

**CAPITOL AREA PLAYER
DEVELOPMENT FRIENDLIES
LEAGUE (CA-PDFL)**

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

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Introduction to the league

The league name will be CAPITOL AREA PLAYER DEVELOPMENTAL FRIENDLIES LEAGUE (CA-PDFL). The league will operate under the CAYSA organization. Member clubs need to have a STYSA Academy certified program and players must be registered with CAYSA under the Capitol Area Player Development Friendlies league. Only teams under a STYSA Academy certified program can play in the league. All games will be officiated by referees who are registered with USSF. The season will run from August 1 through the second week of May (all games completed by the second Sunday of May).

General Policies

Organization/Club responsibilities of membership

1. Eligibility criteria:

- A. Follow STYSA Academy program Recommendations such as:
 - a. Director of Coaching have a Nationally recognized Youth License (USSF, NSCAA, or USC)
 - b. Provide current Training Curriculum for U8-U10 & Mission Statement.
 - c. Parent Education Program (in place or implementing).
 - d. Host location minimum of 6 appropriately sized playing fields.
 - e. All Academy coaches hold a minimum of a USSF 7v7 Grassroots certificate or equivalent and be Risk Management cleared coaches.
- A. All players registered through CAYSA.
- B. Club is responsible for all costs including, but not limited to: CAYSA fees, fields, referees, player registration, coach registration and background fees.
- C. Adhere to all CA-PDFL policies & rules (DOC & Club President Signature required).
- D. Attendance by Academy DOC or elected representative at all CA-PDFL meetings.
- E. Failure to attend a meeting will be addressed as follows:
 - a. Failure to attend one meeting in one season results in an official warning.
 - b. Failure to attend three meetings during the season will result in club team(s) suspension from the league for the rest of the seasonal year, or a percentage of the following season depending upon when the third violation occurs. Should a member club fail to attend a meeting where upon the other member clubs vote on a matter the member club not in attendance forfeits their vote.
- F. Have a referee assigned by a Certified Referee Assigner for every game when hosting.

Player Commitment/Rostering/Recruiting Rules

All Club/team members, coaches and parents need to comply with STYSA rules including and not limited to the following:

1. Organization/Club representatives contacting players and/or parents - Recruiting

No team member, coach, parent, or any club member or club representative can directly or indirectly contact a specific player(s) that has (or have) already signed for or is affiliated with a member club of the CA-PDFL during the regular season to recruit, guest play, or invite to practice. This means at any time and place during the season. For the regular season registration and membership of a club is considered to start August 1st and ends at the final whistle of the final spring season game in May the following year.

2. Player contacting another CA-PDFL member club

If a player currently signed to and playing for a CA-PDFL league member contacts the coach, or a player, parent or DOC of another CA-PDFL league member, then that player can only join the other league member at the end of the regular season with the approval from the current player's DOC. All players must honor their commitment to their team for both the fall and spring schedules. The club contacted during the season should pay the courtesy of contacting the original club the player plays for to let them know they have been contacted by the club's player. It is up to the original club the player desires to leave, to try and encourage the player wishing to leave to continue to play at some satisfactory level within the club.

3. CA-PDFL player commitment date

Once a player commits to a club, that player must be registered by August 1st prior to fall league play of that year. Once this date has passed, the player will be considered registered with that particular club and must stay with their CA-PDFL club for the remainder of the season of the following year.

4. Transfer Window

The only exception(s) where a transfer shall be considered will be if a player relocates and is living thirty (30) miles or more from the training site of the original club or team he or she is leaving. Or, if a player no longer wishes to play for a club/CA-PDFL team and does not want to move to or join another team, then that issue should be resolved between the club and individual player. Informing a player or parents of the transfer process now falls to individual clubs who should inform the parents/players prior to the August 1st date. Any transfer policies must be clearly defined and evenly applied. It is the leagues responsibility to ensure all CA-PDFL clubs adhere to this policy. This means that a player can choose to move to another CA-PDFL club, if desired in the offseason, after the last game in May and before the August 1st final registration date.

League Groupings

The CA-PDFL League is comprised of U8, U9, U10 aged players. Teams are divided into A, B and C groupings with subgroups of A-, B+, B-, C+, C- (if applicable)

- A. Brackets can be cross gender.
- B. Clubs are responsible for classifying each team.
- C. Clubs will play two games prior to setting brackets to ensure appropriate classification and bracketing.
- D. Member clubs may adjust team classification during the season with approval from all member clubs.
- E. Team placement may be based upon findings of competitiveness, risk of injury to players, the best interest of youth soccer players.

Team Registration

Member clubs and players must be registered with CAYSA. Only players registered in the CA-PDFL may play in the league.

Risk Management

All Club / Team Officials needs to comply with STYSA Risk Management Rules such as but not limited to:

- A. All team officials must possess a valid STYSA risk management pass.
- B. Each adult on the team side of the field will be required to have a certified risk management pass.

Rostering

- A. Team rosters will not be required.
- B. Players are rostered to a pool format allowing flexibility in rosters for developmental purposes.
- C. Players are rostered to the club for the year from August 1st to the second weekend of May.
- D. CA-PDFL player wishing to leave the club must be released by the club DOC prior to that player registering with another CA-PDFL club, at any ages between 8 to 10 years old.
- E. Any non CA-PDFL player or non-academy registered player can join the club at any point throughout the year.
- F. The maximum number of players on a team will be no more than 10 players per game.
- G. This is to align with ethical fair play and ensure a player-centered game environment which provides maximum playtime.
- H. Clubs can keep their teams intact and do not have to move them around.

Player Eligibility

- A. All players must be registered with CAYSA.
- B. If it is discovered that an ineligible player was used, the member club could be removed from the league. Requests concerning player eligibility should be directed to the member club's DOC.

Scheduling

- A. The member clubs DOC-s will meet not less than three 3 weeks prior the league start date to set brackets.
- B. No less than 2 weeks prior to the league start date a schedule will be approved by each DOC and published.
- C. Each club must post the schedule on their website.
- D. The league will play two initial play dates (the first two league games) then brackets will be reshuffled as DOC-s see fit.
- E. Teams may be moved midseason upon agreement of the clubs DOC-s.

Referee assignment

- A. Each member club is responsible for assigning referees at their venue.
- B. Each member club is responsible for referee fees at their venue.
- C. All referees that are assigned to officiate CA-PDFL matches are required by USSF to be certified in the current year and assigned to said match by a USSF Certified Assignor.

Make-Up Games (Rainouts)

- A. Member clubs will have predetermined rain out dates schedule prior to season.
- B. DOC-s work together to determine convenient times available to make up their games.
- C. Member clubs may agree to not make up games, but the decision is all or none.

Field Closures for Weather

Any cancellation due to field closures for weather MUST BE reported to member clubs at the earliest point possible.

Fields

- A. Each member club must supply a playing venue to host games
- B. Is Recommended that each club have a minimum of:
 - a. 7v7 x (6) six playing fields for their host week.
 - b. 4v4 x (2) two playing fields for their host week.
- C. Field size, lines and equipment must conform to CA-PDFL Game Rules.
- D. Each club is responsible for fees associated with their playing venue/s.
- E. There must be an active field coordinator for each club.
 - a. This person will be responsible for all fields used by their club.
- F. The DOC or a club representative must supervise every coach, player and parent at the game for his/her club.
- G. All accountability will fall on that DOC or Club representative.
- H. DOCs are responsible for addressing issues within their club or fellow DOC-s if the issue is between clubs.
- I. Each member club is responsible for proper preparation of their fields. This means the grass must be cut, fields properly lined, nets properly secured in all areas, corner flags installed, spectator lines clearly visible, no obstacles on the playing field and the field is in playable condition.
- J. At game time a referee has the authority to declare the field unplayable.
- K. See CA-PDFL Game Rules document about restriction line on each field.

Playing time

- A. Players must play a Minimum 50% of the game time in each half. Coaches must make every effort to ensure every player at every game have equitable playing time to facilitate their development.
- B. Players within CA-PDFL should be able to play multiple games in the same day, however if a player wishes to player pass on a select team on the same day that player should be restricted to 1 game within CA-PDFL on that day to stay consistent with the STYSA's player pass rule.

Scoring & Game Management

- A. NO results, standing, nor scores will be kept. All games are friendly Matches.
- B. DOC's are responsible for ensuring each game is competitive in nature. I.E. If a team on one field is beating another by a large margin the DOC-s can step in and move players around to create an evenly matched game.
- C. Competitive definition
 - a. Players of same ability playing each other.
 - b. Games close in score (Power Play). Development is designed to create the best learning and fun experience for young players. To ensure an imbalance in ability does not spoil this:
 - i. Team losing by 4 goals difference can add one additional player, so 4v4 becomes 5v4, If the score returns to less than a 4 goals difference then team takes off a player.
 - ii. Team losing by 6 goals difference a further additional player can be added, so 5v4 becomes 6v4, If the score returns to less than a 6 goals difference then team takes off a player.
 - iii. Team losing by 8 goals difference a further additional player can be added, so 6v4 becomes 7v4, If the score returns to less than an 8 goals difference then team takes off a player.
 - c. Clubs, teams or coaches who violate the nature of ensuring games are competitive can be removed from the league.
 - d. DOC-s should encourage staff coaches to meet with the opponent coach and referee prior to the game kick-off to clarify CA-PDFL rules of play.

Game Uniforms

Teams must have distinguishable uniforms. The home team will make the necessary changes if both teams are wearing similar colors

Club responsibilities for in-game management

- A. Every member of the organization is responsible for the actions of its coaches, players, officials and spectators before, during, and at the conclusion of the game.
- B. Each coach during the game is responsible for the verbal and physical actions of its team, coaches, and spectators.
- C. A coach may be asked to leave the field as a result of a violation of this rule.
- D. Any CA-PDFL League player, coach or spectator involved in any unsporting like incident reported by the game officials in any competition, shall be suspended immediately from any involvement in CA-PDFL League related activities for a period to be determined by the CA-PDFL members.
- E. Any player, coach or team official who assaults (civilly or criminally) a referee, shall automatically be suspended for the rest of the season.
- F. Academy DOC or club representative must be at the venue. They will ultimately be responsible for any action or issues their club is involved in and/or requires immediate action to address issues at hand.

Coach Responsibilities

- A. Ensure player safety is a top priority.
- B. Adhere the integrity of the CA-PDFL League Philosophy.
- C. Adhere to proper protocols and policies of the league.
- D. Foster a player-centered environment.
- E. The coach must not micro-manage the game for the players.
- F. Show respect to all official of the game, regardless of the quality of the game they are officiating.

Violation of Responsibilities

Result in suspension and/or removal from the CA-PDFL to that specific coach or club.

Coaches, Assistant Coaches & Bench Personnel Expectations

- A. It is the responsibility of all coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players and supporters in all matches. Failure to do so undermines the referee's authority and the integrity of the game resulting in a hostile environment for players, the referee(s), coaches, assistant coaches, bench personnel and spectators.
- B. Coaches shall not interact directly or indirectly with the coaches or players of the opposing team during the game in any manner that may be construed as negative, hostile or sarcastic either by way of demonstrative actions and gestures or by ill-intentioned remarks.
- C. Coaches shall not offer dissent to any call made by the referee(s) at any time.
- D. Coaches and club staff will only position themselves on the team side of the field, between the point of the halfway line and the edge of the penalty area. Coaches will not leave this area with the purpose of coaching unless agreed upon by game coaches on both teams.
- E. Coaches are not to address the Referee(s) during the game except to:
 - a. Respond to a referee who has initiated a conversation.
 - b. Point out emergency or safety issues.
 - c. Make substitutions.
 - d. Ask the referee, "What is the proper restart (i.e. direction and Indirect Free Kick or Direct Free Kick)?"
 - e. Ask for the time remaining in the half.

Violations (Coaches, Assistant Coaches & Bench Personnel)

- A. In the opinion of the referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the referee may take any of the following actions:
 - a. The referee may issue a verbal warning to the offending coach, assistant coach or bench personnel.
 - b. The referee may eject the offending coach, assistant coach or bench personnel. Once ejected, the individual will be required to leave the field immediately.

Parents & Spectators Expectations

- A. Spectators are to sit on the sideline across from the team they are supporting.
- B. Parents or any other person without proper registration passes, are not allowed on coaching area.
- C. No parent or spectator shall address the referee or assistant referees at any time. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Parents and spectators shall not dispute calls during or after the game.
 - b. Parents and spectators shall not make remarks to the referee(s) or advise the referee(s) to watch certain players or attend to rough play.
 - c. Parents and spectators shall not make remarks to the players(s) or advise players(s).
 - d. Parents and spectators shall not yell at the referee(s), including criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation or feedback of any kind before, during or after the game.
 - e. The only allowable exceptions to the above are:
 - i. Parents and spectators may respond to a referee who has initiated a conversation, until such time as the referee terminates the conversation.
 - ii. Parents and spectators may point out an emergency or safety issues, such as a player apparently injured on the field or observed fighting. Additionally, parents and spectators shall not make derogatory comments to players of either team.

Violations (Parents & Spectators)

- A. DOC's may suspend parents from attending games. In the opinion of the referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the referee may take any of the following actions:
 - a. The referee may issue a verbal warning to the coach of offending party's team.
 - b. The referee may stop the game and instruct the coaches to direct the parent/spectator to leave the field.
 - c. The referee may abandon the game, and suspended the game, if the parent/spectator does not leave the field.

Referee Abuse

- A. Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment. Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee:
 - a. Using foul or abusive language toward a referee that implies or threatens physical harm.
 - b. Spewing any beverage on a referee's physical property.
 - c. Spitting at (but not on) the referee.

Referee Assault

- A. Referee Assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee.
- B. For purposes of this Policy, "intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.
- C. Assault includes, but is not limited to the following intended or committed acts upon a referee:
 - a. Hitting, kicking, punching, head butting, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee.
 - b. The act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee.
 - c. Damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.