

# COLUMBUS SOCCER CLUB RULES AND REGULATIONS

## I. PLAYING RULES

The rules of the game of soccer as promulgated by the Federation Internationale de Football Association as modified by the United States Soccer Federation and the Youth Division of the United States Soccer Federation shall apply to all affiliated teams, except that the Columbus Soccer Club may implement variations for competition with approval of the Board of Directors of this Club. The Board of Directors also may make modifications for any games sponsored by the Club; however, such variations should be at a minimum and only for the betterment of soccer.

1. **Welfare and Safety.** The welfare and safety of the players, referees and coaches shall be the primary concern of all persons affiliated with this Club.. The physical and mental well being of the players and the referees shall take precedence over all other matters at all times.
2. **Sportsmanship.** Sportsmanship of all persons registered with this Club and all persons assisting in any soccer activity of any member of this Club shall be stressed at all times and shall take precedence over all rules except physical safety of players, referees and coaches. Sportsmanship shall take precedence over winning.
3. **Responsibility for Conduct.** Unsportsmanlike conduct by any person registered with this Club or assisting in any soccer activity of any member of this Club shall be subject to discipline, including fines or suspension, by the Board of Directors of this Club in such manner as the Board determines.
  - a. Players shall be responsible for their conduct and the conduct of their team members.
  - b. Coaches and assistant coaches shall be responsible for the conduct of their players, their own conduct, and the conduct of other coaches or assistant coaches of their team. Coaches and assistant coaches shall assist the referee in maintaining sportsmanlike conduct of all persons, including spectators, prior to, during or after any game.
4. **Compliance with Rules and Regulations.**
  - a. Coaches shall be responsible for informing and insuring that all of their players, parents, and assistant coaches have read, understand and adhere to all policies of this Club, and the rules of the leagues and/or tournaments that their teams will participate in during the season. A plea of ignorance to the policies of the Columbus Soccer Club or the Nebraska

State Soccer is not sufficient in defending a grievance or grounds for a protest or appeal.

- b. All policies will be listed on the Club's web-site. Nebraska State Soccer rules and regulations are listed on their web-site..
- c. Any member of the Club who fails to follow the rules and regulations and all policies of this Club shall be subject to the following:
  - 1. First Offense – up to \$100 fine and up to two years probation.
  - 2. Second Offense – up to \$500 fine and up to two years probation.
  - 3. Any Subsequent Offense – up to \$1,000 fine and up to three years probation.
- d. If the second or subsequent offense occurs while serving a current probation the probations will be served consecutively.

## II. PLAYERS AND TEAMS.

All players and teams affiliated with voting members of this Club must be registered with this Club each seasonal year and must abide by the rules and regulations of this Club.

- a. **Recruitment Period.** From after the last day of Spring State Cup to July 26<sup>th</sup> of each year, all players are free agents. Consequently, all such players may be recruited through approach or by any other means by any person, coach, team, club, league or association for the purpose of forming teams for the forthcoming playing season, without harassing any player or their parents or guardian.
- b. **Team Tryouts.** Coaches are encouraged to check annually to ensure that they are aware of the most current tryout rules and regulations.
- c. **Tryout Procedure.** Players trying out must be notified in writing of their results on or after the 12th day and no later than the 19th day after the last schedule day of the Region II Tournament. Players must then notify the club/coach in 7 days after receiving a written offer from a club/coach that they accept the offer to play on the team in writing, and deliver the response to the club/coach in 7 days. In order for a position to be secured for a player, the player/parent must respond in writing within 7 days, the club/coach may not rescind the position for 7 days, nor can the player/parent rescind their acceptance after notifying a club/coach of acceptance. No club/coach may make an offer to play to a player prior to

the 12<sup>th</sup> day after Region II Tournament as set forth above. The Club shall publish on the Club web-site the Nebraska State Soccer Guidelines for Select Soccer Tryouts. Coaches are responsible for reviewing these guidelines prior to their team's tryout. Coaches may may assess a tryout fee not to exceed \$20.00.

- d. If a coach violates tryout guidelines the coach will be subject to the following NSSA penalties:
    1. First Offense – up to \$100 fine, up to one year probation and will not be allowed to advertise their tryouts for up to one year with Nebraska State Soccer.
    2. Second Offense – up to \$500 fine, up to two years probation and will not be allowed to advertise their tryouts for up to two years with Nebraska State Soccer.
    3. Any Subsequent Offense – up to \$1,000 fine, up to three years probation and will not be allowed to advertise their tryouts for up to three years with Nebraska State Soccer.
  - e. If the second or subsequent Offense occurs while serving a current probation the probations will be served consecutively.
  - f. In addition to the penalty assessed by the NSSA, the Club may assess additional penalties up to, or equal to, those assessed by the NSSA.
  - g. **Ages.** No league, club or team shall organize, form or select Under 6, Under 8 or Under 10 teams on the basis of skills demonstrated through try-outs. Try-outs are defined as an activity where players are asked to perform skills, demonstrate tactical knowledge or participate in a scrimmage while being observed and/or evaluated by coaches.
2. **Dissemination of Information.** At any time in the year teams may distribute, mail, advertise or otherwise make available, any and all information about their team, provided that such information is of a general character and is made available to the general population. General population refers to individuals in one or more zip code areas, schools, school districts, worship places or other natural geographical area.
  3. **Inducement.** At no time may any person, coach, club, league, association, etc. offer to a player or prospective player any form of monetary reward or inducement to play or register on a specific team.

4. **Misrepresentation of Coaching Credentials.**

a. If Nebraska State Soccer receives a complaint of misrepresentation or any misrepresentation Nebraska State Soccer will use the following procedure to determine the facts of the complaint:

(1) The State Staff will contact the coach against whom the complaint has been filed and will request the coach to submit documentation from the relevant organization that has provided the credentials within ten (10) days of the request.

(2) If it is proven that an individual has misrepresented a coaching credential, the matter will be referred to the Nebraska State Soccer Association (NSSA) for action, and the individual will be referred to the Board of Directors for further Club action. The maximum Club penalty for misrepresentation of coaching credentials is:

(A) Up to one year suspension of the individual from all Club activities, and payment of any fine that is assessed by the NSSA (a maximum of \$1,000.00).

(B) In addition to the penalty assessed by the NSSA, the Club may assess additional penalties up to, or equal to, those assessed by the NSSA.

5. **Dangerous Equipment – Hard Cast, Splints and Hard Knee Braces.**

Players will not be allowed to play with any type of hard cast. A hard cast is a cast that cannot be removed. Splints and braces of any type fall under the determination of the referee if it is safe. If allowing the splint or brace to be padded can make the equipment safe, then the player should be allowed to play. The referee has the final determination if any equipment is safe to play in or safe to the players on the field.

**III REGISTRATION.**

1. Players, Coaches, and Teams affiliated with this Club must be registered with this Club each seasonal year and must abide by the rules and regulations of this Club.

2. Registration of Players, Staff and Teams will be in accordance with USSF, US Youth Soccer, and the NSSA.

3. **Seasonal Year.** The seasonal year, for the purposes of rules promulgated by the USSF, US Youth Soccer or Nebraska State Soccer shall be from August 1st to July 31st of the following year.

4. **Early Registration.** Teams may pre-register players for the forthcoming playing season at any time subsequent to May 1st of each year. However, no such registration is effective or binding until August 1st of the same year.
5. **Disbanded Teams.** When a team disbands and that fact is officially recognized, acknowledged, accepted and noted by this Association, any player thereof may at once register with the team of another club but shall be considered a transferred player.
6. **Proof of Age.** Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173) issued by the uniformed services of the United States, a birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency or board of health records, a passport, an alien registration card issued by the United States Government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, a current driver's license, an unexpired federal, state, or local government identification card (if documentation of date of birth is required), or a certification of a United States citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal, or religious certificates will not be accepted.

**7. Age Limits and Roster Limitations.**

Age divisions shall comprise players who are before the first day of August of the year immediately preceding the current seasonal year:

Under 19 years of age	Under 18 years of age
Under 17 years of age	Under 16 years of age
Under 15 years of age	Under 14 years of age
Under 13 years of age	Under 12 years of age
Under 11 years of age	Under 10 years of age
Under 09 years of age	Under 08 years of age

**Teams will be registered to the age group of the oldest player registered on a team.**

**a. Maximum Roster.**

- (1) Under 12 and below age groups the roster size will be limited to not more than double the number of players on the field.
- (2) Under 13 and above age groups leagues may fix the maximum roster size for teams participating within the tournament's or league's competitions; provided, however, that no team shall be allowed more than twenty-two (22) players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year.

- (3) Under-16 and younger teams competing in National Championship Series competitions shall not be allowed more than eighteen (18) players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year. U17, U18 and U19 teams the roster may have up to 22 players.

## **8. Player Transfer and Release.**

- a. Any player registering with a team is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless such player requests a transfer. If a player has been previously registered, but is not rostered to a team he/she may play for a new team without the use of a transfer release form.
- b. All transfers involving disputes shall be submitted to the Head Coach for review. The Head Coach will then prepare a report and forward the matter to the NSSA Board of Directors for final decision. A copy of the report will be provided to the CSC Board of Directors.
- c. Transfers shall be permitted only for good cause as determined by the NSSA Board of Directors. The team from which such player desires to transfer shall be notified in writing of the request and such team and the Club shall be given an opportunity to oppose the transfer by appearing before the NSSA Board of Directors.
- d. Any player whose team completes its schedule, to include cup competitions, tournaments and exhibition matches, may transfer to another team during the same seasonal year.

## **9. Registration Deadline.**

- a. Any player who is registered with a state registrar seventy-two (72) hours before game time is eligible to play in that game.
- b. For inter-state, regional or national competition, players must be registered fourteen (14) days or have participated in at least two (2) league games prior to taking part in such competition.

**10. Youth Participation in Adult Games.** A youth player will be permitted to play an unlimited number of Adult games without losing his/her youth eligibility. The youth player must obtain permission from his/her youth coach or other authorized team official. The youth coach or other authorized team official shall in writing or by form, request eligibility clearance from the NSSA. The youth coach or other authorized team official must, in writing or by form, request permission of the State Adult Division Executive Board. When the above clearance and permissions have been granted, the State Adult Division Executive Board has sole discretion in permitting a youth player to play Adult games and will be responsible for establishing the

procedures under which this will be implemented. In the event of a conflict between an Adult trial game and a youth game, the youth game shall take precedence.

11. **Secondary Registration.** Players may register to a second team, provided they receive written consent from the coach of the primary team.

12. **Recruiting of Players Recruiting of Players.**

a. Recruiting parents of players under the age of 18 is the same as recruiting players. No team, club, coach or player or any other person may recruit a registered player to leave their team except as defined in Article II entitled Recruitment Period.

b. **Recruiting Defined.** Recruiting is defined as verbal or written efforts on the part of coaches, players or parents to induce a player to leave his/her team during the existing seasonal year or for the forthcoming seasonal year. Forms of inducement include, but are not limited to:

(1) Selectively inviting a player(s) to participate in another team's activities (e.g. parties, practices, clinics, indoor soccer, secondary registration) without having first received written consent of the player's primary team coach.

(2) Offering material inducement (e.g., free or discounted t-shirts, uniforms, meals, transportation, coaching, club registration fees).

c. **Penalties.**

(1) **Players** - Any player found guilty of violating this provision will be subject to the following:

(A) **First Offense** - up to one season suspension and up to two years probation.

(B) **Second Offense** - up to a permanent suspension.

(2) **Parents** - Any parent or guardian found guilty of violating this provision will be subject to the following:

(A) **First Offense** - up to one season suspension and up to two years probation.

(B) **Second Offense** - up to a permanent suspension.

(3) **Coaches** - Any coach found guilty of violating this provision will be subject to the following:

(A) **First Offense** – up to a three game suspension from any sanctioned play and up to two years probation.

(B) **Second Offense** – up to a year suspension from any sanctioned play and up to two years probation served consecutively.

d. In addition to the penalty assessed by the NSSA, the Club may assess additional penalties up to, or equal to, those assessed by the NSSA.

#### **IV. COMPETITION WITH NON-AFFILIATED SOCCER TEAMS.**

Any competition with teams not registered with the NSSA or affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation (USSF)/US Youth Soccer must be approved by the CSC Board of Directors and the NSSA. A written request for participation in any game with such a team or teams must be provided to the Head Coach, who will then refer the matter to the CSC Board of Directors. If the request is approved by the CSC Board of Directors, a request will be forwarded to the NSSA. Failure to request and obtain such approval shall void all insurance offered by the NSSA for the match against the non-affiliated team(s).

#### **V. EXPULSIONS FROM GAMES AND SUSPENSIONS.**

a. **Penalties automatically incurred.** A player or team official who has been ordered from the field of play or from the sidelines by the referee shall automatically incur the penalty or penalties for the given offense or offenses as stipulated in these rules. The referee's game report automatically initiates the action against the ejected individual.

b. **Documents forwarded to the State Referee's Administrator (SRA).** Leagues and tournament hosting organizations shall forward photocopies of any records (e.g., game reports, supplements, penalty determinations) documenting any action taken against any player or team official that has been ordered from the field of play or from the sidelines to the State Referee Administrator within ten (10) days of the final determination of the penalty to be imposed.

c. **Record-keeping.** The Tournament Director shall retain the original records documenting any action taken against any player or team official that has been ordered from the field of play or from the sidelines for a period of one year.



- d. **Availability.** At the request of the SRA or the NSSA Grievance Committee, the Club shall furnish the originals of any records documenting any action taken against any player or team official that has been ordered from the field of play or from the sidelines.

## 2. Serving Suspensions.

- a. Any player or team official under suspension shall not, during the period of suspension, participate in any game under the jurisdiction of the CSC, NSSA, OR ANY OF ITS MEMBER OR ASSOCIATED LEAGUES, nor in any other soccer game sanctioned by the USSF or any of its affiliated associations, until he has completed his suspension for the activity in which he received his suspension.
- b. Suspensions for ejections or red cards at sanctioned events will be served using the following criteria depending on the type of event:
  - (1) **Nebraska Championships** - If received during the Nebraska Championships the suspension must be served during the National Championship Series as required by national rules. Any suspension that is not served during the current competition will be returned to the State Office. The State Office will make a copy of the pass and game report or ejection report. The State Office will be responsible for tracking of the suspension to make sure it is served in the next competition of the National Championship Series. If a pass is involved with the suspension it will be returned to the team once the suspension has been served or the report has been logged.
  - (2) **League Play** - If received during league play the suspension must be served in the next US Soccer sanctioned event unless that event is part of the National Championship Series, then it will be served at the next league or tournament event. The pass and game report or ejection report will be sent to the league administrator. The league administrator will be responsible for determining when the team will play its next sanctioned event and will notify the event of the suspension if it is not during their league play. If their league play has been completed they will mail the pass to the State Office. The league administrator will be responsible for tracking the suspension to make sure it is served unless league play is completed then it will become the State Office's responsibility. If a pass is involved with the suspension it will be returned to the team once the suspension has been served.
  - (3) **Tournament Play** - If received during tournament play the suspension must be served in the next US Soccer sanctioned event unless that event in part of the National Championship Series, then it

will be served at the next league or tournament event. Any suspension that is not served during the tournament the tournament director will forward the pass and game report or ejection report to the State Office. The State Office will be responsible for determining when the team will play its next sanctioned event and will notify the event of the suspension. The State Office will be responsible for tracking of the suspension to make sure it is served. If a pass is involved with the suspension it will be returned to the team once the suspension has been served.

(A) **Referee Assignor and Tournament Director** – The Referee Assignor, and/or Tournament Director must make sure that all ejection or red cards are reported on the Nebraska State Soccer's Red Card Report.

(B) In any situation where a coach, team official or spectator is requested to leave the sidelines that individual will be suspended for the minimum penalty prescribed in Article X.

## VI. PENALTIES.

- a. All players will be subject to the below stated NSSA penalties in accordance with the age group they are registered with rather than their chronological age.
- b. **Use of Ineligible Player.** Any club or coach which, without league sanction, fields a player ineligible because of improper or non-registration will be subject to the following:
  - (1) **Coach** –
    - (A) **First Offense** – forfeiture of game, a five game suspension from any sanctioned play and up to two years probation.
    - (B) **Second and Subsequent Offense** – forfeiture of game, up to a year suspension from any sanctioned play and up to two years probation served consecutively.
- c. If the second or subsequent Offense occurs while serving a current probation the probations will be served consecutively.
- d. In addition to the penalty assessed by the NSSA, the Club may assess additional penalties up to, or equal to, those assessed by the NSSA.

- c. **Conduct Detrimental to the Good and Welfare.** Any player, team official or club officer whose conduct is considered to be detrimental to the good and welfare of soccer shall be suspended for one (1) game for the first offense and for a minimum of two (2) games for the second offense or more within a two year period. Such misconduct shall include but shall not be limited to misbehavior while a spectator; the frequenting, while in player uniform or warm-up suit, of an area or a club house where alcoholic beverages are being served; and the consumption of alcoholic beverages in the vicinity of the playing field before, during or after a soccer game.
        - d. In addition to the penalty assessed by the NSSA, the Club may assess additional penalties up to, or equal to, those assessed by the NSSA.
2. **Abandonment of game.** A game shall not, under any circumstances, be prematurely terminated by either of the competing teams. Should a team terminate a game without the permission of the referee, the team will be subject to the following NSSA penalties
  - a. **Team** – held liable for payment of the referee fees and shall be fined \$150.
  - b. **Team coach.** Shall receive a four game suspension.
  - c. In addition to the penalty assessed by the NSSA, the Club may assess additional penalties up to, or equal to, those assessed by the NSSA.
3. **Player Transfers.** An individual A club or individual who intentionally submits false or inaccurate information relevant to a player record or past or present club affiliated in order to register as a player or to effect a player registration or transfer or to otherwise prevent a player transfer shall be subject to the following NSSA penalties:
  - a. Individual or Individuals responsible shall receive a four game suspension.
  - b. The Club will not be allowed to transfer any players in from another club for up to a period of one year.
  - c. In addition to the penalty assessed by the NSSA, the Club may assess additional penalties up to, or equal to, those assessed by the NSSA
4. **Use of an Illegal Pass.**
  - a. Any person found to have used an illegal pass or been involved in the creation of an illegal pass in any matter will be subjected to a fine by the NSSA of up to \$2,000 and/or up to three years probation or a permanent suspension from all association activities.

- b. In addition to the penalty assessed by the NSSA, the Club may assess additional penalties up to, or equal to, those assessed by the NSSA

**VII. AMENDMENTS**

These Rules and Regulations may be altered, amended or repealed and new Rules may be adopted by the Board of Directors by a majority vote provided that written notice of such intent to amend or repeal and a draft copy of the proposed amendment shall be presented to the various members of the Board of Directors at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which action on a proposed amendment or repeal is to take place.

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CSC President

Date