



# **CLUB CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

**AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION,  
UNITED STATES YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (USYS),  
MARYLAND STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (MSYSA), AND  
VIRGINIA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (VYSA)**

## **RULES AND PROCEDURES**

Approved June 6, 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 soccer.

To insure the efficient and effective accomplishment of the purpose of the League, Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Rules and Procedures, and a Matchday Standards Guide have been established. Per the Bylaws, the definition of a “Competitive Waiver” follows these Rules and Procedures. 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 Premiership, Championship & NextGen equally unless otherwise noted.

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

All CCL matches will be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game except as modified by the League Rules and Procedures. A League Referee Manual has been established to ensure league policies and protocols pertinent to game play and those Laws of the Game that may be modified are consolidated to one CCL document to more easily find information relating to the conduct of CCL games. Referees, Assignors, Club Officials, Team Officials shall be familiar with the information contained in both the Rules and Procedures, and Referee Manual.

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 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 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 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 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 Pass System

An age-appropriate player within a CCL club may play in CCL league games on a team in the same club at any time during the seasonal year via the “CLUB PASS”. No games may be played with a guest player from a non-CCL club.

1. The Director of the club with club pass players must notify the Director of the opposing club prior to game time if this rule is being implemented.
2. All Club Pass Players must have current VYSA or MSYSA member passes.
3. If the Club Pass player is rostered to a CCL team included in club standings, the player may not play on two teams in the same scheduled block of games unless one team forfeits their game.
4. A player may play up on a second matchday that is either: 1) a split matchday [i.e., 11-15s play one date and 16-19s play another date] or 2) a makeup date (single age group or multiple age group makeup dates) under the current club pass player, guest player rule AND both Directors are notified 24 hours prior to the match date; if there is no notification then this rule cannot be approved without forfeit. Example 1: B-team and recreational players are not subject to this restriction.

5. As the goalkeeper position is a specialized position, a goalkeeper may play two matches maximum on a matchday (due to another club team's goalkeeper injury, sickness, or absence) and only if the second match is specific to the goalkeeper position, AND both Directors are notified prior to the match being played; if there is no notification then this rule cannot be approved without forfeit.
6. A team may have no more than five (5) Club Pass Players in any game and no more than the maximum number of total players permitted for that age group: 9-10s: 12 players, 11-12s: 16 players; 13-19s: 18 players. Although a 22-man roster is permitted for 14-19s teams, only 18 players may be present in uniform to play in league games and remaining players may remain on sidelines if not in uniform. CCL Premiership 18/19-19s are permitted to have unlimited Club Pass Players. CCL Championship 17/18s are permitted to have unlimited Club Pass Players. For CCL and CCL II rosters, this also includes the guest playing of CCL rostered players to CCL II games, and Directors must follow the one league game per matchday rule for all players. A player is prohibited from playing in a CCL Premiership match and in a CCL Championship match on the same day. A player is approved to guest play in a CCL Premiership match on Saturday and a CCL Championship match on Sunday, or vice-versa. All Directors must be notified of all Club Pass Players.
  - a. CCL Premiership 18/19-19s are permitted to have unlimited Club Pass Players including unlimited 19s players playing down to the 18/19s. A club may have club-pass players play in two matches in the 18/19s and/or 19s on the same matchday equal to the maximum Matchday Roster of 18 players and equal to a suggested 90 minutes maximum. Example 1: if a club's 18/19 league roster is 18 and the 19s league roster is 16, a club may play (2) players in a second match from the 18/19s to play 19s. A club cannot play players in a second match if a league roster is set at 18. Example 2: if an 18/19 player plays 45 minutes in the 18/19 match, the player is permitted to play 45 minutes (equaling a total of 90 minutes for the day) in the 19 match.
  - b. CCL Championship 17/18s are permitted to have maximum of (3) 19s play down.
  - c. CCL Championship West only. CCL Premiership 15-19s rostered players who live within geographic proximity of a CCL Championship West Division club may be used as a guest player(s) during CCL Championship West Division league matches and/or events. Directors from both clubs must agree and be made fully aware of the guest player(s) prior to the matches or the match will be considered a forfeit; i.e., a VBR Star Premiership 16s player who lives in the Blacksburg or Lynchburg area is eligible to play in one Championship West Division match, 16-19s, for NRU or CVU. The player will not be subject to penalties of Section III. Recruitment regarding player movement and this rule is intended to offer additional developmentally appropriate playing opportunities.
7. A game-day 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.
8. Player pass checks are not required for league games. However, player passes must be present at the game.
9. CCL NextGen 9-10s teams will play seven-a-side (7v7). NextGen VA fields two teams per Club, per age group and gender. NextGen MD is encouraged to field two teams per Club, per age group and gender, but can field any number of teams per age group and gender. A club is encouraged but not required to participate in 9-10s.
10. CCL Premiership and Championship 11-12s teams will play nine-a-side (9v9). Both age groups field only one team per Club, age group and gender; unless changed by the Board of Directors.
11. CCL Premiership and Championship 13-19s teams will play eleven-a-side (11v11). Age groups field only one team per Club, age group and gender; unless changed by the Board of Directors.

## **B. Non-CCL Club Teams Playing As CCL Club Team Replacement**

1. The CCL Board of Directors may approve a Non-CCL club team (guest team) to play as a CCL club team (host club/team) replacement if the host club does not have a team in that age group.
2. The guest team is a temporary member of the host club and, as such, is subject to all Rules and Procedures. The host club Director shall act as the Director for the guest team. Penalties for any rules violations by the guest team will be incurred by the host club/team.
3. Game results of the guest team shall be recorded as results for the host club/team.
4. The outside (of CCL) team replacing a CCL team will earn no club points for the host club. However, that team will be eligible to win the age group division or conference championship.
5. Any CCL team replacing a CCL team from another club will earn no club points for either club. However, that team will be eligible to win the age group division championship.
6. Any CCL team playing up out of their division for their club or for another CCL club will earn club points for their own club unless this gives their club more teams than there are slots overall (i.e. in a league of 16 age group divisions, a club may have no more than 16 teams competing for club points). That team will be eligible to win the age group division championship.
7. All clubs will be charged league fees for each available slot regardless of number of teams they have participating. This is incentive for all clubs to fill every slot with their own teams or with outside teams if necessary. NextGen 9-10s developmental division(s) are excluded and are charged league fees for each team participating.
8. A non-CCL team may use Club Pass Players from either their own club or the host club with approval of the host club director of coaching. The host club director of coaching must notify the director of the opposing club in accordance with paragraph 1, above. Example: the CVU 13U girls' team is the replacement for VBR Star because VBR Star does not have a 13U girls' team. Players from either the VBR Star club or the CVU club may guest play for the CVU 13U girls team in CCL league play if approval is given by the VBR Star Director of Coaching.

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

All clubs must be full, provisional, or non-voting (Championship-only clubs) members in CCL as approved by the Board of Directors. All players must be members of CCL clubs except for guest teams as provided in Section I.A. All teams and players must be registered with VYSA or MSYSA.

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

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM), each active member shall submit a non-refundable, \$5,000.00 declaration of teams deposit towards fees for the next seasonal year, for a full slate of teams, as approved by the Board of Directors. If after 15 days there is no deposit made, a notice of the missed deadline will be sent to the Club and the Club could forfeit their acceptance/membership to the league for the next seasonal year, and pending an Executive Committee review process.

Prior to the start of the next seasonal year (no later than the end of June), each active member shall submit fees, less the non-refundable \$5,000.00 declaration of teams deposit, for a full slate of teams, as approved by the Board of Directors.

1. Seasonal Year Fees are as follows:

AGE GROUP	Premiership	Championship
NextGen 9-10s	\$600.00 per team*	N/A
11-15s	\$600.00 per team	\$1,050.00 per team*
16-19s	\$1,500.00 per team*	\$1,500.00 per team*

\*CCL Premiership 16-19s includes (2) College Showcase events. CCL Championship 16-19s includes (1) CCL Championship Showcase/Invitational and (1) CCL adidas Fall Festival event. CCL Championship 11-15s includes (1) CCL adidas Fall Festival event. NextGen 9-10s includes up to (4) NextGen ScrimmageFests (optional, not mandatory).

2. The seasonal fees for each team shall exclude referee fees.
  3. Final Seasonal Year Fees for the following seasonal year shall be due by June 30. The fee for clubs more than 15 days in arrears shall be an additional \$750.00 fee per Club.
  4. Beginning Fall 2018, fees will not be assessed to clubs with holes (no team) in the 19s age group. If a club fills the hole with a fill-in team, they are responsible for the fee.
- B. Player Registration with Club: CCL recognizes the registration of players with its member clubs prior to registration with VYSA or MSYSA.
1. Registration with a CCL club occurs when a player accepts placement with the club in writing, electronically or on-line for the next seasonal year and pays a deposit required by the club at the time of acceptance.
  2. Movement of players registered with a CCL club prior to being registered / rostered with VYSA or MSYSA.
    - 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 parent(s) in writing prior to the player registering with the club.
    - b. Another CCL club may register the player but may not use the player in the following seasonal year of CCL play.
    - c. Conditions a) and b) may be waived if the player has moved to the geographical area of the new club and beyond reasonable travel distance of the old club AND both Directors agree to waive the restriction.
    - d. The club may not involuntarily release the player unless the conditions and procedures for VYSA or MSYSA involuntary releases are followed. (See VYSA or MSYSA Registration Manual).
  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, VYSA ID or MSYSA 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 and Super Y club-sponsored activities are covered by this policy.
- C. Player/Team Registration with VYSA or MSYSA: all players must be registered with the Virginia Youth Soccer Association (VYSA) or the Maryland State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA). The official VYSA or MSYSA 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). Only those players included on a current Official Roster shall be deemed duly registered by the State (VYSA or MSYSA). Changes to the official roster must be processed through the Assigned Registrar who initially registered the team. A registration manual is available through the CCL Registrar.
1. The Player Pass is 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 registrar will issue a new Player Pass for that new team. Any time a player moves from one team to another or is added to a team, the new team must prepare a new Member Pass for the player and a new team roster. The Assigned Registrar will approve the roster and pass changes in compliance with VYSA or MSYSA 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 youth players as follows unless specifically noted (VYSA and MSYSA):

AGE GROUP	MINIMUM #	MAXIMUM #
NextGen 9-10s	7 Players	12 Players
11-12s	7 Players	16 Players
13s	7 Players	18 Players
14-19s*	7 Players	22 Players

\*NOTE: Although a 22-man roster is permitted for 14-19s teams, only 18 players may be present in uniform to play in league games. The game day roster will include only 18 players.

- D. A team/player must be properly registered with VYSA or MSYSA 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 VYSA or MSYSA club to another at any time during the seasonal year, and, from the start of the fall season until the conclusion of the spring season. The procedures outlined below govern player movement. CCL coaches and/or team or club officials who willfully recruit or attempt to recruit a player from a team participating in CCL 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:
    - a. On May 1<sup>st</sup> of each seasonal year, players are eligible to train with, or “workout” with, another CCL club but are ineligible to transfer clubs until the following seasonal year. Otherwise, the player is subject to all rules under Section III. Recruitment.

2. No coach or team/club officials affiliated with a CCL 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 club team.
  3. Transfers:
    - b. Any player rostered to a team in a CCL club (this includes teams that do not play in CCL) is ineligible to transfer to any other team affiliated with another CCL club (this includes teams that do not play in CCL) within the same seasonal year except as follows:
      - i. The player has moved to the geographical area of the new club and beyond reasonable travel distance of the old club AND both Directors agree to the transfer. If both Directors agree, each Director must submit approval via email documentation to the League Office.
    - c. Transferring to a team affiliated with another league after being released from a CCL club team does not make the player eligible to then transfer to another CCL club team.
  4. Out of League Play (including, but not limited to indoor, tournaments, training, Super Y, guest players):
    - a. A player from a CCL club team may not participate in out-of-league play with another CCL club team if the player's CCL club has a scheduled commitment unless both Directors waive this restriction.
    - b. An invitation to participate in such an event with another team in a CCL club must be initiated by the Director of the guest team club with the Director of the player's team club. The Director of the player's team club may submit approval of out-of-league play in writing to the Director of the guest team club.
    - c. A player who participates in out-of-league play with another CCL club team with or without the written approval of his/her Director is ineligible to play for the specific guest playing CCL club team in league play for the next seasonal year unless the player has moved to the geographical area of the new club and beyond reasonable travel distance of the old club AND both Directors agree to waive the restriction.
    - d. Other Out-of-League Select Team Tryouts. If tryouts are held prior to club tryouts for the next seasonal year and a player intends to try out for a team in the club sponsoring Other Out-of-League Select Teams (i.e., Super-Y), the player must defer trying out for the team until after club tryouts have been held to be eligible for league play with the sponsoring club.
- 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.

The 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.



#### 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 provide one (1) field per four (4) teams or fractions thereof.
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). In such a situation, the total number of fields available must be proportional to the total of both clubs' team.
5. Field requirements (note: turf field sizes shall be as close as possible to sizes below):

AGE GROUP	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	RECOMMENDED
9-10s	70 x 50	80 x 55	<b>70 x 50</b>
11-12s	80 x 55	80 x 55	<b>80 x 55</b>
13-15s	100 x 60	120 x 72	<b>105 x 70</b>
16-19s	105 x 70	120 x 80	<b>115 x 75</b>

6. Goal size for league matches:

AGE GROUP	COMPETITION	REQUIRED
NextGen 9-10s	7 v 7	6 ½ x 18 ½
11-12s	9 v 9	7 x 21
13-19s	11 v 11	8 x 24

##### 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. Nets shall be in serviceable condition and securely affixed to the goals.
  - d. Corner flags shall be placed and conform to the specifications of the IFAB Laws of the Game.
  - e. Team benches shall be provided for the home and away team.
  - f. All goals must be appropriately anchored or weighted to the pitch prior to starting the match.
  - g. 9-10s matches will use build-out lines in each half of the field. These lines may be marked on the field of play or disc cones may be used just off the touchlines as reference points. Build-out lines will be equidistant between the penalty area and the halfway line.
2. The referee may refuse to allow match play if, in his/her opinion, the field condition is unsafe or unplayable.



C. Match Length and Ball Size:

DIVISION	LENGTH (Halves > Match)	BALL SIZE
19s	45min > 90min	5
18s	45min > 90min	5
17s	40min > 80min	5
16s	40min > 80min	5
15s	40min > 80min	5
14s	35min > 70min	5
13s	35min > 70min	5
12s	35min > 70min	4
11s	35min > 70min	4
10s	30min > 60min	4
9s	30min > 60min	4

MATCH LENGTH	TIME BLOCK
45min > 90min	2 hours
40min > 80min	1 hour, 45 minutes
35min > 70min	1 hour, 30 minutes
30min > 60min	1 hour, 15 minutes

- a. There shall be a 5-10 minute intervals between halves.
- b. Regular season CCL matches ending in a draw at the end of regulation time will remain tied.
- c. The Executive Committee will have the authority to modify the length of a match at any time.

D. Game Balls

- a. A MANDATED adidas Champions League game ball for each team is issued by the league to all CCL clubs. The CCL game ball must be used for all CCL matches and may not be used for practice or any activity other than CCL league games. The previous seasonal year match ball may be used if needed.
- b. BOTH the home team AND away teams are responsible for providing the properly inflated CCL game ball to the official prior to the start of the match. The official CCL match ball belonging to the home team will be used throughout the match unless the home team's ball is unsafe or unplayable, at which point the official CCL match ball belonging to the away team will be put into play.
- c. The away team is responsible for bringing the properly inflated CCL game ball to all away games. The CCL away game ball must be used if the home team ball is unplayable.

V. PLAYER EQUIPMENT

- A. Shoes must meet IFAB 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 Official Roster. (Exception: Guest players) Jersey numbers for all players must be entered on the Game Day Roster.

- F. No jewelry of any kind may be worn (excluding corrective glasses.)
- 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 strongly recommends that all players (CCL, CCL II, NextGen 9-10s) wear the CCL + Club adidas climacool Warmup T-shirt prior to each match.
- J. CCL strongly encourages the use of sun screen and other protective measures as outlined in our Sun Safe Soccer program.
- K. CCL requires that the home club provide one (1) certified athletic trainer (ATCs) to be present, at one-site, for any 16-19s matches. If multiple sites are used for 16-19s matches, the one (1) ATC may be 'on-call' if needed at another site. This rule does not apply to make-up dates or one-off matches. Matches may begin on-time if an ATC is not present.
- L. 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.
- 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.

## **VII. SUBSTITUTIONS**

Substitutions may be made at the discretion of the referee at any stoppage in play, in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game. There are no limitations to the number of substitutions that may take place during a match. Players who have been replaced by substitutes may reenter the match at any stoppage.

*The following is the league philosophy regarding the use of substitutions during a match. This is not a modification to Law 3 nor should it be enforced by the match officials.*

- *The CCL encourages all its 12-15s coaches of both boys and girls teams to not substitute in the first 15 minutes of a match (unless there is an injury) and its 16-19s coaches of both boys and girls teams to not substitute in the first 20 minutes of a match (unless there is an injury).*
- *The CCL encourages all its 17-19s coaches of both boys and girls teams to limit substitutions such that any player who is substituted out of the match should not reenter the match in the same half of play.*

## **VIII. USSF Concussion Initiative – No Heading for 11 age group and younger**

U.S. Soccer recommends that players in 11s programs and younger shall not engage in heading, either in practices or in games. CCL accepts the recommendations and will implement them in the following manner for the 11 and younger age groups:

- Whenever there is contact between the ball and the head of a player, play is stopped. The proper restart depends upon whether the player deliberately played the ball with his or her head.
  - If the contact of the ball with the head is deemed inadvertent, then the proper restart is a dropped ball.
  - When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick (IFK) should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.
  - If the infringement occurs within the goal area, the restart should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

## **IX. 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. Participation in State Cup is encouraged, and with proper notification, will take precedence over League matches.

### **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., lightening, 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 with each club.
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 President 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 \$100.00 to be paid to the Treasurer prior to the next scheduled match.
- d. The Treasurer shall reimburse the Offended Team their portion of the referee fees and shall award the \$100.00 penalty to them.
- e. If the Offending Team fails to submit a written reason, all of the penalties outlined above shall be automatically levied.
- f. Repeat offenses will be subject to additional action by the Board of Directors.

## **X. RESCHEDULING**

- A. Matches cancelled due to weather, State Cup conflicts, or other compelling reasons will be rescheduled at the makeup date set for each season or another date mutually agreed to by the two Directors, and prior to the end of the seasonal year (no later than the last weekend prior to the June Board of Directors meeting).
  - a. Directors shall agree to communicate on a rescheduled match date of the match cancelled as soon as possible to keep schedule continuity.
- B. If no mutual date is set, the matches must be played on the makeup date.
- C. If a mutual date is set, both teams are obligated to play on that date.
- D. All matches must be played no later than the last weekend prior to the June Board of Directors meeting.
- 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 unless the two teams have played in a tournament, State Cup, or other competition in the current season. In that case, the score *at the end of regulation play of the latest competition* will be recorded.
  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 or referees for a rescheduled match, the game will be recorded as a forfeit for that team.

## **XI. STANDINGS**

A. The League Office will maintain all standings. Standings for 12s through 19s will be published on the CCL website and distributed to the Board of Directors. No standings will be kept for CCL Premiership and CCL Championship 11s, and NextGen 9-10s developmental divisions. Scores will not be published for any age group.

1. All scores must be reported within 48 hours within completion of the match.

B. Points shall be awarded as follows:

WIN	Three (3) points
TIE	One (1) point
LOSS	Zero (0) points

C. The team with the most points in each age division will be awarded t-shirts. T-shirts will be awarded to teams at the end of the season. In the case of a tie for first, all teams will receive t-shirts. In the case of divisions or conferences, t-shirts will be awarded to age group division or conference champions.

D. Three Club Champion's trophies will be awarded at the end of each season to the CCL clubs that have accumulated the most club points in all divisions 13s through 18/19s for the following categories listed below. *In the case of divisions or conferences, Overall Club, Boys and Girls Champions will be awarded per division or conference, per season (fall and spring separately), or for a seasonal year (two seasons, fall and spring, combined) as determined by the Board of Directors.* The Dave Amsler Club Champion trophy will stay with the winning club until the end of the next seasonal year. Boys and Girls Champion trophies will be kept by the club. The trophies are as follows:

CCL Premiership Dave Amsler Club Champion Trophy  
 CCL Premiership Danny Beamer Boys Champion Trophy  
 CCL Premiership Peggy Borgard Girls Champion Trophy

CCL Championship Club Champion Trophy  
 CCL Championship Boys Champion Trophy  
 CCL Championship Girls Champion Trophy

E. Club points for determining the CCL Premiership and CCL Championship Overall, Boys, and Girls Champions shall be awarded as follows (there will be an automatic update to club points if the number of clubs in a seasonal year change):

<b>AGE GROUP PLACE</b>	<b>CLUB POINTS</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> - Champions	16 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	15 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	14 points
4 <sup>th</sup>	13 points
5 <sup>th</sup>	12 points
6 <sup>th</sup>	11 points
7 <sup>th</sup>	10 points
8 <sup>th</sup>	9 points
9 <sup>th</sup>	8 points
10 <sup>th</sup>	7 points
11 <sup>th</sup>	6 points
12 <sup>th</sup>	5 points
13 <sup>th</sup>	4 points
14 <sup>th</sup>	3 points
15 <sup>th</sup>	2 points
16 <sup>th</sup>	1 points

In case of a tie for a position, all tied teams will receive the points awarded for that place. (Example 1: Loudoun and FC Frederick tie for 8<sup>th</sup> place. Both teams receive 11 points each. In the case of divisions or conferences, or less than 18 teams in a division or conference, points will be adjusted to reflect the number of teams.

- F. When Non-Point Earning Teams (NPETs) play in a division (i.e. non-CCL teams playing in slots for CCL clubs or CCL teams playing in slots of other CCL clubs), then the following point distribution applies: NPETs are placed at the bottom of the standings and all other teams' points will be adjusted. (Example: Alexandria 18s play on behalf of DCST 18s and come in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Alexandria moves to bottom of table (0 pts.), and all other teams underneath Alexandria get pushed up one spot in the division. Thus, the team that previously was in 3<sup>rd</sup> place is now in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and therefore earns one more point. The same scenario is true if multiple NPETs are in the division.

## **XII. OFFICIAL MATCH REFEREE REPORTS**

Match reports are recommended and shall be completed by the referee and submitted to the match assignor.

Match reports shall be completed in the following instances:

- A player is sent off or a coach or team official is dismissed.
- Any time a match has a significant delay, is suspended, or abandoned due to reasons other than weather (mass confrontation, referee abuse, referee assault, outside interference of any kind).

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

The Game Day Roster must be submitted to the referee prior to the start of the match. Player passes are not to be checked (but must present at the game). The Game Day Roster will list only those players, including club pass players, who will participate in the match and their jersey numbers. Club pass players will be written on the Game Day Roster. Any rostered player not playing in the match shall be crossed out. Clubs are responsible for providing Game Day Rosters. Game Day Rosters can be printed for each individual team from the online database by authorized persons with a valid ID and Password. The number of players on each Game Day Roster shall be the following:

<b>AGE GROUP</b>	<b>MINIMUM</b>	<b>MAXIMUM</b>
NextGen 9-10s	5 Players	12 Players
11-12s	7 Players	16 Players
13-19s	7 Players	18 Players

## **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 Director of each club to coordinate with the appropriate Referees' Association concerning all home club activities, matches, and schedule changes.

- A. Premiership and Championship 11s through 19s Divisions: Each club shall contract with area Referees' Association to provide three (3) USSF certified officials for each match.
- B. NextGen 9s and 10s Divisions: Each club shall contract with area Referee's Association to provide one (1) USSF certified official for each match. There will be no club linesmen. Build-out lines will be used and will also be used to denote where offside offenses can be called (these lines may be marked on the field of play or disc cones may be used just off the touchlines as reference points). Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build-out line. Player can be penalized for an offside offense between the build-out line and the goal-line. Offside(s) will be called. When the goalkeeper has the ball in his or her hands during play from the opponent, the opposing team must move behind the build-out line until the ball is put into play. Once the opposing

- team is behind the build-out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw, or roll the ball into play (punts and drop kicks are not allowed). The opposing team must also move behind the build-out line during a goal kick until the ball is put into play. The goalkeeper can put the ball into play sooner but he or she does so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes. If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If this occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred. The build-out line promotes playing the ball out of the back in a less pressure setting.
- C. The officials are responsible for conducting the matches in accordance with IFAB Laws of the Game and CCL Rules and Procedures.
- D. If qualified referees are not available through the Referees' Association, the 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 Rules and Procedures and
  2. such individuals are registered in the VYSA or MSYSA database for insurance purposes.
- E. Each Referees' Association will be instructed at the beginning of each season to waive checking of player passes before each League games unless the Director of either club asks that passes be checked. Thus, no player passes are checked prior to any CCL games.
- F. Failure to Appear – When request for services was made to the Referees' Association.
1. A certified center referee must be present or the match cannot be played. If there is no qualified center referee after a 30-minute grace period from the scheduled start time, the match will be recorded as a forfeit for the home team.
  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 as long as the scrimmage does not exceed the time block allotted for the originally schedule 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 Referees' Association
1. All games will be recorded as forfeits for the home team.
  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 Referees' Association to verify that a request for services was made.



## XIV. CONDUCT

### A. Standards of Conduct

The League exists to provide youth 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 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 coach is 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 send-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 plus 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 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.
- g. 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 regarding referee assault.

## **XV. PROTESTS**

### **A. 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.

### **B. 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.

### **C. 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 Administrator shall provide VYSA or MSYSA with information concerning sanctions and suspensions it has levied. This is to allow the state associations 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 \$200.00 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 \$200.00 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:
  - Court Costs
  - Attorneys' fees
  - Reasonable compensation for time spent by CCL employees in responding and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances
  - Travel expenses
  - Expenses of any special meeting(s) necessitated by the action.

#### **XIV. CCL Premiership Competitive Waiver (per Bylaws)**

- 1. New CCL Applications from Clubs Requesting the Competitive Waiver.** In the application section regarding club/player success, New Clubs must provide data about the accomplishments of teams that would be participating in CCL (not first team data). If, for example, their boys program is DA, but girls have no additional affiliation, then boys second teams and girls first teams would be evaluated. Clubs without evidence of CCL Premiership level success from their second teams (winning state cups, getting accepted into high tournament brackets, results against existing CCL clubs) can still be accepted into the CCL Premiership, but the CCL will use the provisional status period to determine if they are a competitive fit for the league.
- 2. Existing CCL Clubs Requesting the Competitive Waiver.** Unless an Existing Club can demonstrate a history of CCL Premiership level success from its second teams (winning state cups, getting accepted into high tournament brackets, results against existing CCL clubs), the club will be moved to provisional status while the CCL determines if they are a competitive fit for the league. This rule applies to all Competitive Waiver requests received after the adoption of this rule.
- 3. Evaluation of Competitive Fit with CCL.** In order to assess the competitive fit of a club, independent evaluations will be performed of a club's boys program and girls program. A club may be determined to have one program that is a competitive fit, while the other is not. However, the Board may ultimately assess the club as a whole is a competitive fit for the league.
- 4. Measuring Under-Performance of CCL Clubs.** If a Club is in the bottom three (3) in overall Premiership standings in the 13U-18U age bands for 3 consecutive years, that Club will move to provisional status.
- 5. Measuring Under-Performance of CCL Clubs under a Competitive Waiver.** If a Club under a Competitive Waiver is below the top sixty percent (60%) of clubs in overall Premiership standings in the 13U-18U age bands for 2 consecutive, that Club will move to provisional status.
- 6. Competitive Waiver.** A request that **all** a Club's first teams of a given gender not be required to participate in the CCL Premiership.