

Cal North Competitive Soccer League Application, Bracketing and Scheduling Procedures



State Association

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ARTICLE One Application

- A. The Cal North Competitive Soccer League (CCSL) Season information and links to team applications shall be posted on the Cal North website, www.calnorth.org
- B. Applications must include team name, age, gender, club and district.
- C. Teams must submit two independent contacts on the application.
- D. Teams must comply with all Cal North registration requirements and deadlines.
- E. Teams must complete the CCSL application by the CCSL application deadline. CCSL Administrators shall have sole discretion to accept late applications.
- F. CCSL Team Fees are established by Cal North.
- G. How CCSL Team Fees are collected.
 - 1. All teams or their club must pay fees directly, by credit card at the time of application.

ARTICLE Two Levels of Play

- A. CCSL shall provide competition for boys and girls teams from U8 through U19.
- B. CCSL will create brackets for scheduling of applied teams of similar competitive levels ranging from copper to Gold levels.
- C. Bracketing Objectives:
 - 1. Group Teams of comparable competitive levels.
 - 2. 6-12 teams per bracket.
 - 3. Minimize travel distances for U12 and younger teams
 - a. Brackets will be formed with consideration for the travel distance between the cities where the teams are based.
 - b. Remote teams may be required to play some or all of their games away.
 - c. U12 and younger teams or teams in the Bronze or copper divisions from outside the traditional District boundaries from the majority of the bracket

teams may be required to play a greater percentage or all of their games away.

ARTICLE Three Bracketing Guidelines

A. CCSL Administrators shall establish playing divisions that provide the most appropriate level of competition for all participating teams using the following guidelines:

1. Returning teams will be seeded based on results from the previous season, including the team's final standing, league match and recent tournament results.
2. Club Directors of Coaching and Administrator's information about the teams are encouraged and considered if submitted prior to bracketing.
3. New teams shall be seeded based upon information from Club Directors of Coaching, Club Administrators or feedback from teams and coaches.

ARTICLE Four Promotion and Relegation

A. Where possible the top returning teams in each bracket may be promoted to the next division (copper to bronze, bronze to silver, etc.) and the bottom returning team in each bracket may be relegated.

B. CCSL Directors will have the flexibility to promote, relegate, add new teams or adjust bracket sizes as needed, to form competitive or viable brackets within the age groups.

ARTICLE Five Scheduling

A. CCSL Administrators will generate initial home and away team schedules.

B. Schedules will ideally give teams eight (8) to ten (10) scheduled matches.

C. CCSL Directors will consider special scheduling requests or Club field restrictions from Club Administrators and Directors of Coaching.

D. Where possible, CCSL Schedules will be balanced to allow clubs approximately half of their total games at home for each scheduling date and to accommodate Club field restrictions.

E. Participating Clubs shall be responsible for entering match locations and times for their associated team's home games.

1. Clubs and teams shall consider travel time for visiting teams when creating schedules; teams shall not be expected to depart prior to 7:00am to arrive thirty (30) minutes in advance of game time (e.g., a team that has a two (2) hour travel time to a game should not be scheduled prior to 9:30am (e.g., depart at 7:00am to arrive at 9:00am for a 9:30am game).

ARTICLE Six Reschedules

A. CCSL supports teams rescheduling matches by mutual agreement. Reschedules must be requested with 96 hour notice (4 days) in advance of the game to be deemed a valid request.

B. Teams may mutually agree on any reschedule for any reason provided:

1. The reschedule is approved by both teams and complies with any home team field and referee assignor procedures. Home team Club must approve any rescheduled game.
2. Teams are encouraged to publish the date, time and location to the schedule prior to 9 pm seven (7) days in advance of the originally scheduled match to minimize disruption for families, field and referee schedulers.

C. Valid reasons for a reschedule without mutual agreement after the schedules are final shall be:

1. Inclement weather.
2. Field unplayable, as determined by the Club or League Administrator.
3. Field unexpectedly unavailable, as determined by the club or league Administrator.
4. A team is accepted into a sanctioned USYS or US Club weekend tournament or USYS event.

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- 5. A team has 5 or more players attending ODP State tryouts.
 - 6. COVID outbreak
 - D. Teams shall work to find a mutual date for games being rescheduled under 6.C.
 - E. CCSL Administrators shall have authority to resolve any conflict over rescheduling.

ARTICLE Seven Forfeits, Abandoned & Terminated Matches

- A. All teams are expected to complete all of their scheduled matches during the season.
- B. When a match is not played during the season, CCSL will respond.
- C. The instigating team is the team:
 - 1. That cannot appear, will not appear or has not appeared for a scheduled match.
 - 2. With unacceptable player, team staff or spectator behavior.
 - 3. That does not provide appropriate referees or field and equipment as defined in the Playing Rules.
 - 4. That does not have a coach with an approved coaches pass
 - 5. That is found to have used illegal or unregistered players
- D. The aggrieved team is the opponent of the instigating team.
- E. CCSL may encourage or require the teams to reschedule or replay the match. When a match is rescheduled or replayed, the instigating team is responsible for referee and field fees.
- F. The CCSL Administrators shall have sole discretion to require that a match be played and the location of the match.
- G. The CCSL Administrators shall have sole discretion to award a forfeit loss and penalties for an instigating team or request a PAD (Protest, Appeal and Discipline) committee to assist with these decisions.
- H. Decisions related to forfeits, abandoned or terminated matches may be appealed following CCSL and Cal North appeal procedures.

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- I. Decisions shall be reported to both teams and may include one or more of the following:
 - 1. Allowing the match result to stand.
 - 2. Awarding a “no game.”
 - 3. Awarding a 0-2 loss to the instigating team.
 - 4. Awarding a loss of three (-3) points in the standings.
 - 5. Assessment of a fine for losses incurred by the home team’s club for referees and fields. Fines shall be billed by Cal North to the member club of the instigating team and will be forwarded to the member club of the aggrieved team.
 - 6. Requiring the team to post a bond of \$500 to allow a team to register for a future season.
 - 7. Declaring the team ineligible for promotion.
 - 8. Additional penalties for teams that demonstrate a willful disregard for fulfilling the obligations of the CCSL schedule.
 - 9. Declaring a team ineligible for Awards

 - J. The referee and the team staff will report the circumstances for a terminated, Abandoned or unplayed game via the CCSL Online Incident Report.

 - K. Neither the referee nor the team staff members can award or agree to a forfeit. No score should be reported for unplayed or abandoned games.

 - L. Forfeit scores can only be posted by CCSL Administrators.

ARTICLE Eight Neutral Field Scheduling

- A. CCSL may decide to host some or all of a team’s home matches at neutral field sites and designate a Referee Assignor in order to allow for scheduling of multiple matches at a single location or provide for a more consistent level of officiating. Clubs with teams designated as the home team at a neutral or central field site shall be responsible for any referee or field fees, payable directly to Cal North.

ARTICLE Nine Protest and Appeals

A. The CCSL Director shall establish a CCSL PAD Committee as necessary

B. **Protests and appeals:** The CCSL PAD Committee shall be responsible for deciding protests filed by any CCSL team in accordance to Cal North Policies and Procedures.

1. To file a protest, a team official shall:

a. Email a complete report to Cal North, to the attention of the CCSL Director within two (2) days after the notification of the PAD Committee's decision.

2. A protest will automatically be denied if:

a. It does not follow the procedures and timetables.

b. It does not directly affect the final result (win, draw, loss) of the match in question.

c. It is based on a judgment call of the referee.

d. It is based on a suspension consistent with CCSL established minimums.

3. The protest must describe the basis for the appeal including the specific rule or policy that allegedly has been violated or misapplied and must indicate the specific misapplication or violation of the LOTG, USSF rules, USYS rules, Cal North rules or CCSL rules.

4. The PAD Chair may request further written information from the parties involved in the protest.

5. Decisions of the Committee must take place within (3) three business days of the receipt of the protest. All parties will be informed of the decision.