

Central Virginia Soccer Association

Spring 2015 Operational Guide

This Seasonal Operational Guide is published by the Central Virginia Soccer Association (CVSA) Board. Its provisions supersede those of the CVSA Constitution and CVSA Bylaws, and do so under authority granted by Article XII.A.1 of the CVSA Constitution. It is written for the benefit of the players of the CVSA and to cover situations not foreseen by the CVSA Constitution and CVSA Bylaws, which are available at <http://www.cvsasoccer.org/>.

In general, the CVSA accepts applications from individual teams, who then register their individual players. The league does not conduct a draft to place individual players on teams, but does have an Available Players web page (<http://www.cvsasoccer.org/Players.aspx>) where individual players looking to get onto teams are able to post detailed biographical information in order to facilitate placement and contact from an interested team captain.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Central Virginia Soccer Association (CVSA) is run solely for the enjoyment and recreation of its players and to support continuing soccer operations for all interested amateur soccer players. The CVSA is the only adult soccer league in the Richmond Metropolitan area that offers opportunities for both men and women to play and to be sanctioned by the United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA), United States Soccer Federation (USSF), and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).

This Operational Guide provides the team captains and players with the information they need regarding the CVSA's Spring 2015 season. Any questions not answered within the guide can be directed to the CVSA Board as listed below.

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II. SPRING 2015 SEASON INFORMATION

Divisions

Open Divisions: Premier, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, & Ninth.

Restricted Divisions: Over 35 and Coed.

- Over 35 Divisions is 35+, with up to 4 underage male players.
*pending adequate league interest to support a full division
- Coed Division teams play with a maximum of seven men on the field during the game.
There is no maximum number of women that may be on the field.
*pending adequate league interest to support a full division

Each division is ultimately subject to the level of interest from participating teams. In the event of insufficient interest for a particular division, it will be combined with a similar division wherever possible.

Emphasis will be placed on creating divisions even in number and as competitive as possible. The prior season's standings and team attrition will be the primary determinants of divisional alignment. The CVSA uses a system of promotion and relegation for division alignments. Generally speaking, the top two teams of a division move up and the bottom two teams move down. In cases of conflict or need to balance a division, the CVSA Board will make adjustments. Attention is paid to team record, team roster, and competitiveness of division play. Ultimately, the CVSA Board makes the final decisions concerning division alignments.

The format of play for each division will be based on the number of teams in the division, as follows:

- Ten (10) Team Divisions: Single round-robin.
- Nine (9) Team Divisions: Single round-robin.
- Eight (8) Team Divisions: Single round-robin followed by a tournament. The tournament will be divided into two single-elimination brackets - a Championship Bracket composed of the top four finishers after round-robin play, and a Relegation Bracket composed of the bottom four finishers after round-robin play. The winner of the Championship Bracket will be crowned the division champion. The teams that perform the worst in the Relegation Bracket will be the first teams considered for relegation in the subsequent season. All tournament games ending regulation time tied will advance directly to kicks from the penalty spot. In the event of kicks from the spot, FIFA's *Laws of the Game* will apply, not as one of the 17 numbered laws, but within the supplementary sections *Procedures to Determine the Winner of a Match or home-and-away* (pp. 54–56).
- Six (6) Team Divisions: Double round-robin.
- Four (4) Team Divisions: Triple round-robin.

Rules

CVSA has a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY regarding alcohol at any and all of the game locations before, during or after any CVSA-affiliated games. All violations of this policy will result in serious sanctions, such as player and/or team suspensions from games or the permanent suspension of player(s) and/or team(s) from the CVSA. Please note that zero tolerance means the FIRST offense will result in one or more of the above sanctions.

FIFA Rules apply with the following modifications:

- Teams must have a minimum of seven players to play a regulation game.
- No overtime will be played as ties will stand in regular season games. Any tournament games (including CVSA Cup and Copa Bruce) tied at the end of regulation will progress directly to kicks from the penalty spot in all rounds prior to the Quarterfinals; from that round, through the finals, the overtime format will be two 15-minute overtime periods, followed by kicks from the penalty spot, if the game is still tied, to determine a winner.

Division Specific Rules:

- The Over 35 Division will be 35+. All rules will be consistent with the open CVSA Divisions except:
 - Slide tackling is not allowed. Infractions will result in an indirect kick from the spot of the slide tackle.
 - All Veterans division players must meet one of the following criteria:
 - Have been born on or before 12/31/1980.
 - Up to 4 underage male players are allowed for each team; however those players must have been born on or before 12/31/1985.
 - Female players are eligible if they were born on or before 12/31/1990.
- The standard make up of a Coed team is 7 men and 4 women on the field at a time. A team may play with more than 4 women, but it may not exceed more than 7 men on the field at any time. If fewer than 4 women are available the team must play short.
 - If a male player is ejected from a match, the maximum number of males allowed on the field is six. This follows suit if additional male players are ejected.
 - If a coed division has a tournament match that reaches a penalty kick shootout, kicks must be alternated between male and female players.

Scheduling

All open divisions and Over 35+ Divisions will play primarily on Sundays at 9AM, 11AM, 1PM, or 3PM at Bryan Park (Central), Dorey Park (Eastern Henrico), Hensley Soccer Complex (Western Chesterfield), River City Sportsplex (Western Chesterfield), Henderson Elementary School (Central), or the University of Richmond's intramural field (Central). Out of necessity, teams should expect to have 1-2 of their regular season games on a weeknight at either 6:30PM or 8:30PM. In the event of morning rainouts, games may be moved from their originally scheduled times at Bryan Park, Dorey Park, and Hensley Soccer Complex to River City Sportsplex if fields are available. Teams will be notified directly by the CVSA Board in the event that this change is made. The CVSA reserves the right to add additional fields not listed to the rotation of those available if and as needed.

Coed games will be played on Thursday nights (6:30PM or 8:30PM), primarily at Dorey Park. Depending on the number of Coed teams that register, an additional night of play may be incorporated. Additionally, depending on field availability and demand, the Coed Division teams may have 1-2 games on alternate weeknights or locations; however this will be avoided if possible.

Every team must be willing and capable of playing in any time slot at any field. Once a schedule is posted, there will be no changes to the schedule based on team requests. Games will be rescheduled based on weather, field conditions, or any instance that creates unplayable conditions (determined by the CVSA Board).

CVSA Cup and Copa Bruce will resume play tentatively, beginning on February 22, 2015. CVSA Cup and Copa Bruce matches may be scheduled in any available time/field slot which means games will likely be played on days other than Sunday.

Spring 2015 regular season matches will commence on March 1, 2015.

The Schedule will be available on the CVSA website at least two weeks prior to the first game. Teams that are unable to field a team at a scheduled time will forfeit their game. Teams must provide proper notification to the CVSA. For the purposes of forfeiture proper notification is defined as: by 5PM the day before a weekday match and by noon on Friday for Sunday matches.

Teams that fail to provide proper notice will be placed on Probation for the remainder of the season, as well as the next season (excluding Summer). Based on CVSA Board discretion, teams which have been placed on Probation may be required to pay an increased deposit amount prior to being allowed to register for a subsequent season.

Matches that are postponed due to weather or any other circumstances may be rescheduled for days other than the normal days of play for that division. Schedule updates reflecting these changes will be posted on the Spring 2015 Schedule and Scores page on the CVSA website.

III. REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Team Registration

Team Registration opens Monday, December 8th, 2014 and closes on Wednesday, February 4th, 2015 at 5:00pm. Teams may make division requests based on their preference, but ultimately will be placed in divisions based on the approval of the CVSA Board. Emphasis will be placed on making all divisions even in number and competitive for all teams.

Team registration for the Spring 2015 season will be completed online only, by following the appropriate link on the CVSA website. Once clicking the team registration link, team captains will fill out the form with the appropriate data and pay their individual player fee. This fee is non-refundable and also serves as a team deposit, which may be forfeited in the case of a team not meeting the required roster minimum. Once the team registration is accepted, the team captain will be e-mailed a link for their players to register themselves on the specific team and pay their individual player fees. A team will not be considered registered for the Spring 2015 season until at least 7 players have registered for the specific team. Any teams that have not met the minimum of 7 registered and paid players by Wednesday, February 4th, 2015 are subject to being dropped from the Spring 2015 season.

Teams that operate under the club structure are required to follow the registration guidelines posted in Section V. of the CVSA Spring 2015 Operations Guide.

Each team must ultimately have a minimum of 16 players who are paid for and properly registered by their initial game (Cup or Regular Season) of the season, unless otherwise required to have a higher minimum as set by the CVSA Board.

Player Registration

Individual players should receive a link to register for their specific team from their team captain after he/she registers for their team. Players can register at any point before or throughout the season, however, no player will be allowed to play in a CVSA game until they have registered, paid and been added to their team's roster. To avoid any potential registration issues, players are strongly encouraged to register themselves as early as possible. Every team must have at least 7 players registered before it will be eligible to play in the Spring 2015 season.

Players may be registered on multiple teams within the CVSA. They must pay a full registration fee and complete a separate player registration for every team on which they play. Under no circumstances may a player be registered on more than one team within the same division during the same season.

Player Passes are optional for the Spring 2015 season. If Player Passes are not utilized by a team, every player must show a valid government issued photo ID before each game. A validated player pass is one that has the current “Spring ‘15” sticker on the back. If your players are new to the league or do not have Player Passes, new ones can be made. Player Passes can be dropped off and picked up at the CVSA Drop Box located at SCOR. **Players will NOT be allowed to play in any CVSA games without either a valid Player Pass or government issued photo ID.**

The Roster Freeze Date for all teams for the Spring 2015 season is 5:00 PM, Friday, March 27th, 2015. No players can be added or removed after this date without CVSA Board approval. Teams will be charged a processing fee for each approved player removed after this date.

Payments

The player fee for the Spring 2015 season is \$75.00. All players must pay their individual player fee at the time of their player registration. A player is not considered registered, will not be added to a team’s roster and will not be eligible to play until payment is received.

Alternate payment arrangements can be made for teams or clubs who require it due to outside sponsorship. Those teams should contact the CVSA Board to make arrangements and they will be expected to adhere to a strict payment schedule.

IV. GAME DAY REQUIREMENTS

Rosters & Player IDs

Captains and players are responsible for having current rosters & player identification (Player Passes or government issued photo IDs) on hand at every game. A current roster is one provided by the CVSA registration system that has “Spring ‘15” printed in the upper left corner. A copy of the roster must be given to the referee before the start of each game and the referee will check it against the players identification to assure that no unauthorized players participate in CVSA games. **No player will be allowed to play if they cannot provide proper identification and no team will be allowed to play if it does not adhere to the CVSA Roster Policy detailed in Section VI of the CVSA Spring 2015 Operations Guide.**

It is recommended that extra copies of the roster be given to multiple teammates to cover unforeseen absences by the team captains.

Games are expected to start promptly as scheduled. Teams must have a minimum of 7 eligible players, a valid roster, and player IDs to play. This should be available for the referees review at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game. A 10-minute grace period may be granted if all items are not available at the scheduled start of the game, however the game will be shortened at the referee’s discretion to accommodate for the lost time. In the event of a match being shortened, the referee will notify the captain of each team prior to the start of the match.

Jerseys

Teams are responsible for having jerseys or T-shirts, all the same color and design, with professionally applied numbers (minimum 6") on the back. In the event that both teams involved in a match have the same color jerseys, the HOME team MUST switch to a different color.

Game Ball

The home team is responsible for providing the game ball (Size 5). The home team is designated as the first team listed on the schedule.

Gear

Proper shoes and shin guards are required for all players at all times.

Suspensions

Referees and Team Captains will be emailed the names of players that are suspended from play. It is the Captain’s responsibility to notify individual players. For questions regarding disciplinary decisions, please contact the CVSA Vice President.

V. ROSTER POLICY

A physical copy of the team's current roster must be submitted to the referee, PRIOR to start of EVERY match. The roster MUST have/meet the following:

- Team name
- Captain's information
- Season Label posted
- A current season's version

Once an acceptable roster is presented to the referee, registered players may be added ("written-in") ONLY if ALL of the following criteria are in place:

- Digital roster is required, (in addition to physical copy).
 - Digital roster (accessing roster via smart-phone and/or alternative electronic device) must be provided to referee as part of the initial pre-match check in, prior to writing player in on outdated roster. This is required in order to prove that a player has registered and paid to play on your team.
- Player must present an appropriate photo ID (state-issued driver's license, passport – physical or digital, state issued ID, or government issued ID)
- The players' name(s) must be written in by the referee, once the player has "checked in" with an appropriate photo ID
- Both the "written-in" player(s) and the Captain/Acting Captain must sign the memo section of the roster acknowledging the "writing-in" of player(s). Signatures must be provided PRIOR to "written-in" player(s) taking the field.
- Players must be "written-in" and verified by the team Captain/Acting Captain PRIOR to the start of the match. **Once the match begins via the first half kickoff, all rosters become final and no "write-ins" will be permitted.**
 - In the event a player must be "written-in", but they have not arrived in time for the initial check-in, the Captain/Acting Captain must verify their registration information digitally with the Referee/Assistant Referee, and sign in the memo section verifying the use of a "write-in" roster. Once the "written-in" player arrives, they must provide an appropriate photo ID to check-in, and sign in the memo section prior to entering the match.

Teams will be allowed TWO instances wherein a player is "written-in" per Calendar Period. The current Calendar Period begins February 5th, 2015 and ends June 21st, 2015. A third, as well as any subsequent instances, will result in an automatic loss of the match. Rescheduling the match will not be permitted.

- This applies to all games: regular-season, summer, Cup play and tournament play (or as indicated in the current season's Operations Guide)
 - Upon the third, and subsequent instance, the match will be played; however, the final result will be recorded at minimum as a 2-0 loss, on behalf of the team which is in violation of the Roster Policy, and calculated as such in the final standings. In the event the match result is greater than a 2-0 victory in favor of the team in good standing, the most favorable result will be posted and count

towards the overall team standings (ex. 5-1 victory resulting in a +4 goal differential).

- Any disciplinary actions, cards/card points accrued in this match will count towards player accumulation, including any suspensions for red cards that may be issued/received during the match. This applies to BOTH TEAMS involved in the match.

The CVSA will notify team captains via e-mail upon each occurrence of a player being “written-in” on the roster; including the total number of instances wherein “write-ins” occurred.

VI. CLUB GUIDELINES

Club Definition

A “Club” is two or more teams registered for play in the CVSA that meet the club requirements.

Club Requirements

A Club Registration Form, available on the CVSA Homepage should be filled out and e-mailed to the CVSA Registrar prior to the opening of team registration for each Season. All teams listed as part of the Club on the Registration Form are required to adhere to the Club Guidelines detailed in the following section.

Club Teams are given two payment options for players. All Club Teams must abide by the same payment option selected as part of their Club Registration.

Option 1: Individual Player Payments

All Club Players abide by the Player Registration guidelines detailed under Section III. Registration Information: Player Registration, of the CVSA Fall 2014 Operations Guide.

Option 2: Lump Sum Payments For Each Club Team

A minimum payment of 11 player fees, or 50% of fees due for registered players, whichever is greater (Ex: 23 players registered = 12 x \$75 (Fall 2014 player fee) = \$900 payment required) before the first Match of the season (this includes Cup play or regular season Match, whichever occurs first). Full payment for all registered players is due by the Roster Freeze Date, which is detailed in the Operations Guide. Any player registered after the Roster Freeze Date must submit payment prior to being added to the roster.

Club transfers adhere to the current Primary Season transfer requirements as set forth in Articles II.H.5 and II.J

Club's are required to have a minimum 66% of their registered teams represented at all major CVSA Meetings and Functions (Ex: if a club has three teams registered under their banner, they must have at least two of those teams represented (2 representatives / 3 teams = 66%). Major CVSA Meetings and Functions are, but not limited to: Spring and Fall Captain's Meetings, CVSA Council Meetings (at minimum Fall each year), Bryan Park Spring Opening, and Bryan Park Winter Closing.

Clubs are required to have a representative on the CVSA Field Maintenance Committee. This committee will serve under the direction of the Field Maintenance Supervisor, and will be responsible for assisting in all tasks associated with Field Setup and standard maintenance through the course of a standard season.

Failure to comply with any of the Club Requirements will result in the forfeiture of Club Status, and the Benefits outlined below.

Club Benefits

Clubs are not required to pay a \$100 per team deposit as part of their initial team registration.

Club matches played on Sundays will be scheduled, to the best of the CVSA Scheduler's ability, at the same complex, and/or there will be adequate time between games for players to travel from one complex to another in time for their next Club match (Ex: 9am match at Bryan Park, followed by 1pm match at Dorey Park). This does not apply to summer season games.

Club teams have the ability to deny promotion upon finishing at the top of their division, if they have another club team in the same division which they are being promoted to (unless the other club team is being demoted to the lower division) (Article II.H.4). This applies to relegation from a higher division to lower division as well. If a division is void of a club team, they must adhere to the current CVSA promotion policy.

Clubs teams cannot be drawn against each other in the first round of CVSA Cup or Copa Bruce play, if there are 20 or more teams participating.

- If they ARE drawn against each other as part of the First Round random draw, the second team will be considered the Home Team for the following Match Draw, the next drawn team will be the visitor for the match versus the first club team, the second drawn team will be the visitor for the match with the second club team. If three straight club teams are drawn, the third club team is the home team for the following drawn match, and so forth.
- If there are three teams remaining in the First Round random draw, the first Club team of the remaining three teams drawn will be the visitor for the current match draw. The remaining two teams (one of which is the other Club team) will be drawn and labeled as Home and Away accordingly. In the event that three Club teams are remaining with three matches still to be drawn, the same stipulation is granted for those match draws as well, and so on.