

# COVENTRY SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## *Constitution, Bylaws, Rules & Regulations 2026*



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## STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The Coventry Soccer Association (hereafter referred to as CSA) was founded to foster and accentuate teamwork, and to expand the idea of teamwork to instill a sense of “community”. By this we mean to include teammates, coaches, parents, opposing teams, sponsors, and Board members to work together as a whole unit and mutually take pride in the accomplishments of the league. We will bring together children within the community regardless of the child’s race, sex, color, or creed to participate in the game of soccer. We will keep the idea of sports as a pleasurable activity; that having a good time is as important as understanding the competitive aspects of winning and losing. We will instill in all members and players the ideals of good sportsmanship, integrity, loyalty, valor, and safety.

## PART I: CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be “Coventry Soccer Association”. It shall also be referred to as “CSA” or “this Association” or the “Club”.

### ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose for which Coventry Soccer Association is organized is to provide non- profit, public, educational, soccer competition for youth.

### ARTICLE III - BOUNDARIES

The boundaries of Coventry Soccer Association shall be that area that is defined by the Town of Coventry, RI

### ARTICLE IV - AFFILIATION

The Coventry Soccer Association shall be an affiliated member of, and comply with the authority of Soccer Rhode Island (SRI), the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), and the United States Soccer Federation (USSF).

### ARTICLE V - ADMINISTRATION

- A. The Coventry Soccer Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors. The business of CSA shall be transacted by its Board of Directors.
- B. The Board of Directors shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Developmental Director, Competitive Director, Coaches Director, Referee Director, Registrar, President Emeritus (Immediate Past President), Fundraising Director, Director of Facilities, Webmaster & Technology Director, Assistant Competitive Director, Assistant Developmental Director, and Assistant Fundraising Director. The CSA Board of Directors may also have, at its discretion, other officers may be appointed in accordance with the Bylaws of CSA.

### ARTICLE VI - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- A. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the association shall be held in February. The date shall be determined and published by the Board of Directors with a minimum of thirty (30) days’ public notice. This can be done via the local newspapers, social media, CSA website, general mailing to current registered members, and/or e- mail.
- B. At the AGM of CSA, the procedures and debate shall be in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of CSA and the rules of parliamentary law known as “Robert’s Rules of Order” (current edition).
- C. The presence of at least thirty (30) voting members of this Association shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the AGM. In the event a quorum is not established at the AGM, the meeting will be rescheduled to a date not more than thirty (30) days from the original meeting date. Notification can be via CSA website, general mailing to current registered members, and/or e-mail. At the rescheduled meeting date six Board members must be present to constitute a quorum.
- D. The order of business at the AGM shall be as follows:



- a. Call to order
- b. Reading of Minutes of previous AGM
- c. Acceptance of Minutes of previous AGM
- d. Reports: Reports shall be presented by the Officers, Directors, and other designated representatives of the Association responsible for the various operational areas of CSA. These individuals oversee their respective areas throughout the year and may present updates or reports at the Annual General Meeting as part of the Association's annual review.
  - i. President
  - ii. Vice President
  - iii. Secretary
  - iv. Treasurer
  - v. Competitive Director
  - vi. Developmental Director
  - vii. Referee Director
  - viii. Coaches Director
  - ix. Registrar
  - x. President Emeritus
  - xi. Fundraising Director
  - xii. Director of Facilities
  - xiii. Director of Indoor Facilities
  - xiv. Committees
- E. Unfinished Business
- F. Proposals for amendments/changes to the Constitution, Bylaws, and/or Rules & Regulations of CSA
- G. New Business
- H. Election of Officers
- I. Good of the Game
- J. Adjournment

#### **ARTICLE VII - LOCATION OF PRINCIPAL OFFICES**

The Board of Directors of CSA shall fix the location of the principle executive offices of the Association at any place within the boundaries of CSA. If no other location is specified, the location of the executive office will be the home address of the President. A permanent Post Office Box shall be established as the official mailing address for CSA.

#### **ARTICLE VIII - COLORS**

The representative colors of CSA shall match Coventry High School colors; this applies to the competitive teams only, not developmental. Black uniforms may be worn by Anchor division teams or teams playing in the top division of their respective league and age group.

#### **ARTICLE IX - RULES OF PLAY**

The CSA Board of Directors shall promulgate and implement Rules & Regulations pursuant to which the purpose of CSA will be accomplished.

#### **ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION**

Should the Association be dissolved, all assets remaining after the payment of all debts shall be turned over to Soccer Rhode Island for the express purpose of the development of soccer.

## ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

- A. **Submission of Amendments:** Voting members in good standing may submit proposed amendments to the Rules & Bylaws Committee no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or a duly announced mid-year membership meeting convened for the purpose of considering amendments. The Committee shall accept submissions on a rolling basis; however, any submission received after the applicable deadline shall be deferred to the next amendment cycle unless deemed germane to a timely submitted proposal.
- B. **Committee Review:** The Rules & Bylaws Committee shall review all submissions to ensure clarity, consistency with existing governing documents, and alignment with applicable regulations and organizational objectives. The Committee is authorized to refine, consolidate, or revise proposed amendments as necessary to produce clear, enforceable, and operationally sound language, while preserving the original intent of the submission. The Committee shall present finalized, vote-ready amendments to the membership along with a recommendation for adoption, modification, or rejection, and may provide a summary of material revisions to maintain transparency.
- C. **Meetings and Voting:** Proposed amendments, as finalized by the Committee, shall be distributed to the voting membership no fewer than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting at which they will be considered. Amendments may be voted on at the AGM or at a duly noticed mid-year membership meeting, with at least thirty (30) days' notice provided to the membership. Adoption of any amendment requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present, provided a quorum is established.
- D. **Effect of Amendments:** Any amendment adopted in accordance with this Article shall take effect immediately unless otherwise specified in the adopted amendment.
- E. **Technical Corrections:** The Board of Directors may authorize minor technical or administrative corrections to the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules & Regulations without a vote of the membership, provided such corrections do not alter the intent or substantive meaning of any provision.
- F. **Publication and Compliance:** All adopted amendments shall be recorded in official meeting minutes and made available to the membership. Where applicable, amendments shall be submitted to governing bodies and published on the CSA website within thirty (30) days of adoption.

## WAIVER CLAUSE

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Whenever in the CSA Constitution and/or Bylaws, a provision, in whole or in part, shall be deemed invalid by the CSA board (through a majority vote), that provision shall be stricken from the CSA Constitution and/or Bylaws such that the invalid provision shall not render the remaining document invalid. To that extent, only the portion needed to bring the Constitution and/or Bylaws into compliance shall be stricken. The remainder of the Constitution and/or Bylaws shall continue in full force and effect.

In the event of the occurrence of a modification of Constitution and/or Bylaws as detailed above, the President of CSA shall immediately call a special general meeting of the CSA board and CSA members. Meeting to be held no later than thirty (30) days from the date of notification by CSA of a nonconforming provision, and said special meeting shall be for the sole purpose of amending or correcting the Constitution and/or Bylaws as may be necessary.

## CHANGES

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These rules may be changed by a 2/3rds vote of the voting members present at the Annual General Meeting provided that a quorum is present. Without reference to any particular section, paragraph, or word, corrections to the Constitution, Bylaws, and/or Rules of CSA may be made for grammatical and spelling errors. All changes made to conform the language to proper English must not affect the substance of the section where the change occurs.

Any questions regarding the interpretation of these rules shall be resolved by the Board.

## ARTICLE XII – RATIFICATION

Ratification of this Constitution and any amendments adopted pursuant to Article XI shall require approval by no fewer than two-thirds (2/3) of the CSA Board of Directors or a minimum of seven (7) Board members, whichever is greater. Ratification confirms that all approved amendments have been properly incorporated into the Association's governing documents.

## PART II: BYLAWS

### RULE 1: MEMBERSHIP

#### PLAYING MEMBER

Any playing age youngster interested in soccer who is a resident of the state of Rhode Island may become a playing member upon timely application and payment of the registration fee.

#### VOTING MEMBER

Voting membership is open to parents/legal guardians of playing members, sponsors, coaches, board members, and adult referees (18 years or older). Every voting member has one vote. A voting member must be present to cast a vote. All coaches, adult referees, and Board members are voting members. Parents/Guardians become voting members by registering their children in CSA.

### RULE 2: OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### ELECTED OFFICERS AND PRESIDENT EMERITUS

The elected officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Developmental Director, and Competitive Director. Additionally, the President Emeritus shall be in this category of officers as the President Emeritus position shall be conferred automatically to the Immediate Past President after a new President is elected. Provided the President Emeritus remains active and in good standing, they shall retain the position until there is another change of President. If an Immediate Past President is unwilling or unable to remain on the board as President Emeritus, the previous President Emeritus can be appointed to the position by the board.

#### APPOINTED OFFICERS

The members of the CSA Board of Directors appointed by majority vote of the officers of Rule 2 Section A shall be Referee Director, Coaches Director, Registrar, Fundraising Director, Director of Facilities, Webmaster & Technology Director, Assistant Competitive Director, Assistant Developmental Director Assistant Fundraising Director and Indoor Facilities Manager. These positions will be appointed within 30 days of the general election.

#### QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

- A. The President shall be a resident of the Town of Coventry.
- B. Board members are expected to perform their responsibilities on a timely basis and with a high level of integrity.
- C. CSA Board Members responsibilities include:
  - a. Attending as many board meetings as possible. Missing two consecutive regular meetings without cause may result in removal from the board.
  - b. Assisting with the league's On-Site Registrations for our Fall Developmental programs.
  - c. Helping as a volunteer with the developmental tournament weekend in the fall and the U8/U10 Festival weekend (competitive program tournament) in the spring.
  - d. Helping assist with the developmental program on Saturdays during the fall by volunteering for full days of duty on rotating schedules.
  - e. Upholding the By-Laws and rules of CSA and those of SRI, USYSA, and USSF.
  - f. Helping make policy and adhere to the non-profit mission of CSA as well as representing the league in a positive light.

## DISMISSAL FROM BOARD

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Board members can be removed from their position based on a 3 to 1 majority vote including abstentions, of the other Board members. Grounds for dismissal are:

- Missing more than 2 consecutive board meetings without cause
- Missing 2 consecutive general meetings without cause,
- Being negligent in their CSA board member duties and/or responsibilities.

## VOTING AUTHORITY

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The officers and members named in Rule 2, Sections A and B shall have equal vote in decisions of the Board. Over 50% of these members must be present for any decision of the Board.

## APPEALS

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Any decision of the Board can be appealed to SRI. A ten (10) day appeal period will be established for any appeal taken from a decision of CSA Board of Directors to SRI. The ten (10) day appeal period will begin upon the receipt of a written decision of the CSA Board of Directors.

## TERMS OF OFFICE

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Election of officers shall be for two-year terms and elections shall be staggered as follows:

Even Year Elections	Odd-Year Elections
President (Two-Year Term)	Vice President
Secretary	Treasurer (Two-Year Term)
Competitive Director	Developmental Director

The standard term for the elected positions of President and Treasurer is two years. However, if no other person(s) come forward and announce their candidacy for either position, the board may choose to appoint the current President and Treasurer for another term of one year at their discretion. This process will be repeated for subsequent years and there is no limit to the number of years a person can serve in either position if appointed by the board. However, if a candidate does come forward to announce their desire to participate in an election of either position, and the current person holding this position has already held the position for 2 years, then the current person holding the position must step down and is not eligible as a candidate.

To be considered for an elected position, candidates come forward, and the winner will be elected by a simple majority vote.

If no person comes forward as a candidate for the office of the president and the current president does not wish to serve another term, the order of succession for the responsibilities are The Vice President, followed by Secretary and then Treasurer.

## VACANCIES

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A vacancy in any elected position on the CSA Board of Directors will be filled at the next monthly meeting of the CSA Board of Directors by majority vote of the remaining members of the CSA Board. Written notice of the meeting for the election of new officer(s) shall be given no later than (10) days prior to the meeting for the officer(s) whose position is deemed vacant, a quorum of six board members is required.

## CSA BOARD JOB DESCRIPTIONS

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### *PRESIDENT*

- Conducts and calls all General and Board meetings.
- Ex/officio of all committees.
- Signs official documents of the Soccer League.

- All checks regardless of amount to be countersigned. Treasurer will always be first signature along with President or Vice-President as second signature only.
- Alternate to endorse checks.

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### *VICE-PRESIDENT*

- Performs all duties and exercise all the powers of the President during his absence or incapacity.
- Serves as the default Volunteer and Tournament Coordinator or oversees someone appointed to the role by the board. This role involves soliciting and coordinating volunteers for various organizational roles and duties including coordinating volunteers for tournaments hosted by CSA. It also involves planning and directing these tournaments and managing tournament logistics. This person may recruit and oversee a working committee focused on volunteers and tournaments.
- Performs other duties as the Board may from time to time direct.
- All checks regardless of amount to be countersigned. Treasurer will always be first signature along with President or Vice-President as second signature only.
- Alternate to endorse checks.

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### *SECRETARY*

- Maintains records of the Soccer League.
- Signs documents of the Soccer League with the President.
- Maintains correspondence of the Soccer League.
- Informs membership of meetings.
- Maintains names and addresses of sponsors of the Soccer League.

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### *TREASURER*

- Presents reports at General and monthly meetings.
- Endorses and deposits checks and/or money orders received
- Provides written receipts for all cash received.
- Pays bills upon approval of the Board or Board Member.
- Files SRI reports in a timely manner.
- Maintains a single set of records.
- Must be bonded.
- Oversees the concession stand and any fund-raisers.
- Countersigns all checks, regardless of amount. Treasurer will always be first signature along with President or Vice-President as second signature only.
- Maintains the Federal tax exempt status by ensuring all required tax forms are properly and timely filed, such as annual Form 990-EZ or Form 990 with the IRS.
- Maintains our State status by ensuring all required forms are properly and timely field, such as the Annual Reports due in June with the RI Secretary of State.
- Ensures at least one other co-signer of checks (President or Vice President) also receives, or has access to, monthly bank statements from the bank.
- Works with the Finance Committee to ensure bank statements and bank reconciliations are reviewed and approved by the President and at least two other voting board members.
- Confirms to membership at the Annual General Meeting that the association has maintained its Federal tax exempt status and State status and is current with all required Federal and State filings.

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### *DEVELOPMENTAL DIRECTOR*

- Oversees operation of Developmental program, while promoting and developing the program.
- Works with Assistant Developmental Director, and Developmental Age Division Coordinators to manage the Developmental program.
- Schedules and oversees the forming and drafting of developmental teams
- Works with Coaches Director to nominate and recommend coaches
- Prepares Developmental game schedule.
- Reviews referee game card for accuracy lopsided games
- Maintains standings for results-oriented divisions
- Coordinates the acquisition of Developmental program awards, e.g., trophies, jackets, etc.
- Procures uniforms for Developmental program.

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### *COMPETITIVE DIRECTOR*

- Oversees all Competitive programs while promoting and developing the program.
- Solicits and nominates representatives to the Competitive Committee.
- Responsible for the Competitive program's books, i.e., monies.
- Can approve operating expenses up to \$500.00 for Competitive accounts.

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### *REFEREE DIRECTOR*

- Trains, educates, assists to certify, and assign referees to games, for both Developmental and Competitive programs
- Works with Referee Coordinator, if any, regarding training and game assignments.
- Oversees payroll of referees; must remain within budget.
- Must complete referee coordinator state certification course.

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### *COACHES DIRECTOR*

- Trains, educates, and assists to certify coaches for both the Developmental and Competitive programs.
- Develop, manage, and facilitate training initiatives that improve and enhance the knowledge and skill of the association's coaches (new coaches clinics, etc.).
- Actively promote, coordinate, and track coaching development and certification programs to raise the overall level of coaching within the association (US Soccer Licenses, United Soccer Coaches diploma and certification courses, etc.).
- Arrange and facilitate timely email distribution of age appropriate training plans to developmental coaches on a weekly basis throughout the fall developmental season.
- Recommends and nominates coaches to the Board for assignment to teams.
- Report to the Board on all matters relating to coaching, including disciplinary issues.
- Is strongly recommended to hold a minimum State "D" License.

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### *REGISTRAR*

- Maintains members database (Members include: players, coaches, and volunteers).
- Performs all duties of the Registrar for the Developmental program.
- Assists the Developmental Director in team formation and scheduling and managing the draft.
- Maintains and distributes current rosters for the Developmental program.
- Provides reports and other information to the town and SRI for compliance, e.g., insurance, reimbursement, and tournament rosters.

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### *PRESIDENT EMERITUS (IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT)*

- Acts as an aide to the President.
- Provides advice on organizational operations and events to ensure continuity in pursuing current objectives.
- Leads and direct special committee designated by the Board of Directors.

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### *FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR*

- Coordinates and organizes all fundraising activities, as well as manages all sponsors.
- Oversees and coordinates the activities of the Fundraising Committee in soliciting contributions from sponsors and obtaining grants necessary for the association.
- Records and transfers all income to the Treasurer.
- Obtains sponsors for Fall Recreational Teams.
- Presents a report as to the status of the Association's fund-raising activities at each Monthly Membership Meeting, and at such other times as directed by the Board of Directors.

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### *DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES*

- Oversees field maintenance and equipment.
- Oversees and manages all Association facilities to include buildings, fields, and ancillary resources.
- Shall obtain permission to use fields and facilities throughout the town, prior to soccer practice and/or game sessions.
- Shall work with the Competitive Director and Assistant Competitive Director to secure adequate availability and permission for use of indoor facilities to include but not limited to school and town gymnasiums, and nearby indoor facilities and gymnasiums (Wide World of Indoor Sports, Teamworks, West Warwick Civic Center, area Colleges and Universities, etc.).
- Shall fulfill field requirements for all CSA recreational and competitive games by ensuring that the proper number, size, and layout of fields are provided.
- Shall provide/oversee maintenance (line striping, anchoring goals, etc.) to all fields prior to CSA recreational and competitive games.
- The Director of Facilities shall assist the Director of Equipment with the inventory, storage, purchasing, and setup/take-down of Field Equipment.
- Lead any land acquisition or lease acquisition and development committees formed to expand the resources of the organization.

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### *ASSISTANT COMPETITIVE DIRECTOR*

- The Assistant Competitive Director works directly with the Competitive Director and performs functions as Directed.
- Learns duties and best practices to help ensure smooth continuity of the Competitive Program.
- Recruit, solicit and nominate people to a working Competitive Committee consisting of Competitive Coaches and Assistant Coaches.
- Helps manage winter indoor sessions including notifications of memberships, securing practice facilities, and developing registration through online database.
- Assist in assigning players as needed.

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### *ASSISTANT DEVELOPMENTAL DIRECTOR*

- Works directly with the Developmental Director and performs functions as Directed.
- Oversees and coordinates the CSA Spring Developmental training program.
- Learns duties and best practices to help ensure smooth continuity of the Developmental Program.
- Recruits, solicits, and nominates people to a working Developmental Committee consisting of Developmental League coaches and parents.

- Helps manage developmental seasons including, but not limited to, notifications of memberships, securing practice facilities, and developing registration through online database.
- Assist in assigning players as needed.

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### **ASSISTANT FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR**

- The Assistant Fundraising Director shall report to the Director of Fundraising and assist, identify and implement fundraising activities that include, but are not limited to:
  - Sponsor letters and collection
  - Identifying and contacting new sponsors
  - Identifying and contacting organizations that may regularly set money aside for organizations like the CSA (Elks, Lions, Rotary, etc.)
  - Recognition and promotion of sponsors via Communications Relations Director and media.
  - Identifying and procuring grants and grant type assets and opportunities for club improvement (solar, bathrooms, flagpoles, power, etc.).

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### **WEBMASTER & TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR**

- Establish and maintain the organization’s website.
- Work with other board members such as the Communications Director to post and disseminate club information via the website.
- The board should consider this an ideal position for an unpaid internship for young, tech-savvy individuals with club ties who could help the league while building their resume in high school or college.

## **RULE 3: MEETINGS**

### **GENERAL MEETINGS**

The Annual General Meeting is to take place in February, and in addition to the Annual General Meeting, there will be two (2) general meetings to be held in June and November. A quorum will consist of a minimum of six Board Members. The Board can call other general meetings as required.

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

As authority for the day-to-day operations of the league is vested in the Board, the President will call meetings of the Board as necessary. At least six Board members must be present to establish a quorum. Each member in attendance has one vote. In general, decisions will be made by the majority vote of those present. Other members of CSA, especially chairpersons of committees, may be invited to attend Board meetings. They will not, however, have a vote. There will be no executive board. The schedule of regular board meetings will be announced. Board meetings will be open to the membership, but the Board may go into closed session to discuss disciplinary and/or ethics problems.

### **COACHES’ MEETINGS**

Coaches’ meetings will be called by the Director of Coaches. Coaches must attend coaches’ meetings.

## **RULE 4: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Election of general officers will take place at the Annual General Meeting in February. Nominations for all elected officers will be taken from the floor. Election is by majority vote of the voting members present. Officers assume their positions immediately upon election. The current Board may propose a slate of officers nominated for positions and, under Robert’s Rules, if no opposing nominations for any position are put forth, the Secretary can cast one ballot for the slate.

## RULE 4A: APPOINTED POSITIONS

### AGE DIVISION COORDINATORS

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Age Division Coordinators are not voting members of the Board. They are under the direction of the Competitive and Developmental Directors. They are to inform division coaches of the decisions of the Board and all other soccer related matters. Age Division Coordinators are appointed by the Coaches Director with Board approval. They are responsible for maintaining an accurate roster of the teams in their division.

### COMPETITIVE COMMITTEE

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Under the direction of the Competitive Director, the Competitive Committee will consist of:

- The Competitive Secretary
- The Competitive Treasurer
- The Competitive Coordinators
- The CSA Coaches Director
- The Competitive Registrar

The Competitive Secretary, Competitive Treasurer, and Competitive Coordinators are not voting members of the Board.

### COMPETITIVE COORDINATORS

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Indoor, Spring, and Fall Competitive Coordinators are under the direction of the Competitive Director. They will oversee each of their respective divisions. They are not voting members of the Board, but they must inform competitive coaches of Board decisions and maintain accurate rosters. Competitive Coordinators will be appointed by the Competitor Director with Board approval.

### OTHER NON-VOTING APPOINTED POSITIONS

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Other Non-voting Appointed Positions may include Concessions Manager, Grant Manager and five Member-At-Large positions.

### CONCESSIONS MANAGER

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- Shall manage Concessions (food and possibly apparel and merchandise) of the Association.

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

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The five (5) Members-at-Large shall assist in governing the Association by attending meetings, helping in any area that may require assistance, and serving on committees.

## RULE 5: COMMITTEES

Committees will be established at the Annual General Meeting for the year. Appointments to committees will be announced at the July CSA Board of Directors Meeting. Appointments to the committees will be approved by the CSA Board of Directors.

### STANDING COMMITTEES

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- Activities Committee: includes fund raising and concession stand.
- Rules & Bylaws Committee: includes ethics and team formation.
- Competitive Committee: Competitive Director will oversee.
- Equipment/Facilities Committee: includes uniform and safety items.
- Finance Committee: Ensures that at least once a year, the Treasurer, President, and at least two other voting board members meet to review and approve the bank statements and bank reconciliations prepared by the Treasurer since the last Finance Committee review. The Finance Committee should report the results of its reviews to the board.

## AD HOC COMMITTEES

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The President of the Board can establish ad hoc committees as required.

## GENERAL RULES FOR COMMITTEES

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Membership in committees is open to all adult members. Each committee will elect its own chairman and will report at each CSA Board Meeting. The Chairman will serve until the next election of the Board.

### **RULE 6: BUDGET**

At the Annual General Meeting, the Treasurer will submit a detailed line-item budget for the current year at a board meeting. A budget must be approved by a majority of the voting members at the Annual General Meeting. The Board will not exceed a major account category in the approved budget by more than twenty (20) percent without the passing of a motion at a board meeting. In no case will the board incur expenses or spend funds that would result in deficit spending.

### **USE OF SURPLUS FUNDS**

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It is in the best interest of the CSA that surplus funds (those funds in excess of the normal operation of the yearly expenses of CSA) are appropriated towards any general improvements in the operation of the League, through Board approval. Monies remaining will be invested in short term high interest certificates in the event that purchase or availability of real estate should arise for new CSA fields and facilities.

### **RULE 7: SEASONAL YEAR**

The seasonal year shall begin on September 1st and shall end on August 31st of the following year as established by the USSF. This rule does not prohibit the fall season from beginning during the month of August.

### **RULE 8: REGISTRATION**

The Association is responsible for the registering of players, proper affiliation of teams, proper accounting of all transactions and accurate reporting to the State Registrar and the State Treasurer of SRI.

Each Team official/administrator shall be listed on the team roster. Players must use their full first name and last name on all registration material.

No player or team shall become an affiliated member of this Association until the above-stated documentation has been received by the State Registrar.

Each competitive team shall be required to prepare and submit to the Board of Directors the proper team or player registration forms, the required number of photographs, and to pay all membership fees or fines that may be levied by this Association.

All SRI competitive player registrations must be submitted by the team officials to the SRI Registrar one (1) month prior to the first regularly scheduled game which is official and counts for points and standing. Team assignment information must be submitted to the SRI Registrar one (1) week prior to the first regularly scheduled game.

### **RULE 9: AGE LIMIT DEFINITIONS**

The following age divisions shall be comprised of players based on their birth year and in accordance with US Soccer's Birth Year and Season Matrix (**Appendix A**):

- Under 19 years of age.
- Under 17 years of age.
- Under 16 years of age.
- Under 15 years of age.
- Under 14 years of age.
- Under 12 years of age.

- Under 10 years of age.
- Under 8 years of age.
- Under 6 years of age.
- Under 5 years of age.

## **RULE 10: PROOF OF AGE**

Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, board of health record, passport, or alien registration card issued by the United States Government or Certification of Naturalization issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The Board of Directors may request that proof of age be established. Proof of age shall be presented within forty-eight (48) hours of the presentation of written requests. Failure to respond to such requests shall result in the immediate suspension of the player involved and forfeiture of all games in which that player participated.

## **RULE 11: PLAYER SAFETY**

### **GENERAL SAFETY**

No player should be allowed to play in any regularly scheduled game with an injury which can be aggravated by playing or which constitutes a danger to others. No player wearing an orthopedic cast shall be permitted to play in any regularly scheduled game. Any request for a waiver of this regulation must be submitted to the SRI Board of Directors (CSA Board when applicable) in writing, together with a properly executed release and indemnity agreement signed by the parent or guardian of said player and (plus) a written statement from the player's personal physician/doctor permitting such involvement.

### **HEADING**

All Players age 10 and younger shall not head the ball directly from the air in any match or competition, nor shall these players practice heading the ball in any organized team setting. If a player age 10 or younger deliberately heads the ball in a match, the referee shall award an indirect free kick to the opposing team at the spot of the infraction. If the heading occurs within the penalty area, the referee shall move the ball outside the penalty area and award an indirect free kick to the opposing team as per US Youth Soccer heading policy.

## **RULE 12: GAME UNIFORM COLOR CONFLICT**

When the uniforms of two competing teams are similar (i.e., color conflict) the home team shall effect a change to colors, which are distinct from those of the opponent.

## **RULE 13: PLAYING FIELD AND FIELD CONDITIONS**

CSA Home playing fields shall be designed and maintained (proper size, layout, line striping, etc.) to be consistent with US Soccer Federation's Age Group and Small-Sided Game Mandate as outlined in USSF's Small-Sided Games USSF Standards Chart (**Appendix B**). Specifically, CSA playing fields shall not exceed the Maximum Field Size for the applicable age group as mandated by USSF in the Small-Sided Games USSF Standards Chart (**Appendix B**).

Both teams shall be responsible for the condition of the field and its acceptance for play. The actual happenings and occurrences related to the conduct of the games and those prerogatives granted to the referee by the "Laws of the Game" as published by FIFA, shall not be challenged.

## **RULE 14: PLAYER RELEASE AND TRANSFER**

Any competitive player registered to CSA is bound to CSA for the entire seasonal year unless he/she requests a transfer. All requests for transfer shall be submitted to the SRI Registrar on a SRI Transfer Form. The reason for the request for transfer must be stated in the appropriate place on the form.

Transfers will be signed by the President. In the President's absence the Competitive Director may sign the transfer. Releases may be signed by either the President or the Competitive Director. The President and or the Competitive Director shall advise the Board at the next board meeting of all transfers that have been granted.

A definition of the player release and/or transfer must be signed by the parents as CSA's record that the parents understand the implications and the repercussions of the release and/or transfer. The signed copy will be maintained by the Competitive Director.

A Player may submit a Temporary Release Form recognized by SRI that would allow a CSA player for winter/indoor soccer to play for another association. Should a player wish to play for both CSA and another association, they may receive a temporary release, but the CSA team will take precedence in cases of conflicting schedules. Premiere teams always take precedence over competitive teams. Upon the conclusion of play for the other association, the player would return to CSA and there would have been no transfer under the transfer rules.

#### **RULE 15: ACCOUNTABILITY, CONDUCT, AND EJECTION**

Each member team shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of persons associated with the member team in any manner whatsoever.

During a game sanctioned by or regularly scheduled by SRI or any of its affiliated member teams, a referee may stop the game, eject any spectator from the grounds (field of play and areas surrounding the field and fields near the field upon which the game is being played) if in the opinion of the referee, the offender is guilty of violent conduct, serious foul language or the use of foul or abusive language, or if the conduct is deemed to be interference by the offender as designated in subdivision (d.) of Law V – Referees - Laws of the Game. Each coach or other team administrators shall be held primarily responsible for the conduct of the spectators for or from their respective teams. At no time shall the drinking of alcoholic beverages and/or smoking or chewing of tobacco be permitted at any game or practice sanctioned by or regularly scheduled by SRI or any affiliated team.

#### **RULE 16: TEAM RELEASE DURING THE SEASONAL YEAR**

A competitive team shall be allowed to join the playing schedule of another league only when it has completed all obligations to this Association, i.e., all scheduled competition and financial liabilities.

#### **RULE 17: PLAYING WITH PROFESSIONAL TEAMS**

Any player signing a "letter of intent", a professional contract, or playing with a professional team without the permission of the Board of Directors of SRI shall be declared a professional player and shall lose all privileges of youth amateur status. The Board of Directors of the state association may grant amateur players permission to play in benefit or exhibition games only, where professional players are involved. Permission must be requested in writing.

#### **RULE 18: ASSAULT ON AN OFFICIAL: CENSURE AND SUSPENSION**

When any person shall assault "an official", the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in the SRI Board of Directors.

- An official, for the sole purpose of this specific regulation, shall be defined as a referee, official linesman, player, coach, or team administrator.

Upon the happening of an assault of an official, CSA shall immediately gather evidence, which must be completed within five (5) days of the assault. Subsequently, a hearing on the issue of a suspension shall be held within ten (10) days after the conclusion of the gathering of evidence. The term "assault" (physical or verbal) shall be defined by USYSA Rule 3042.

#### **RULE 19: PROTEST AND APPEAL PROCEDURE**

There are no appeals of CSA Developmental program games.

There shall be only one (1) level of appeal within SRI (competitive program).

The SRI Board of Directors is empowered to hear a protest or appeal that arises either from a game played under SRI jurisdiction or a decision made by a SRI official.

## **PART III: GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS - DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM**

### **TEAM RULES**

Developmental soccer, played in the fall, is open to all youngsters. The program is limited only by the availability of fields and coaches. CSA makes every effort to accommodate all those who register. Late registrations are placed on a waiting list and rostered to teams, as space becomes available, on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **ORGANIZATION**

CSA provides a Coed program for U5 & U6 as well as a Boys and Girls program for U8 through U15 divisions. No boys are allowed to play in the girl's program. Girls may petition to play in the boy's program for Developmental. A written request by the parent/guardian must be submitted at registration. Petitions after the formation of teams will not be accepted. The CSA Board has the authority to approve or deny this petition.

Players will not be allowed to register for, or play in, an age group other than the age group to which they belong by date of birth as determined by USYSA/SRI. For the Under 10 and older divisions, an exception to this rule is made for the player who plays Competitive Soccer at CSA and in his/her age division makes a Division 1 Team (A Team) to play up a division in the following season for Developmental Soccer, subject to:

- A. Consent of parents
- B. Recommendation of competitive coach(es)
- C. Approval of CSA Board

Also, in the U6 and U8 divisions, for the good of the game and the betterment of the player, an exceptional player may be granted the opportunity to move up to the next age division. This can be enacted before or even during the season by meeting the criteria of a. and c. above, and having the recommendation of that player's Developmental head coach.

### **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

The maximum number of players on a team will be determined by the Board following registration and preliminary team assignments with a target being:

- fifteen (15) players for teams playing 11 v 11,
- twelve (12) players for teams playing 9 v 9, and
- eleven (11) players for teams playing 7 v 7.

For the drafting age divisions, the number of players on a team will be established at the beginning of the respective age division drafts.

### **MINIMUM PLAY PERIOD AND SCHEDULED GAMES**

Every player must play at least 50% of the game after attending one practice session during that prior week. Any suspected violations of this rule should be reported to the division coordinator. Coaches who enforce the requirement of attendance at practice must keep written records of attendance. With U5 and U6 divisions being instructional, all players will play 3 quarters before any player plays four.

### **ROSTERS**

No players may participate in a game without being properly registered. Proper registration consists of the acceptance of the player's registration application and assignment of the player to the team. Players may only play for the Developmental team for which they have been rostered.

## EQUIPMENT

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Only soccer shoes, gym, or tennis shoes must be worn by all players. Baseball or football cleats will not be allowed. Shoes must be soft-toed and must not have metal cleats. No hard or dangerous equipment is to be worn. This includes, but is not limited to casts, helmets, and body braces. All players must wear shin guards. All players will wear the uniform color shirt of CSA. Goalkeepers must be distinguishable by a shirt of a different color. No jewelry, including starter earrings, may be worn during practice or games with the exception of medical bracelets or necklaces which are permitted, but must be securely taped down

Players, at their discretion, may wear “sweats” provided the player’s uniform is visible and apparent in its entirety. The implementation of this rule shall extend only to CSA’s Developmental Program. Any program outside the jurisdiction of CSA shall not be impacted by this rule.

## PRACTICE TIME AND PLACES

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Practices are to start on August 1st and no earlier for the developmental season. Field availability for practice will be announced by the Board prior to the start of the Developmental season. Coaches are required to share available field space.

## KICK-OFF TIMES AND DATES

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Kick-off times and dates of regularly scheduled games may not be changed except by the Board. All games in the CSA Developmental Program shall have a definite starting time and length of game time established. All games will end at a time to be determined by the official start time for the following game on that field. Any games in progress when this end-time is reached will be terminated immediately and the game considered a complete game. Cancellation of games by a Board member shall supersede the referee’s jurisdiction. The rescheduling of cancelled games shall be by the Board.

## CONDUCT

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Conduct which disrupts the team with which a member is associated, which is provocative towards another member or team, which shows a disregard for the aims and purposes of the Association, or which is deemed by the Board to be detrimental to the best interests of the Association, shall be grounds for suspension from the league.

## AWARDS

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Non-monetary awards to the players are allowed as long as each team member receives a similar award during the season. This includes awards such as, but not limited to ice cream, soda, pizza, patches, etc.

If a child quits his team during the season, he forfeits any awards. Exceptions are made for youngsters who quit because of sickness or injury. Exceptions can be made by the Board for parents who take their youngster off a team for cause and state the cause in writing to the Board.

## COACHES RULES

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Coaches in Coventry Soccer Association are approved by the Board and assigned coaching responsibility for a team. Each team will have a Team Administrator. All coaches are subject to the Bylaws and playing rules of the Association and decisions made by the Board. It is expected that all coaches will be familiar with the philosophy and rules of the Association and will abide by them. All people, whether paid or volunteer, who assist a coach on a regular basis must have Board approval and a disclosure form on file and registered with SRI.

## COACHES’ CODE OF CONDUCT

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Each season, all coaches will be required to review and acknowledge the Coaches’ Code of Conduct as part of the registration process. The Code of Conduct establishes general expectations for sportsmanship, professionalism, and appropriate behavior when interacting with players, parents, referees, and opposing teams. It also reinforces adherence to applicable U.S. Soccer policies and the Association’s standards for safe and respectful participation. The guidelines outline expectations regarding referee conduct, reporting concerns, and the process for reviewing complaints when they arise. Coaches are expected to model positive leadership and help maintain a respectful environment for all participants. Failure to adhere to the Code of Conduct may result in review and disciplinary action by the Association.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

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Coaches must always demonstrate good sportsmanship and teach fair play. Players should be encouraged to be as graceful in losing as in winning, and winning should be kept in perspective. Coaches are expected to encourage and teach their players respect for the rules, their fellow players, and officials.

If the two head coaches of a game cannot otherwise come to an agreement, then the following will apply: If a Coach can only field the minimum number or less than the maximum number of players for their division, the opposing Coach must match the number of players on the field.

## INSTRUCTION IN SOCCER SKILLS

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Coaches are expected to help their players improve their soccer skills. At practices, every player from the most highly skilled to the least skilled should be given equal attention. During regular season games and all play-off games, every player must play at least 50% of the game unless the player is being disciplined for flagrant rules violations and/or missing of games and practices without a good reason. In the U5 and U6 divisions, all players must play for 3 quarters before a player is allowed to play 4 quarters. It is recommended that each coach acquires a copy of CSA rules and FIFA rules.

## TEACHING RESPECT FOR OTHERS

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Running up the score or intentionally embarrassing or humiliating another team is discouraged. Game results will be monitored by the CSA Board, including goal differentials and instances of players scoring multiple goals in a game.

In games where there is a significant goal differential (seven [7] goals or more), the CSA Board may require the coach of the winning team to appear before the Board to review the game and discuss whether the score was unnecessarily run up.

At the conclusion of each game, teams shall exchange handshakes, and coaches are responsible for ensuring that all players participate.

## ENCOURAGING GOOD CONDUCT

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Coaches are responsible for always maintaining and encouraging the good conduct of their players. Players who flagrantly violate the rules or consistently display poor sportsmanship must be disciplined.

## BEING A ROLE MODEL

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Coaches are expected to set a good example, and therefore, alcoholic beverages, smoking and/or chewing of tobacco, and drugs are prohibited at all CSA games and practices sessions. Coaches must not appear before their team while under the influence of such. Coaches will not smoke while coaching a game or practice.

## POSITION ON THE FIELD

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The teams and spectators are not allowed to be together on the same side of the field and therefore must be located on opposite sides. The referee will require this separation and may ask the coaches' assistance in accomplishing this.

Except for the U5 division, where a coach is allowed on the field, coaching is not allowed at the ends of the field, especially near the goals. Likewise, spectators are not allowed at the ends of the field. Coaches are asked to remind parents and spectators of proper sideline behavior, and in general, to foster the ideals of sportsmanship and good manners.

## PRACTICES

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Coaches should schedule at least one (1) but not more than two (2) compulsory practices per week during the playing season. Coaches cannot require players to attend more than two (2) practices per week. Players age 11 and age 12 shall be permitted to head the ball in any match or competition. These players may practice heading the ball in an organized team practice or skill session, but coaches shall monitor this practice so that no single player heads the ball more than 25 times per week, regardless of setting. Players age 13 and older shall be permitted to head the ball in any match or competition and these players may practice heading the ball in an organized team practice or skill session as per US Youth Soccer heading policy.

## EQUIPMENT

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Coaches are responsible for the equipment assigned to them for the duration of the season and are expected to return all equipment when their playing season is completed. Coaches of the first game of the day are required to arrive early to assist with field setup. Coaches are required to return all field equipment if they are the last game of the day.

## ABUSE

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There will be no toleration of abuse, physical or verbal, of players, coaches, or officials.

## DISMISSAL

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Coaches must abide by the [U.S. Soccer Bylaws and Policies](#), [SRI Bylaws](#), and Code of Ethics of the Coventry Soccer Association. Coaches may be dismissed as a result of violations of Coventry Soccer Association Rules & Regulations, Bylaws, or Code of Ethics. Disciplinary problems with coaches will be handled by the Board. Appeal of Board decisions on such matters will be submitted to SRI. A coach will relinquish all coaching responsibilities during an appeal of a suspension or dismissal of the Board.

## EVALUATION OF PLAYERS

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All coaches will fully cooperate in evaluating players according to the procedures established by the Board. All player evaluations must be completed and turned in prior to receiving team trophies.

## REFUSAL TO FIELD A TEAM

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If a coach refuses to play a game, the coach forfeits the game and is subject to discipline. If both coaches refuse to play, it is a double forfeit. For certain conditions, the referee can red card a coach, at which time the coach must leave the field. A red carded coach is not allowed to pull his team off the field. If no adult assistant coach is available to coach the team of a removed coach, the Field Marshal will appoint a coach for that game.

## CONTACTING PLAYERS

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Coaches must make every effort to contact each player assigned to their team. This includes telephoning home and cell phone, e-mailing, and requesting assistance from the registrar. Each coach must submit a complete roster to the division coordinator when requested, no later than Labor Day.

## INJURED OR SICK PLAYERS

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Coaches will note on the roster injured/sick players who dress but do not play. If a player becomes ill, injured, or does not want to play, the coach will notify the other Head Coach and the referee.

## MAINTAINING A FULL ROSTER

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Coaches must maintain a full roster as long as children remain on the waiting list. Full rosters will be determined by the Board prior to team formation. For the drafting age divisions, this will be communicated prior to the draft.

## SELECTION OF DEVELOPMENTAL COACHES

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### REQUIRED COACHES

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In order to provide adequate instruction and supervision, all teams must have a head coach and at least one assigned assistant coach. A head coach is encouraged to choose additional assistant coaches. However, no more than two (2) coaches are allowed on the coaches' side of the playing field during a game. No phantom Head or Assistant coaches are allowed.

### ASSISTANT COACHES

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The names of assistant coaches must be submitted to the Board prior to the second game of the season. Additional changes must be approved by the Board.

## APPROVAL OF COACHES

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All game-day coaches (head and assistant) must be approved by the Board.

## SENIORITY FOR AVAILABLE POSITIONS

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All coaching applicants will be presented to the Board. The Coaches Director assisted by the Developmental, and Assistant Developmental Director will provide their recommendations based on the criteria below, which is listed in no particular order. The Board will then provide their approval or disapproval of the recommendations.

- State/National Soccer Coaches License
- Ability to work with youth in CSA
- Coach's conduct and ethics (i.e. red cards, disciplinary actions)
- Attendance in coaches' meetings (sign-in required)
- Active participation in CSA activities
- Coaching seniority in CSA (Head and/or Assistant Coaches)

If there is still a tie in any division for the selection of a coach, where CSA's Board of Directors cannot agree which coach should get the position, then the coaches' names will be selected from a hat while the coaches involved are present.

## SUBSTITUTIONS

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A team cannot play a game without a coach. If none of a team's approved coaches can attend a game, the respective Division Coordinator, Developmental Director, Field Marshal, or the President can approve a replacement coach for the game.

## LICENSING

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All coaches at CSA are encouraged to attain the age-appropriate SRI coaching license within one year of coaching any age division. Any coach entering his/her second season of coaching without the minimum license may not be selected to be a head coach of a team at CSA. The Coaches Director will coordinate sessions for these licenses to be awarded.

## REGISTRATION RULES

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### REGISTRATION

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Registration will take place early in the calendar year in order to provide ample time to prepare for the upcoming season. Registration will be extensively publicized through articles in local newspapers and fliers in the schools.

### REGISTRATION FEE

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Registration fees will be determined annually by the Board.

### REFUND OF REGISTRATION FEE

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Before the draft for a division is held, a written request for a refund of the registration fee will be honored for any reason. If a youngster on the waiting list is not assigned to a team, then the registration fee will be refunded. Once the youngster is assigned to a team, however, no refund will be made. At this time, financial obligations for uniforms, etc. have been made.

### WAITING LIST

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If the number of on time registrations exceeds the number of players the Association can field, the preference will be given to Coventry residences and to children from neighboring towns that currently have siblings playing in the Association. All others will be added to a waiting list. A youngster is added to the waiting list when CSA receives the registration form, fee, and the birth certificate.

All players who register after the general registration deadline are added to the waiting list. A Wait-listed player will be assigned to the team with the least number of players based on the maximum number of players by team and the date of registration to the league (see Team Rules page 19 under maximum # of players). If two teams have the same number of players, the player is assigned to the team that would have been next by draft order. All coaches are required to keep a full roster until the waiting list

is exhausted or the deadline for submitting rosters to the state is reached. A coach may not turn down an assigned player as long as he/she has not reached the maximum number of players allowed on the team.

As a rule, waitlist players will be assigned to teams after July 31. With Board approval, they could be placed earlier.

## MISCELLANEOUS RULES

### FIELD MARSHAL

All voting board members can act as a Field Marshal. A Field Marshal will be present at the field for all games. The Field Marshal will be responsible for making decisions at the field. The President can overrule the Field Marshal. It is expected that in most cases the President and Field Marshal will defer to the Referee Director (if present and available) in matters pertaining to refereeing.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER

The primary factor in determining whether or not to cancel a game is the safety of the players. At game time, the referee of the game, under the supervision of the Referee Director, the Field Marshall, and/or the President of CSA will determine if the field is safe for play. During a game, the referee will stop the game if playing conditions become unsafe. Because of the shortness of the season and limitations of field availability for make-up games, CSA games will not be canceled if the field is deemed safe for play. Because the weather can change dramatically during a day, games will be canceled on a game by game basis depending on field conditions at the start of the game.

### INSURANCE

All players and coaches are covered by the SRI insurance policy. This is a supplemental policy that covers medical expenses not covered by the participant's own insurance.

## REFEREE RULES

- Children must be certified by the state at the time they work a game as a referee or a linesman.
- Referees must demonstrate competence to the Referee Director.
- If a qualified linesman is not available, the referee can enlist a person who is agreeable to both coaches and to the referee. Otherwise, the referee can opt to use a one (1) man system. Use of a Two (2) man system is not allowed as it violates the official USYSA and SRI policy for referee officiating.
- In a rare instance, a coach can request that a particular referee not be assigned to his game. This is by no means a license to pick one's referees. It is intended to cover situations where a coach (e.g., teacher, police officer) has had a serious problem with a particular referee. The Referee Director will use his/her best judgment in responding to the request.
- If a coach has concerns about the competence of a referee he should express his concern in writing to the Referee Director. Evaluation forms will be available at the field. The Referee Director will evaluate the performance of the referee and take appropriate action if deemed warranted. Action can include instruction, limitation of duties (e.g., restriction to being a linesman), or termination of services.
- Because virtually all CSA referees are minors, CSA takes the position that referees work under the supervision of the Board and its representative at the field, i.e., the Field Marshal. This particularly pertains to decisions regarding safety (e.g., canceling of games because of inclement weather). The final decision on safety conditions will not be made by a minor.
- Referees will note on the score card injured/sick players who dress but do not play.
- Score cards for U10 games and above will be turned into the Referee director or Assistant Developmental director at the end of each game.

## DEVELOPMENTAL TEAM FORMATION RULES

### PHILOSOPHY

The team selection and formation process is designed with a primary emphasis on producing balanced teams (i.e., parity). For the U10 through U13-17 divisions, teams are generally disbanded and reformed each year to support this objective.

The use of a formal player draft is at the discretion of the Recreational Director, based on what is deemed most appropriate for the given season, registration numbers, and overall program needs. In seasons where a draft is not conducted, CSA will make every reasonable effort to form teams that are balanced and competitive, ensuring that no team is significantly lopsided or uneven in composition.

### RULE 1: CHILDREN OF COACHES

A head coach can choose one (for a team selection purpose) assistant coach. The head coach and assistant can have their children on their team, provided the assistant coach's child does not violate the "A" player rule. This rule does not limit the number of assistant coaches on a team, but rather it only limits the number of children that can be pre-selected to a team.

Special Note: A head or assistant coach, who does not have a child on the team, can "protect" a child for their team's drafting purposes, i.e., pre-selected, provided that the coach has written permission from a parent of that child to do so. See Rule 6 below.

### RULE 2: BROTHER/SISTER SITUATIONS

If multiple children from a family play in the same division and age group, they will normally be assigned to the same team. The purpose of this "Brother/Sister" rule is to minimize transportation problems for parents. Consequently, the "Brother/Sister" rule is intended to include all children living in the same family unit such as foster children and children from a previous marriage prior to the formation of teams. Parents must inform the league of cases in which application of the "Brother/Sister" rule is not apparent, particularly cases of different surnames. Parents can request that the children not be on the same team. Coaches MUST use a draft pick for each sibling. The "Brother/Sister" rule cannot violate the "A" player rule.

### RULE 3: UNDER 5, UNDER 6, AND UNDER 8 TEAMS

U6 teams are co-ed. U6, & U8 teams are formed by the Developmental Director with the assistance of the Assistant Developmental Director. Additionally, U8 teams are balanced in terms of the age and sex of the players to the extent possible. Prior year teams may or not be disbanded.

### RULE 4: DIVISION OF PLAYERS

After coaches' children have been pre-selected, all other children in a division will be divided into three (3) categories:

- Children who are "A" rated players.
- Children who are "B" rated players.
- Children who have been registered in the divisions. Players in each group will be drafted or assigned to teams.

### RULE 5: RANKING OF PLAYERS

All players going into the draft will be ranked according to the procedure established by the Board. Rankings allow coaches to evaluate players who are part of the draft. Even if a team is not ranked by its coach, the players on that team who belong in the draft will be drafted. On the evaluation sheets they will be listed as unranked.

For the purpose of the draft of players into the Developmental Program, those players who played competitive soccer will be ranked as follows:

- Any player moving up to the next age division (1st yr player) will drop a letter ranking for drafts purposes only. (i.e. U-10 "A" player moving to the U-12 division will become a "B" ranked player.)

- Any player playing in the same age division (2nd yr. player) will retain their ranking. (i.e. U-12 “B” player staying in U-12’s will retain “B” ranking.)
- All “C” ranked players will be placed in the open ranks for drafts purposes.

1st year and returning players will be determined by their birthdates. In the draft, the “A” players would be picked first for teams. After the “A” players, the “B” players would be picked. Any “Select” player from another organization registering for CSA will go into the draft as a “Select” (A or B) player, to be determined at or prior to the draft.

The purpose of the letter code is to place constraints on the number of exceptional/experienced players allowed on one team. This “A” player rule will not be violated.

For example, assume there are thirty-four (34) “A” players for twelve (12) teams. A team would be limited to a maximum of three (3) “A” players ( $34/12 = 3$ ), where 2 teams would have only 2.

## **RULE 6: ORDER OF SELECTION OF TEAMS (OTHER THAN U5, U6, AND U8)**

### **COACHES’ CHILDREN**

The children of the head coach and the first assistant coach are assigned to the team. Each child is considered a draft pick. A coach must use his/her first pick(s) in the appropriate categories below, based on the number of children.

### **“A” PLAYERS**

All “A” players will be drafted according to the rules of the draft. All “A” players will be drafted before moving to the “B” players. Exception: once a team’s allotment of “A” players has been reached and they arrive at their turn in the draft, the coach may choose from the “B” player pool.

### **NON-RATED PLAYERS**

After all “A” players have been selected, all remaining players will be selected.

## **RULE 7: PROBLEMS WITH ASSIGNMENTS**

In extreme cases, problems with player assignments will be resolved on a case-by-case basis by the Board of Directors.

## **RULE 8: ORDER OF DRAFTING**

The order of the draft will be determined by the combined total rating of the two coaches’ son(s) or daughter(s) who will be playing on their respective teams. The players will be rated as follows:

- Premier players = 5
- Competitive A players = 4
- Competitive B players = 3
- Competitive C players = 2
- Developmental players = 1

The team with the lowest combined total for the coaches’ son(s) or daughter(s) will have the first pick; the second lowest combined total will have the second pick and so on in point order from lowest to highest for the remaining teams. In the event of a tie, drafting order will be decided by a hat pick for those specific teams that tied point score. Once the draft order has been established it will remain the same for all rounds of the draft.

### **EXAMPLE DRAFT ORDER:**

Team A has 1 premier player and 1 A player for a total score of 9. Team B has 1 A player and 2 B players for a total score of 10  
Team C has 2 B players and 1 C player for a total score of 8

Team D has 1 A player and 1 Developmental player for a total score of 5 The draft order would be as follows: Team D, Team C, Team A, Team B



## RULE 9: DRAFT ORDER FOR ROUNDS 2 AND ON

As an illustration, the order of the draft for five teams would be as follows:

ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	ROUND 4	ROUND 5	ROUND 6
Team A	Team E	Team D	Team C	Team B	Team A
Team B	Team A	Team E	Team D	Team C	etc.
Team C	Team B	Team A	Team E	Team D	
Team D	Team C	Team B	Team A	Team E	
Team E	Team D	Team C	Team B	Team A	

## RULE 10: CHALLENGE UP RULES

If a player wishes to challenge up to the next age division, the player (via Parent/Guardian) must submit a written request to the CSA Developmental Director, who will submit the request to the CSA Board for review, for a waiver to be allowed to challenge up to the next division. The CSA board will review each request based upon, but not limited to, some or all of the criteria mentioned below:

- Player ability
- Consulting of past coaches
- Consulting of current coaches
- Consulting of CSA sanctioned evaluators

Each waiver request will be evaluated on an individual, case by case basis without exception. The CSA Board will return their decision in writing to the player (via Parent/Guardian) in as timely a manner as possible. CSA Board decisions on challenge up waivers are final and not subject to protest.

## LAWS OF THE GAME

Coventry Soccer Association follows FIFA rules except as amended by CSA or as dictated by SRI.

### SUBSTITUTIONS FOR U5, U6, AND U8 DIVISIONS

On-the-fly substitutions will be permitted for the U5, U6, and U8 divisions.

### U5 & U6 COACHES

In the U5 & U6 divisions, each team is allowed to have one (1) coach on the field of play during the game for instruction.

### U5 AND U6 PLAYING TIME

The players must be played as equal amount of quarters as possible. All players must play three (3) quarters before one player is allowed to play all four (4) quarters.

### U5 AND U6 SCORING

After a goal is scored, the ball is placed on the goal box line of the team that the goal was scored against. The opposing team must wait on their side of the field until the ball is brought past the mid field line before engaging in play.

### U8 GOAL KICKS

- Prior to the taking of a goal kick, the ball can be placed anywhere in the goal box.

- The opposing team must retreat to midfield and can enter the opponent’s half when the ball is kicked into play.
- If the ball does not leave the goal box on the kick, the goal kick must be re-taken.

## **PART IV: GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS - COMPETITIVE SOCCER PROGRAM**

The following articles expand the purpose of Coventry Soccer Association to allow for the participation of select CSA teams in local, state, regional, and national competitive soccer programs. The following additions to the existing articles apply only to the Competitive soccer program and do not change or amend the articles as they apply to the Developmental program.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of Coventry Soccer Association’s Competitive Soccer program shall be to bring together the most skilled players of CSA and to provide them with the opportunity to participate in the competitive soccer programs offered through other organizations. Such participation will benefit the entire league by raising the participants’ skill levels, the level of play within the entire league, and increase interest in the game of soccer.

### **FALL TRAVEL SOCCER**

Fall Travel soccer is optionally offered at the discretion of the CSA Board based on the recommendation of the Competitive Director and the Competitive Committee.

### **INDOOR COMPETITIVE SOCCER**

In Indoor soccer, CSA sponsors teams that play other Competitive/Select teams in a statewide league. The number of teams is strictly limited by the availability of players and court time. The number of teams CSA can sponsor is not known until all towns submit their requests and the available court time is allotted. In other words, after CSA submits its list of teams, the tournament then tells us how many of our teams were accepted. Consequently, CSA cannot guarantee that every child who registers will play.

### **SPRING COMPETITIVE SOCCER**

Spring soccer teams, additionally, play in out-of-state tournaments. Note that the Competitive program is self-supporting.

### **COMPETITIVE DIRECTOR AND COORDINATORS**

The Competitive Director will appoint the Competitive Committee, which will consist of the Competitive Secretary, Competitive Treasurer, the Competitive Coordinators, and the CSA Coaches Director, with Board approval. They are to work with all Coventry teams participating in competitive soccer programs offered through other soccer organizations. It shall be the duty of the Competitive Director under the constitutional guidelines of CSA to supervise the formation, management, and participation of CSA teams within the competitive soccer program entered.

It shall be the duty of the Coordinators to make application for and supervise the use of appropriate facilities such as gymnasiums, soccer fields, and equipment for their respective seasons. Coordinators are to report directly to the Competitive Director.

### **PLAYING AREA AND RULES OF PLAY**

The playing area and rules of play shall be established by the sponsoring organization. Any reasonable and safe playing surface and rules shall be acceptable.

### **NUMBER OF PLAYERS PER TEAM**

The number of players on each team will be established by the team’s head coach with the approval of the Competitive Director.

### **PLAYER MISCONDUCT**

Any player who intentionally commits any of the five (5) following offenses shall be reported by the coaching staff to the Competitive Director for appropriate disciplinary action.



- Strikes or attempts to strike a teammate, an opponent, or an official
- Spits at a teammate, an opponent, or an official
- Kicks or attempts to kick a teammate, an opponent, or an official, outside of the flow of play and with intent to cause injury
- Behaves in such a manner that the sponsoring organization's rules are broken
- Conducts himself/herself in such a fashion as to cause damage to CSA's reputation or the facility's, or to endanger the participants, spectators, or officials

The Competitive Director, with the advice and consent of the Board, is empowered to discipline players. Disciplinary action, when deemed appropriate, can range from a verbal reprimand to removal from the team.

## **SPECTATOR MISCONDUCT**

Since the conduct of the spectators at soccer games in which CSA teams participate reflects on CSA, it is necessary that proper behavior be required. Where the spectators, who are parents, friends, or supporters of a particular player, continually behave in a rude or disruptive manner, that player may be suspended from the team or removed from the team by the Competitive Director with the advice and consent of the Board.

## **TEAM SELECTION**

Every CSA playing member must be given a fair chance to compete for a position on a CSA competitive team. Selection of players to competitive teams will be based on evaluations of players during tryouts. 6U-10U Players are required to be registered in the Fall Developmental program to be eligible to play competitive soccer. 13U and up need to sign up during the tryout Period. All 14U and under players must attend tryouts in order to be considered for a competitive soccer team. Tryouts are mandatory and dictated by the Competitive Committee. The Competitive Committee and Coaching Director will determine the method for evaluations/tryouts, which are then presented to the CSA board for discussion.

Players who want to try-out for CSA competitive teams must submit a registration form prior to the published deadline. Players must register and play for their normal age group as determined by date of birth, except as noted in the next paragraph.

If a player wishes to challenge up to the next age division, there is a two-step process that must be followed (without exception):

### **STEP 1**

The player (via Parent/Guardian) must submit a written or email request (Text will not be accepted) to CSA Competitive Director, no later than 3 days before the competitive tryouts begin, requesting their child be allowed to challenge up to the next division. The Competitive Director will forward the request to the CSA Board for review. Only written requests to the CSA Competitive Director will be considered for CSA Board review (requests sent directly to the CSA Board will not be considered).

The CSA board will review each request based upon, but not limited to, some or all of the criteria mentioned below:

- Player ability
- Consulting of past coaches
- Consulting of current coaches
- Impact to current competitive division
- Impact to challenge up competitive division
- Safety of the child (respect to size and mental acuity to the games)

Each waiver request will be evaluated on an individual, case by case basis without exception. The CSA Board will return their decision in writing to the player (via Parent/Guardian) in as timely a manner as possible. CSA Board decisions on challenge up waivers are final and not subject to protest.

## STEP 2

If a player receives waiver approval from the CSA Board, they are not automatically granted challenge up privileges and must still try out for both the division of their normal age group and the division they are trying to challenge up to. **Failure to try out for either division may result in the player being denied challenge up privileges and/or not being placed on a competitive team for the upcoming season.**

**Note: On the rare occasion that the tryouts for one or both age divisions are being conducted before a properly submitted waiver request has been decided on by the CSA Board, it is strongly recommended that the child still attend the tryouts for both age divisions.**

During tryouts, the player will be evaluated by, but not limited to, some or all of the following evaluating person(s):

- Current coaches
- Previous coaches
- Age-appropriate licensed coaches
- CSA Board members
- CSA sanctioned evaluators (i.e. outside evaluators)

Players must finish in the top 5 of their current age division tryouts to be eligible for selection in the division they are challenging up to, regardless of how they performed in the division they are challenging up to. The competitive committee and CSA board may consider/approve players outside of the top five finishers on a case-by-case basis.

The player (via Parent/Guardian) will be notified of the evaluation results and team placement in as timely a manner as possible.

If a player is accepted into the age group they are challenging into, the teams in this division take precedence over that to which the player would have normally played. For example, if a player would normally play in the U10 division but is attempting to challenge up to the U11 division and is accepted, he/she would have to accept placement on any U11 team they he/she are placed on (i.e. a U11 “C” team takes precedence over a U10 “A” team).

Girls must try out and play on CSA’s Girls Division teams. One exception would be, if a Girls team for a player’s normal age group were not fielded that season. She would then be allowed to try out and/or play on a Boys’ team. Other cases may be approved by the CSA Board.

The Competitive Director will inform coaches of the pool of players that are available to them for selection. With the permission of the Competitive Director, coaches can select a player below the assigned pool if the coach can demonstrate to the Competitive Director that the player should be on the team to fill a position. A coach is allowed two (2) such requests on teams with a roster of less than fourteen (14) and three (3) requests on teams with a roster of fourteen (14) or more.

If there were an unforeseen case where a player cannot make a tryout for a legitimate reason (such as an injury or family emergency), that player would still be eligible for the upcoming competitive season. After being evaluated by age-appropriate licensed coaches, the player would then be placed in the appropriate pool of players.

**Note: All players U10 and younger need to play in the Coventry Soccer Developmental League to be eligible for Coventry’s Competitive Soccer program.**

**Players that are U10 or younger that successfully pass all the CSA requirements to challenge up and are selected to a U11 or older competitive team are not required to play in the Coventry Soccer Fall Development League to be eligible to play for Coventry’s Competitive Soccer Program. However, they must register, pay, and inform the Developmental Director in advanced if they wish to “opt out” of playing in the CSA Fall Development League.**

## TEAM FORMATION

### A TEAM:

The head coach of the “A” team picks the players from their assigned pool that he/she believes will make the strongest competitive team for CSA.

### B TEAM:

The head coach of the “B” team picks the next players from the remaining pool of players.

### C TEAM:

The head coach of the “C” team picks the next players from the remaining pool of players.

**NOTE: Players on “A” and “B” level competitive teams are expected to earn a position on the team by the quality of their play. They do not automatically gain a position on a team by virtue of their parent being a coach of the team.**

All players, once selected, will play for the highest team selected. If the player chooses not to play for that team, they forfeit a position on any other CSA competitive team. On Rare Occasions the CSA Board may grant a waiver to this policy.

CSA Competitive will form single birth-year teams when possible, (7U, 9U, 11U, etc.), even if there is no single birth-year age group division to play in. Single birth-year age group teams will be placed in an appropriate division according to their skill and input from the coach of the team. This rule will help CSA conform to U.S. Soccer Federation’s birth-year registration mandates.

Once rostered to a team, there will be no refunds. No player shall be allowed to double roster within the same age group, within the same facility. All rosters must be approved by the Competitive Committee. All divisions must field a Competitive “A” team unless otherwise approved by the Board. Teams may also be reformed after each session.

## OUT OF TOWN PLAYERS

CSA playing members have priority on CSA Competitive teams. In general, non-CSA players will be placed on CSA teams if CSA players are not available. Two exceptions are as follows:

- Players from neighboring towns that do not have a competitive program will be accepted at tryouts.
- Teams with high school varsity players are exempt from this rule.

Under no condition will CSA prevent a CSA registered player from playing in another town. (Refer to Bylaws, Rule 14 for Release rules.)

## WEEKEND TOURNAMENTS

Occasionally, an opportunity to participate in a competitive tournament lasting one or two weekends will arise. Any and all tournaments must be approved by the Competitive Director in order to participate. Financial assistance for participation in such tournaments is at the discretion of the board. SRI approval is required for all tournaments as this affects insurance coverage.

### **TEAM FORMATION FOR WEEKEND TOURNAMENTS:**

If after a coach has invited everyone on his/her existing roster still needs players for a weekend tournament, the coach may select up to the amount of non-CSA players allowed per tournament rules. This is subject to the President or Competitive Director’s approval.

## HEAD COACH SELECTION

All coaching applicants will be presented to the Board. After receiving a recommendation from the Coaching Director and the Competitive Committee, a name will be presented to the Board for their approval or disapproval. A coach is selected because he/she has the best qualifications and is the best selection for the team, based on the criteria below:

- State/ National Soccer Coaches License
- Ability to work with youth in CSA
- Coaches' conduct and ethics will be reviewed (i.e. red cards, disciplinary actions)
- Attending coaches meetings (Sign-in required)
- Active, positive participation in CSA activities
- Coaching seniority in CSA (Head and/or Assistant Coaches)
- Coaching seniority in age group

If at this time, there is still a tie in any division for the selection of a coach, where the CSA Board of Directors cannot agree as to which coach should get the position, then the coaches' names will be selected from a hat while the coaches involved are present.

### ASSISTANT COACHES

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The head coach shall select his/her assistant coach or coaches where appropriate, using the criteria set forth for head coaches. The head coach's selection shall be forwarded to the Coaching and Competitive Director's prior to the first practice or game. The CSA Board will approve all coaches.

### COACHING STAFF

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The coaching staff is expected to conduct themselves in such a manner as to set a good example to the players on their team and to reflect well on the CSA organization. Poor behavior will be reported to the Competitive Director and/or the Coaches Director. All verbal and written complaints will be investigated by the Coaches Director. Those complaints found to be accurate will be recorded in the coach's files. They will relay the information to the Board for disciplinary action, if necessary. Disciplinary action may range from a verbal reprimand to removal from coaching.

Players on "A" and "B" level competitive teams are expected to earn a position on the team by the quality of their play. They do not automatically gain a position on a team by virtue of their parent being a coach on the team.

Appendix A: US Soccer's Birth Year and Season Matrix



**Birth Year and Season Matrix**

When determining the age group for a season, the year the season ends should be used for determining the birth year. Also note that the format "U followed by age" really means that age and younger. For example, U8 should be read as 8 and younger. For more age-group information please reference [U.S. Soccer's Player Development Initiatives](#).

Season	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
<b>Birth Year</b>									
<b>2020</b>									
<b>2019</b>									U6
<b>2018</b>								U6	U7
<b>2017</b>							U6	U7	U8
<b>2016</b>						U6	U7	U8	U9
<b>2015</b>					U6	U7	U8	U9	U10
<b>2014</b>				U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11
<b>2013</b>			U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12
<b>2012</b>		U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
<b>2011</b>	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
<b>2010</b>	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15
<b>2009</b>	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16
<b>2008</b>	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
<b>2007</b>	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18
<b>2006</b>	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
<b>2005</b>	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
<b>2004</b>	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19		
<b>2003</b>	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19			
<b>2002</b>	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19				
<b>2001</b>	U16	U17	U18	U19					
<b>2000</b>	U17	U18	U19						
<b>1999</b>	U18	U19							

Appendix B: USSF's Small-Sided Games USSF Standards Chart

# Standards Chart



	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
Maximum Field Size (yards)	30x20	30x20	30x20	47x30	47x30	75x47	75x47	112x75
Number of Players	4v4	4v4	4v4	7v7	7v7	9v9	9v9	11v11
GK	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Playing Times (minutes)	4x8	4x8	3x15	2x25	2x25	2x30	2x30	2x35
Break Times (minutes)	5	5	5	10	10	10	10	15
Ball Size	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	5
Goal Size (feet)	4x6	4x6	4x6	6.5x18.5	6.5x18.5	6.5x18.5	6.5x18.5	8x24
Offside	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes