

##### **A. Standards of Conduct**

The League exists to provide youth, amateur and adults of Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Maryland the opportunity to acquire and develop soccer skills through a higher level of competition. These skills, as well as the individual growth of the players, cannot be nurtured in an environment that permits confrontation, poor sportsmanship, and verbal and physical abuse among spectators, game participants, and game officials. While CCL and CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> cannot dictate the internal administrative rules and regulations of its member clubs, it must provide a framework for governing undesirable behavior within which member clubs must administer their teams. Players are expected to perform in a manner consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship. Coaches and spectators should act in a manner that reinforces the concepts of good sportsmanship.

1. Under no circumstances shall a player, coach, parent or spectator enter the field of play during the match unless invited by the referee.
2. The CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> club and coach are responsible for the actions of parents and spectators on the sidelines. Coaches can be sent off the field or even banned from future games for their misbehavior.
3. Parents and spectators can be asked by the referee to leave the playing site, and if the request is refused, the referee can, at his/ her discretion, terminate the match.
4. If any player, substitute, or coach refuses to leave the playing site immediately after a sending-off by the referee, the referee may terminate the match, and the match will be scored as a forfeit with the offending team losing by a score of 3-0. The referee has the discretionary power to suspend or terminate a match whenever, by reason of the elements, interference by spectators, or other causes, he/she deems such stoppage necessary.

5. Member clubs shall insure that these standards of conduct are distributed and understood throughout their club. Repetition of occurrences of misconduct which show a “disregard for these guidelines” could lead to long-term penalties, up to and including prohibition for further participation.
- B. Send-offs
1. Players
    - a. A player receiving a RED CARD from the referee must sit out the remainder of that match, leaving the playing area immediately and may not return, plus sit out his/her team’s next League match. If the red card is issued in the last League match of the season, the sit-out will be taken in the next League match of the following season. No substitutions may be made for the ejected player during the match in which the red card is issued.
    - b. It is the duty of the CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> club and coach to withhold the red carded player from the next game.
    - c. Any team allowing a player, coach, or team official to participate in a League match while under suspension shall forfeit the match in which the team participates. The coach sponsoring the offending team shall be liable for any referee fees incurred.
  2. Coaches
    - a. A coach receiving a sanction from the referee must leave the field and the area surrounding the field for the remainder of the match. In addition, the coach is prohibited from participating in the next match and is not allowed to be present at the field or in the area surrounding the field.
    - c. It is the coach’s duty to self-impose the appropriate suspension. If a suspended coach participates, enters the field of play, or the area surrounding the field while under suspension, or communicates with the team/team officials via electronic or other means, the team shall forfeit the match and the club sponsoring the team shall be liable for any referee’s fees incurred.
  3. All red cards must be reported to the League Office within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match.

Because of the seriousness of such instances, red cards or sanctions issued after the end of the match or as a result of physical assault, are subject to review by the Directors and more serious penalties, which are not subject to appeal, may be employed. However, see Federation Rule 3041 in regard to referee assault.

CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> has a ‘Zero Tolerance’ policy towards fighting and other violent conduct including, but not limited to spitting, pushing, striking, kicking, and wrestling (“Violent Physical Conduct”). Any player or coach engaging in Violent Physical Conduct (and, in certain cases, the team) will be disciplined pursuant to the rules above and below, and may face civil or criminal charges.

## **XV. VIOLENT PHYSICAL CONDUCT**

- A. Any player or coach that engages in Violent Physical Conduct will be suspended at a minimum from all CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> matches for 1-year from the date of the incident, unless the Board of Directors determines another suspension length.
- B. Any team that accrues a second incident of Violent Physical Conduct during a seasonal year will be suspended at a minimum from the current seasonal year without refund and may also face exclusion from future seasonal year and/or League fines.
- C. Any incident that involves Violent Physical Conduct from more than one player on a team (i.e., a player leaving the bench area to join a fight on the field), will result in the team receiving a suspension

from the League for a minimum of 1-year from the date of incident, unless the Board of Directors determines other means of suspension.

- D. Verbal Abuse of Official. Any player, coach or manager who approaches an official with abusive language, or a hard or threatening tone before, during or after the conclusion of a CCL PRO<sup>23</sup> match, shall be suspended a minimum of one match.
- E. Spitting and Threatening Other Participants. Any player, coach, manager or spectator who spits and/or verbally threatens an opponent, teammate, official, and/or member of the League will be ejected from the match, asked to leave the playing area and go to the parking lot, and will receive a 1-year suspension from CCL PRO<sup>23</sup>.

## **XVI. PROTESTS**

### **F. General**

A protest is a dispute over a point of fact dealing with the misapplication of the Laws of the Game by a match official. Protests on the grounds of judgmental actions on the part of a match official shall not be considered.

### **G. Submission**

A protest shall be submitted in writing to the Directors within two (2) days of the conclusion of the match as verified by postmark.

### **H. Review by the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall investigate, evaluate and provide the recommendations within ten (10) days of receipt of the protest.

## **XVI. BOARDS OF INQUIRY OR HEARINGS**

- A. Periodically, it may be necessary for the Board of Directors to conduct inquiries or hearings on breaches of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Procedures, and/or Laws of the Game.
- B. Inquiries and/or hearings shall be announced at least seven (7) days in advance. An effort shall be made to schedule such activities at the convenience of the majority of the participants, whether members of the Board or persons to appear before the Board.
- C. When established in accordance with paragraph B above, persons to appear before a Board shall be so notified. Their personal appearance, or the appearance of an individual(s) acting on their behalf, shall be mandatory.
  - 1. Once notified, persons requested to appear shall have 48 hours to submit in writing matters in extenuation or mitigation that may preclude their appearance. The convening authority shall have sole authority to rule on such matters.
  - 2. Failure to appear, unless duly excused, shall be grounds for sanctions as may be determined by the Board.
- D. The CCL Executive Director shall provide MDCVSA with information concerning sanctions and suspensions it has levied. This is to allow MDCVSA to consider these facts when processing Applications to Travel, Host Tournaments and Games, and Host Foreign Teams, as well as in choosing representatives for state select teams and/or state representatives for regional or national cup play.

## **XVII. APPEALS**

- A. Any aggrieved party may appeal any decision or the imposition of any penalty or fine to the Board of Directors.
- B. The appeal must be sent by registered mail to the CCL Executive Director, 1683 Monet Hill, Charlottesville, Virginia 22911, within 48 hours of the decision or imposition of penalty or fine.
- C. A \$300.00 appeal fee shall accompany the appeal. If the appeal is upheld, the appeal fee will be returned. If the appeal is denied, the fee shall be retained by CCL.
- D. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Board of Directors shall convene a board of inquiry composed of its members.
- E. The decision of the Board of Inquiry is final within CCL. The next avenue of appeal is to the state association.

## **XVIII. GRIEVANCES**

There is a difference between a grievance and a protest. Grievances concern league policy; protests concern game situations and are detailed in Section XV.

- A. Any member club officer, director, team or player associated with a member club, who feel(s) aggrieved by any action of the Board of Directors concerning league policy, must submit a written grievance citing the remedy requested and a check in the amount of \$100 payable to CCL. The grievance and check must be sent by registered mail to the CCL Executive Director, 1683 Monet Hill, Charlottesville, Virginia 22911, within seven (7) days of the written or verbal publication of information, whichever comes first.
- B. The President will review the grievance for determination of proper filing and the nature of the matter being grieved. If the President determines the grievance is validly submitted, he will initiate action to resolve the issue. This may be accomplished by consulting other members of the Board of Directors of club representative by phone or personally or by holding a hearing. The President will be the judge of which method of resolution will be used.
- C. A Grievance Committee, if appointed, will consist of the President of CCL who will preside and two other members of the Board of Directors who will hear the grievance within 14 days of the receipt of the grievance. A quorum for the meeting is three; the presiding officer will count towards a quorum but will only vote in a tie situation.
- D. If the grievance is sustained, the check will be returned; if the grievance is denied, the check will be deposited to the general fund of the league.
- E. The decision of the Grievance Committee is final within the CCL and is not appealable to the state association on matters of league rules, policy and/or procedures.
- F. If the aggrieved party remains dissatisfied after having exhausted all requirements concerning grievances, or, if not having exhausted all requirements concerning grievances, if he invokes the aid of the courts of any state or the United States, should the person bringing the action not prevail in such court action, he shall then be liable for all expenses incurred by CCL in defending such action including, but not limited to, the following:
  - o Court Costs
  - o Attorneys' fees
  - o Reasonable compensation for time spent by CCL employees in responding and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances
  - o Travel expenses
  - o Expenses of any special meeting(s) necessitated by the action.