



# ALBERTA MAJOR SOCCER LEAGUE

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Operating Rules and  
Regulations 2022

## 2022 AMSL Operating Rules

Appendices A through D and Fine Schedule included at the end of the document.

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### ALBERTA MAJOR SOCCER LEAGUE (AMSL) VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

**Vision:** To create competitive venue which provides development opportunities for all participants at the highest level of amateur soccer in Alberta and Canada

**Mission:** To provide leadership for soccer excellence in Alberta by:

- Operate a level of competition which prepares players to compete and excel in a professional and/or post-secondary soccer environment;
- Offer opportunity for the personal development of coaches who desire to coach at a national amateur level and prepare them for professional opportunities;
- Offer vital development opportunities for officials working towards Regional, Provincial, National and International certification;
- To allow players, coaches, and officials a strong competitive environment that showcases personal development, teamwork and develops skills that contribute to their successes in life, on and off the field;
- To provide a program with quality and motivated administration

### ALBERTA MAJOR SOCCER LEAGUE OPERATION STANDARDS

*Note: Fines indicated as F# and listed on accompanying fine schedule*

#### Field of Play

1. All games shall be played on fields that meet FIFA international match standards as outlined in the FIFA Laws of the Game (2014 standards below);
  - a. Length 100 m – 110 m
  - b. Width 64 m – 75 m
2. All fields must be marked per the FIFA Laws of the Game except the optional mark is not required for AMSL games.
  - a. This includes Corner Flags and Netted Goals.
3. Home teams must provide benches capable of seating a minimum of 10 players / coaches.
  - a. If the benches are on the same side as spectators, they must be blocked from spectator entrance via a rope, fence or other blockade.
  - b. Home teams must provide the 4th official with a table and chair.

## Teams

1. All AMSL roster players must meet the minimum criteria for participation in the CSA National Club Championships, with proof provided to the AMSL Commissioner, via the AMSL Administrator prior to the players first AMSL Regular Season game.
  - a. Players who are protected persons, permanent residents, or provide a passport and were not born in Canada, must submit this documentation annually, if it has passed its expiry date or will before the current season ends.
    - a..i. Teams are responsible to ensure these players have not revoked their citizenship and must advise ASA if they have.
  - b. Players who submit a Canadian birth certificate or passport with Canadian passport are not required to resubmit annually.
  - c. All players who do not meet the minimum criteria for participation in the CSA National Club Championships can play as reserve players during the AMSL Regular Season or a youth trialist.
  - d. Players 18 years or older may apply for dispensation in accordance with the CSA Criteria for Exemption Guidelines. (See Appendix B)
2. All AMSL teams must provide a Team Colours sheet for home, away and alternate jerseys a minimum of two weeks in advance of their first scheduled AMSL Regular Season game.
  - a. All AMSL teams must wear the Official AMSL Logo on their Home, Away and Alternate Jerseys.
  - b. AMSL jersey patches must be either sewn or sublimated on left jersey sleeve of all home and away jerseys. **F29**
  - c. Teams may request one new set of patches annually free of charge.
  - d. Patch allowance will not carry over into the next year if unused.
  - e. Additional patch sets are available at cost to teams.
3. All AMSL players appearing on an AMSL Regular Season game sheet must be dressed in accordance with the appropriate Team Colours identified on that home date.
  - f. Players on the bench can wear tracksuits that are consistent in colour and approved by the Referee.
4. All AMSL players appearing on an AMSL Regular Season Game Sheet must be registered with 1 of the 23 Regular Members of the ASA.
5. All AMSL Head Coaches must be certified at a Provincial C level or equivalent.

- a. New teams entering the league will be given a two-year grace period in order to meet this standard but must have a minimum NCCP Soccer For Life certified coach during the 2 years grace period.
    - i. New coaches may also be granted a special dispensation of 6 months to complete C Licence training.
  - b. Head coaches who qualify for dispensation must be identified to ASA prior to the start of the season.
  - c. Failure to comply with 5. without dispensation under 5.a. or b. will result in disciplinary action being applied to the coach and/or District but will not affect the outcome of any AMSL games.
6. All AMSL assistant coaches must be certified at a minimum NCCP Soccer For Life level.
- a. Assistant coaches may be granted a one-year grace period to achieve the Soccer For Life Certification
  - b. Exemptions will be granted to apprentice coaches under the age of 25 that are in training in the CSA Competitive Coaching stream.
  - c. Assistant coaches who qualify for dispensation must be identified prior to the start of the season.
7. All AMSL teams will have a minimum of 1 coach that is of the same sex as the team.
8. All AMSL Team Officials (Coaches and Managers) identified on the team roster and/or appearing on an AMSL Regular Season Game Sheet must have a Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Check on file with their respective ASA Regular Member.
- a. The Criminal Record Check can be requested by the ASA at any time during the AMSL Regular Season.
  - b. Teams may identify team officials who already have completed this type of clearance for work to ASA prior to the start of the season.
9. All AMSL teams must have at least 1 Team Official on the bench of the same sex as the players anytime their team has a minor player participating in a game. **F18**
- a. Teams may designate players over the age of 18 to act as this Team Official from time to time if a Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Check are on file.
  - b. Players acting in this capacity are eligible to play during matches but must maintain supervision of minors at games. This includes any circumstance during a match where a minor player has to leave a game.

10. Each team official (including female attendants) on the bench must have an ASA approved photo identification card, issued by the player's team official's local District or league office, at each game or they will be considered an illegal participant in the game. **F35**
11. Each AMSL team will be required to provide 3 player contacts and 1 Coach / Manager contact for media availability with full contact information (full name, e-mail, phone number).

### **Game Day Operations**

1. Home teams are responsible for securing a field of play and ancillary services for all scheduled AMSL Regular Season home games.
  - a. A back-up field turf venue must be secured by the home team for any games scheduled on a grass field against a visiting team that has travelled more than 150 kilometers.
2. Home teams are responsible for all costs associated with booking the field of play and ancillary services.
3. Home teams may charge entry if a venue allows for it and will retain all revenue associated with entry into the game.
  - a. Any team charging admission to an AMSL Regular Season game must provide the cost structure of entry to the AMSL Commissioner, via the AMSL Administrator, 1 week in advance of the scheduled date of the game.
4. Home teams must provide spectator seating for a minimum of 100 people.
5. Home teams are responsible for crowd control (if necessary).
  - a. Any issues with identifiable away team fans will be addressed by the away team.
6. Home teams must provide sheltered change rooms with showers.
  - a. If the home team cannot provide these services the AMSL Commissioner, via the AMSL Administrator, must be informed for consideration of the circumstances prior to the start of the Regular Season.
7. The ASA shall provide a minimum of 3 game balls to each AMSL team prior to the start of the season. These game balls must be used for all AMSL Regular Season games.
  - a. If the home team cannot provide the game balls the away team can be asked for game balls.
  - b. No other game balls can be used without the permission of the AMSL Commissioner and the ASA.
8. All signage provided by the ASA for sponsors must be displayed during AMSL games in a location visible to spectators.

- a. In cases where the home venue is not controlled by the home team it is the responsibility of the home team to provide notice to the AMSL Commissioner, via the AMSL Administrator, if this standard cannot be met.

**League Administration**

1. The ASA will hold a minimum of 2 league meeting annually with at least 1 of those meetings face to face.
  - a. All AMSL Teams must have a representative present at all properly called AMSL meetings, be they in-person or conference call, or be fined \$200. **F1**
  - b. Clubs with both men’s and women’s team may be represented by one representative.
  - c. Clubs may not be represented by outside clubs.
2. The ASA shall designate 1 staff member to administer the league.
3. The ASA shall maintain an AMSL website and provide prominent links to the AMSL website from the main ASA website (www.albertasoccer.com).
  - d. Statistics will be maintained on the AMSL website.
  - e. Final standings, top goal scorers, MVP’s and coaches of the year will be published in the ASA Annual Report.
4. The ASA shall send a minimum of 3 Press Releases regarding the AMSL Regular Season and Provincials each season.
5. The ASA shall maintain a consistent social media presence in regard to the AMSL Regular Season.
6. All participating AMSL teams will provide a minimum of 1 social media ambassador to help in the promotion of the AMSL via Social media.
7. The ASA will present AMSL league awards at the annual ASA banquet with invites to all award winners and team representatives.
8. The ASA shall schedule 4 officials on each game (1 Referee, 2 AR’s, 1 4th Official) for all AMSL Regular Season Games.

**AMSL Game Day Countdown**

PRE-GAME TIMING	EVENT
60 Minutes to Kick-off	Team Arrival
45 Minutes to kick-off	Referee Arrival
30 Minutes to kick-off	Pitch Inspection
10 minutes to Kick-off	Game Sheet and Player Card Review
6 Minutes to Kick-off	Player Line-up and equipment inspection
3 Minutes to kick-off	Player Walk-out, hand shake and coin toss

#### GAME TIMING

45 Minutes + Added time

15 Minutes

45 Minutes + Added time

#### EVENT

First Half

Half-time

Second Half

#### POST-GAME TIMING

30 Minutes after final whistle

11:59 PM of Game Day

#### EVENT

Game Sheets and Misconduct Reports to Teams

Game Reports submitted online to the ASA

## 1) Operating Rules

**1.1** The Alberta Major Soccer League (AMSL) is an extension of the Senior Program of the Alberta Soccer Association (ASA) and as such is subject to all relevant Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the ASA and the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) and all relevant guidelines as stated in the AMSL Vision, Mission and Standards.

**1.2** All participating teams in the AMSL will be under the direct jurisdiction of the ASA, through the ASA Competitions Committee, during their tenure in the league.

**1.3** The AMSL Commissioner has certain delegated rights from the ASA Competitions Committee, as set out in these operating rules.

**1.4** The AMSL Commissioner and ASA Competitions Committee may make temporary rules or regulations governing specific cases or occasions not provided for in these regulations, but which may be necessary for the carrying out of the objectives of the AMSL and in the interests of fair play. These rules or decisions shall be subject to appeal to the ASA Discipline Committee.

**1.5** The AMSL Commissioner will be elected by the membership for a two-year term, to be voted on during the in-person meeting prior to odd numbered year seasons.

**1.7.1** Nominations for this position may be submitted by the membership prior to the in-person meeting to the AMSL Administrator or come from the floor during the meeting.

**1.7.2** Nominated candidates must be in attendance at the meeting to be elected.

## 2) Team Eligibility

**2.1** Entry for the outdoor AMSL season shall be open to the top four North and the top four South amateur Men's teams and the top four North (which includes Red Deer) and

the top four South amateur Women’s teams in the province, regardless of district or location.

South Men	North Men	South Women	North Women
Calgary Callies	Edmonton Green & Gold	Calgary Southwest United (formerly Callies)	Edmonton Northwest United
Calgary Dinosaurs	Edmonton Drillers	Calgary Foothills WFC	Edmonton Green & Gold
Lethbridge FC	Edmonton Scottish	Calgary Blizzard SC	Edmonton Scottish Angels
Calgary Villains	St. Albert Impact	Lethbridge FC	<u>Edmonton Drillers</u>

**2.2** All teams must be registered with the ASA through their District Associations.

**2.3** No registered AMSL team may play in another league at the same time as the playing season of the AMSL.

**2.4** The teams to enter the AMSL for the following season shall be based on previous season and relegation-promotion games, unless accepted as an expansion team.

**2.5** Any team participating in the outdoor AMSL season that wishes to withdraw from the AMSL the next season must inform the ASA office in writing no later than November 15<sup>th</sup>. **F2**

**2.5.1** The ASA reserves the right to designate the replacement team for participation for the next season as determined by the AMSL Commissioner and ASA Competitions Committee with consideration of the following: losing district, competitiveness and geographical balance.

**2.5.2** Any team that withdraws from the league after November 15<sup>th</sup> will forfeit their team bond and are still required to pay the team fees for the season.

**2.6** Any team that leaves the AMSL through relegation or AMSL approved withdrawal (including those leaving as outlined in Rule 2.5) is guaranteed a place within the division in their District of domicile in which they last played before entering the AMSL, or in the top division of senior soccer in their District.

**2.6.1** Teams who leave the AMSL as outlined in Rule 2.5 will be refunded their performance bond less any outstanding fees, fines or penalties.

**2.7** All teams must be in good standing regarding league fees, fines and bonds, per the dates in the operating rules or be subject to review by the AMSL Commissioner and ASA Competitions Committee.

### **3) Registration**

**3.1 Due by November 15<sup>th</sup> annually** to the ASA by each team participating in the AMSL **F3:**

**3.1.1** Name of team.

**3.1.2** Name, postal address, e-mail address and telephone number of team manager and club president.

**3.1.3** A \$1000 performance bond to be paid to the ASA (once) by teams entering the league and held while the team is in the AMSL.

**3.1.3.1** This bond will be forfeit to the AMSL if the team resigns from the AMSL prior to completion of the team's AMSL schedule (including rescheduled games and Provincial Finals).

**3.1.3.2** The ASA Board of Directors reserves the right to access this bond if the team refuses to pay any monetary fines or legitimate levies by October 31st each year, and the team must replenish the bond by December 31st to remain eligible for continued participation in the AMSL.

**3.1.3.3** This bond shall be forfeited to the AMSL if the team fails to show for a scheduled (or rescheduled) AMSL game as follows:

- 1st occasion: \$1,000.00 **F4 (a)**
- 2nd occasion: \$1,000 plus additional \$1,000 fine and team's continued participation subject to review by the ASA Board of Directors and AMSL Commissioner. **F4 (b)**
- In both instances:
  - a)** The bond must be replenished prior to the team's next AMSL game.
  - b)** The team will lose the match by forfeit. Their opponents will be awarded a three-point win.

**3.2** The following shall be provided by each team to the AMSL Administrator within the timelines stated:

**3.2.1 Due by March 9th annually:** Name, address, e-mail address and telephone numbers of the team coach qualified per section 15 **F5**

**3.2.2 Due by March 30th annually:** Name and address of team's home ground per standards set out in Section 7 **F6**

### **3.2.3 Due by May 1st annually:**

**3.2.3.i.** If declaring, the name of a single senior team designated as the AMSL team's reserve team, along with written authorization from that team's parent association or club and that team's current approved player roster. **F7**

**3.2.3.i.i.** The reserve team must be registered in an Alberta Soccer Association District and may be from any district.

**3.2.3.i.i.i.** Reserve team players will be considered as AMSL players and may only play in a division as prescribed by their local District rules.

**3.2.3.iv.** It is not mandatory for teams to have reserve teams.

**3.2.3.v.** Small Districts Clause: Teams from districts other than Edmonton and Calgary can use their entire men's or woman's league program as "reserve teams".

**a)** Small district teams who declare a specific reserve team are not allowed to use their entire men's or woman's league program as additional 'reserve team' players.

**3.2.4** Each AMSL team's roster of eligible players signed to that AMSL team, being not less than 16 players no more than 25 players, on the standard ASA team roster form. **F8**

**3.2.5** AMSL and AMSL Reserve team roster additions and deletions must be submitted to the AMSL Administrator as they occur by the applicable District registrar before they are considered official.

**3.2.6 Due by July 31st:** each team's final roster of signed players for Provincials **F12**

**3.2.7** All Teams must follow the roster guidelines outlined in the AMSL and University College Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix C).

## **4) Player Eligibility**

**4.1** All relevant rules and regulations of the ASA and the CSA apply to player eligibility in the AMSL. Teams must familiarize themselves with all such rules, including but not limited to transfer rules, non-amateur reinstatements and seven-day waiting periods, etc. Ignorance of such rules will not be accepted by the AMSL as an excuse for a team playing an ineligible player.

**4.2** Each player including reserve team and youth players must have an ASA approved photo identification card, issued by the player's local District or league office at each game or they will be considered an illegal participant in the game.

**4.3** Any registered youth player is eligible play in the AMSL.

**4.3.1** If a youth player registers on a senior team they are subject to senior regulation guidelines.

**4.4** Any player who is listed on a submitted roster will be deemed eligible to play in AMSL matches from that point forward.

**4.5** A player on an AMSL roster who transfers to a lower-division team, will not be eligible to play up for an AMSL team, even as a reserve team player, subsequent to the date of that transfer and may not transfer back onto an AMSL team for the remainder of that season.

**4.6** A properly completed AMSL Youth trialist form must be submitted to the AMSL administrator prior to kick off of the first AMSL game a youth trialist participates in.

**4.6.i.** The youth trialist form must be signed by the player's parent or guardian and also by a coach, manager or club representative of their current youth team.

**4.6.ii.** All information requested on the AMSL Youth Trialist form is required.

**4.6.iii.** In matches where incomplete Youth Trialist Forms or late submissions of Youth Trialist Forms have occurred, the Youth Trialist will be considered an illegal player. **F13**

**4.6.iv.** District or other League Youth Trialist forms may not be substituted for AMSL Youth Trialist forms. In matches where they are submitted, the Youth Trialist will be considered an illegal player. **F28**

**4.6.v.** For all games where a youth trialist is used, permission must be received electronically from the player's club or coach by the team using the trialist prior to kick off. Proof of permission must be provided to ASA upon request.

**4.6.v.i.** Once a properly completed form has been submitted for a youth trialist, their name will be added to a published list on the AMSL website and that player will be eligible to participate as a trialist for any AMSL team during the season. Any team using that player will not be required to resubmit a trialist form for the player but must indicate they are a youth trialist on the game sheet.

**4.7** Players who participate in the AMSL must be on the AMSL roster, a Reserve team roster, Classics or Masters roster or youth roster, notwithstanding the Small District Clause outlined in rule **3.2.3.v.**

**4.8** All Laws of the Game from the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) will be adhered to with the exception of:

**4.8.1** Minimum of eight players per team on the field to start a game.

**4.8.1.i.** A team with fewer than eight players on the field, 15 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, will be considered a no-show and will forfeit the game.

**4.9** Each team may use unlimited reserve players in any given game. There is no limit to the number of youth/classic/masters players a team can bring up for any game.

**4.9.i.** Youth players who participate in the AMSL will be identified as “Y” beside their name on AMSL game sheets. **F9**

**4.9.i.** Reserve team players will be identified as “R” beside their name on AMSL game sheets. **F10**

**4.9.iii.** Classics/Master guest players will be identified with a ‘C’ or ‘M’ respectively beside their name on AMSL game sheets. **F11**

**4.10** An ineligible player is defined as any player not meeting the player eligibility rules as stated in Section 4 or:

**a)** who is currently suspended from AMSL league play or

**b)** whose fine(s) have not been paid prior to his or her participation, or

**c)** who is not properly listed on the game sheet submitted to the game officials prior to the game

**d)** where the identity of a player declared on the game sheet of an AMSL game can be proven to be someone other than the person named

**d.i.** in such cases the offending team shall forfeit that game.

**4.11** A team, who is discovered to have played an ineligible player, shall be subject to the foregoing discipline and a \$100 fine for each ineligible player played in any game.**F17**

## **5) Game Format**

**5.1** Duration of game

**5.1.1** All games will consist of two 45-minute halves.

**5.1.2** There will be a maximum of 15 minutes rest at half time.

**5.1.3** There will be no extra time periods during any AMSL game.

**5.1.4** If a game has to be abandoned due to weather (or other considerations), and a minimum of 60 minutes has been completed, then the result shall stand. If less than 60 minutes has been completed, then the game shall be replayed and the AMSL Administrator shall reschedule it.

**5.1.4.i.** When thunder is heard during a match the current ASA lightning/severe weather policy will be followed. (see Appendix D)

## **5.2 Substitutions**

**5.2.1** A maximum of five substitutions will be permitted during the course of play, and these substitutes must provide the officials with a properly completed substitution slip prior to entering the field of play.

**5.2.1.i** Unlimited substitution is permitted at half time without the use of substitution slips but the officials must be advised of the substitutes entering the game and the players being substituted.

**5.2.2** Substitutions can be made at any stoppage of play (at the referee's discretion), and the substitute must enter the field at the halfway line.

**5.2.3** A substitute must report to the designated game official prior to entering the field of play.

**5.2.4** A player who has previously been replaced in the game by a substitute shall be allowed to return to the game but that return shall be considered one of the five allowed substitutions, unless it occurs at half time.

**5.2.5** No substitutions shall be allowed for a player who has been ordered from the field for misconduct.

**5.2.6** In relegation-promotion games requiring a result:

- a)** Unlimited substitution is permitted at the completion of regular time.
- b)** No substitutions, other than the five allowed substitutions during play, will be permitted at the change of ends in extra time.
- c)** No substitutions will be permitted by any team at the completion of extra time when kicks from the penalty spot are to follow the extra time period (other than that specified in the FIFA Laws "Kicks from the Penalty Mark–Procedure")

## **5.3 Team Colours and Numbering of Jerseys:**

**5.3.1** Conflicts in the color of jerseys and/or socks will be handled as follows:

**5.3.1.i** – if the conflict is between the opposing teams, the home team will change. **F32**

**5.3.1.ii** – if the conflict is between the opposing goalkeepers, the home goalkeeper will change. **F33**

**5.3.1.iii** – if the conflict is between either goalkeeper and the opposing team the goalkeeper will change regardless of whether they are on the home or away team. **F34**

**5.3.2** All playing shirts must be clearly and uniquely numbered. The number on each player's shirt or jersey must correspond with the number listed with that player's name on the game sheet.

**5.3.2.i.** When a player is required to leave the field to replace a bloodied uniform, a shirt with another number may be worn by that player provided the referee is advised of the new number and the player's name prior to that player re-entering the field and the game sheet will reflect the change.

**5.4** All occupants of the technical area must be eligible to participate in the game, present their approved ID card to the game official, and be recorded on the game sheet.

**5.4.1** For each match, eligible participants include:

- a)** up to 20 players
- b)** 5 registered team officials (includes the adult female attendant for women's teams)

## **6) Officials**

**6.1** Officials for AMSL games shall be scheduled by the ASA Referee Development Committee Assignment chairs and District Referee Assistants where applicable, or alternate ASA designated assignors when required.

**6.2** Only officials listed on the current list of eligible officials will be assigned to AMSL matches in addition to the following:

- a)** Shall have no less than a District qualification
- b)** Have passed the fitness test as required for their classification
- c)** Where possible, FIFA, National, Provincial or Regional referees will be assigned as referees.
- d)** Fourth officials will be assigned to all games and be no less than a District level official.

**6.3** An appropriately qualified ASA or National Assessor will periodically assess AMSL officials during the season.

**6.4** All game officials will be paid the AMSL approved senior match fees for the current season.

## **7) Venues**

**7.1** In the event that games involving a team which has traveled from the North to the South, or the South to the North, cannot be played on the home team's ground for whatever reason, the game shall be played on the next best facility available to the home team regardless of field size while providing that it is safe for the players' and officials' participation and that it is lined, netted and flagged as per standards.

**7.2** Where an AMSL team does not have or designate a home venue, then the AMSL Administrator shall book a venue that meets AMSL standards on behalf of that team.

**7.3** If team arrive for a scheduled match and it is not played because the field does not meet standards, the consequences are as follows:

- a)** Home team will be fined \$450 to cover cost of official for both matches. **F15**
- b)** The match will be rescheduled to be played at the Away team's home field. The Away team will choose two possible reschedule dates where neither team is already scheduled to play, and neither date is a Tuesday. These dates must be submitted to the AMSL Administrator within one week from the originally scheduled match.
- c)** These dates will be provided to the Home team who will choose one of them, and the necessary field bookings and referee assignors will proceed as per usual.

## **8) Schedule**

**8.1** Under the direction of the AMSL Commissioner, the ASA office will create a draft of the next season's schedule of games, complete with dates, times, venues (when confirmed) and opponents, and distribute it to teams by January 15th. The finalized schedule will be sent to teams and districts by February 1st each year.

**8.1.1** Team requests for off dates, or any other scheduling requests must be received by the AMSL Administrator by December 7th and will not be accepted after that date.

**8.1.2** The only allowable changes to the completed schedule will be reschedules due to rainouts.

**8.2** Under normal circumstances:

**8.2.1** No AMSL team shall be required to play more than three games in a given seven-day period.

**8.2.2** There will be no more than 14 days between games whenever possible.

**8.3** AMSL league and cup games take precedence over all games except those of the ASA or CSA.

**8.4** If a team is scheduled to travel to another city to play and the game must be cancelled due to inclement weather, the home team must communicate the game cancellation to the travelling team by 9:30 AM that day.

**8.4.1** If the home team does not communicate the cancellation to the travelling team by 9:30 AM, the game will be rescheduled in the travelling team's city. **F16**

**8.4.2** If a double header was scheduled and the second game must also be cancelled, it will be rescheduled in the same city as the reschedule of the first game.

**8.4.3** The AMSL Administrator must be notified of the game cancellation by the end of the following first working day after the cancelled game by the home team.

## **9) Points system**

**9.1** Awarding of points:

**9.1.1** The winning team shall be awarded three points.

**9.1.2** Teams tying (drawing) shall be awarded one point each.

**9.1.3** The losing team shall be awarded zero points.

**9.2** Forfeited games:

**9.2.1** When a game is forfeit due to one team having fewer than eight players at 15 minutes after the scheduled start of play, or because of a team failing to show up for a game, the opposing team shall be awarded points for a win and a three-zero score.

**9.2.2** When neither team has eight players at 15 minutes after the scheduled start of play, or when neither team shows up for a game, no points will be awarded and no score shall be recorded for either team, but the game shall not be rescheduled (i.e., it will be considered to have been played).

**9.2.3** When it is discovered that a team, which has won or tied a game, played one or more ineligible players in that game, the game will be forfeit and the opposing team shall be awarded the points for a win and a three-zero score.

**9.2.4** When it is discovered that a team which has lost a game played one or more ineligible players in that game, the game will be forfeit and the opposing team shall be awarded the points for a win and the greater of a three-zero score and the score recorded on the game sheet for their team.

## **10) Tie Breaking**

**10.1** The following tie-breaking procedure will apply in prioritized order if teams are tied on points:

**10.1.1** Match results between the tied teams.

**10.1.2** Greater goal difference in head to head competition between the tied teams

**10.1.3** Greater goal difference between the tied teams in all league matches

**10.1.4** Greatest number of goals scored in all league matches

**10.1.5** 90 minute match to be played with extra time if necessary

**10.1.6** Penalty kicks

## **11) Team Standings**

**11.1** Teams will be listed based on the number of points obtained in AMSL games with first place and the AMSL trophy going to the team with the highest total points.

## **12) Relegation and Promotion**

**12.1** May 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for non-AMSL teams for declaring, through their respective senior leagues, their intent to challenge the lowest-placed AMSL team.

**12.1.1** The challenge shall be made public prior to the start of the season.

**12.1.2** A North team can only challenge a North team and a South team can only challenge a South team.

**12.1.2.i.** The bottom South team and the bottom North team in the AMSL is the team that will be challenged.

**12.2** Any challenging team must pay a \$1000.00 bond to their home district when declaring their intention to challenge.

**12.3** The challenging team will bear the cost of the field rentals, referee and game fees for the challenge. The participating team's District will be invoiced following the challenge for this amount.

**12.3.1** All costs associated with an inter-district challenge series will be charged back equally to each participating respective senior league. The participating team's Districts will be invoiced following the challenge for their share of this amount.

**12.4** No reserve team of an AMSL team may be a challenger for promotion to the AMSL.

**12.5** Any challenging team must play in the top division of senior soccer in their District, and such division must consist of a minimum of four teams.

**12.5.1** If the highest-placed team in a division declines to challenge, then the next-highest-placed team may so challenge, and so on.

**12.6** Districts may choose not to forward a team's challenge due to stricter eligibility rules than those contained in the AMSL Operating Rules, and such a team shall not be eligible to challenge for promotion to the AMSL.

**12.7** Any such AMSL relegation-promotion challenge shall consist of a two-game series. The first game to be played at the home field of the challenging team, and the second game at the home field of the AMSL team. Both games to take place as agreed upon during the month of September.

**12.7.1** If the two teams cannot reach a consensus, the ASA will choose the dates.

**12.7.2** Two 15-minute halves of extra time shall be played at the end of regular time of the second game if the teams are still tied per the AMSL tie-breaking rules set out in Section 10.

**12.7.3** If at the end of the extra time, the teams remain tied, then kicks from the penalty spot shall be taken as per FIFA Laws to decide the winner.

**12.8** If there is a challenger from within the same District as the lowest-placed AMSL team, as well as a challenger from another District the two challengers must play each other in a home-and-away, two-game, total-points preliminary competition. The winner then proceeds to the relegation-promotion challenge with the lowest-placed North or South AMSL team. The winner of that series will be placed in the AMSL for the following season.

**12.9** If teams from more than one District challenge in accordance with 12.1 through 12.4:

**a)** The challenging teams must first play off to see who will be the challenger to the lowest-placed AMSL team in their section.

**b)** If two teams challenge, the playoff format will be as in 12.8 above.

**c)** If three or more teams challenge, whether or not including a challenger from the same District as the lowest-placed AMSL team facing the challenge, all challengers will play a round robin at a neutral site.

**c.i.** The top team in the round-robin will proceed to the relegation-promotion challenge with the lowest-placed AMSL team. The winner of that series will be placed in the AMSL for the following season.

**12.10** For any challenge game:

**a)** The AMSL team may only use their roster players and reserve team players, as of July 31<sup>st</sup> and no youth play-ups or over 35 players are permitted.

**b)** The Challenge team may only use their roster players as of July 31<sup>st</sup> and no reserve, youth play-ups or over 35 players are permitted.

**12.11** Performance bonds will be repaid within 30 days to any team relegated by a game or games played under 12.7 above.

### **13) Discipline**

**13.1** All disciplinary matters will be governed by the disciplinary code set out in Appendix "A."

### **14) Statistics**

**14.1** The AMSL Administrator, who will be an employee of the ASA, shall maintain and regularly publish updated statistics covering categories, which the AMSL believes to be pertinent.

**14.2** At the completion of season play, the AMSL Administrator shall publish a final statistical report, which will be appropriately distributed after approval by the AMSL Commissioner.

**14.3** The home team is responsible for submitting the home team and away team games sheets, and misconduct report for all AMSL games, to the AMSL administrator by the end of the first working day following the game and ensuring the game score has been recorded on them.

**14.3.i.** Failure to meet these responsibilities will result in one warning. Subsequent offences will result in a \$100 fine for the home team. **F19**

**14.4** Home and away teams must each submit online referee feedback for each game they participate in. **F36**

## **15) Support of Sponsors**

**15.1** It is recommended that all traveling teams stay at the official AMSL sponsoring hotels.

**15.2** It is recommended that all teams and game officials use the uniforms and equipment supplied by the official AMSL equipment sponsor, whenever reasonable procedures and lowest prices have been applied.

## **Appendix A – AMSL Discipline**

### **A.1 General**

**A 1.1** Discipline to AMSL teams shall be based on the information contained on the games sheets, misconduct reports and other reports submitted to the AMSL following each game.

**A 1.2** Referees shall record all cautions and ejections issued during a game on the applicable game sheets and summarize same on the misconduct report.

**A.1.2. i** Each assigned official for that game must sign each game sheet and the misconduct report.

**A1.2.ii** A misconduct form must be completed and signed as noted even when no discipline has occurred during the game.

**A.1.2.iii** The referee must submit a report giving all pertinent information surrounding the ejection of players and/or team officials and/or team supporters within 48 hours of the completion or abandonment of a game.

**A 1.3** Game officials, AMSL officials or AMSL game representatives on duty at a game must submit a detailed report on any other incident which occurs between the teams, their staff and/or supporters whether before, during or after a game, within 48 hours of the game.

**A 1.4** Each team in an AMSL game must receive their copy of each team's game sheet and misconduct report once signed by the officials and both teams.

**A.1.4.i** Failure of team staff to obtain those copies will not be an acceptable excuse for not being aware of their teams and individual players current discipline status.

**A 1.4.ii** Refusal by a team official to sign the misconduct report or game sheet will not negate the reports and the team will not be permitted to appeal any resulting discipline.

**A 1.6** Each club is responsible for the actions of its teams, team officials and team supporters who are taking part or present an AMSL game.

**A 1.7** All cases involving assault on, or threatening behavior towards game officials shall be referred to the ASA office and identified offenders are suspended indefinitely pending appearance at an ASA Discipline hearing.

**A 1.8** Individuals who have been listed on a game sheet will be deemed to have participated in that game.

## **A.2 Discipline**

**A.2.1** All Discipline of the AMSL, other than mandatory suspensions shall be dealt with by the ASA Discipline Committee.

**A.2.2** All hearings shall be held in accordance with the rules of the ASA and CSA.

**A.2.3** All ASA minimum notice rules apply to the AMSL, unless waived by the player or teams involved.

**A.2.4** All discipline hearing decisions shall be communicated to the team contact within the current ASA Discipline guidelines.

## **A.3 Suspensions and Fines**

**A.3.1** Suspensions and fines as stated below shall be in effect the current season with the exception of red card offences which may carry over at the discretion of ASA Competitions Committee.

**A.3.2** All suspensions shall be automatic and will not involve a hearing by the AMSL Discipline Committee unless:

- a)** An appeal is launched by the relevant player/team, or
- b)** A hearing is requested by the AMSL Commissioner

**A.3.3** All fines must be received Alberta Soccer prior to the player's participation in the next AMSL game or the player will be considered an illegal player in that match.

**A.3.4** A hearing before an ASA Discipline Committee will be mandatory if a player or coach is charged an offence under any of the following AMSL Discipline Rules:

- **A.6.1 (d)**
- **A.6.2 (d)**
- **A.7.2.(c)**
- **A.7.3(c)**
- **A.7.4.1**

**A.3.5** Teams must monitor their own discipline status as double-headers and time constraints may not allow the AMSL to communicate to the team their discipline status prior to the team's next game,

**A.3.1** Playing of ineligible players in these circumstances will result in discipline as outlined in the AMSL Operating Rules.

**A.3.6** Suspensions and fines will be applied even if the game misconduct report or game sheets were not submitted to ASA within the submission guidelines.

#### **A.4 Where Suspensions Apply**

**A. 4.1** Suspensions per A.6 and A.7 will be served in the next occurring sanctioned game for the offending player or team official whether that be AMSL or their home district league.

**A.4.2** Suspensions per A.7 must be served in AMSL games, Provincial, Regional and/or Provincial Final Competitions.

**A.4.3** All game suspensions not fully served as per A.4.2 above shall be served in the next AMSL season.

**A.4.4** Yellow cards accumulated but not resulting in a suspension shall expire with the current season and will not affect the next season.

**A.4.5** AMSL suspensions may restrict a player and/or coaches' participation in Provincial, National or International Select programs.

**A.4.6** Suspensions of Reserve Team players from AMSL will be served in the AMSL.

**A.4.7** Suspension of a player registered on both the AMSL team and a Youth team will apply to AMSL games and that player's home district will be advised of the suspension.

**A.4.8** Notification of suspensions will be sent to Provincial Select team coaches where applicable.

## **A.5 Appeals**

**A.5.1** Decisions of the Referee in matters pertaining to the Laws of the Game are final and no appeal of those decisions will be heard.

**A.5.2** An appeal related to automatic discipline must be lodged with the ASA Discipline Committee within five days of the date of the game in which the discipline came to apply. (No fee)

**A.5.2.i** This request will be sent to a ASA Discipline panel to determine if there is grounds for appeal.

**A.5.2.ii.** If the ASA Discipline panel determines there is grounds for appeal, an appeal hearing with a different Discipline panel will be held.

**A.5.3** An appeal of the decision of the ASA Discipline Committee must be lodged with the ASA within five days business days of the date of official notification of the decision.

**A.5.3.i.** This request must be accompanied by a \$500 appeal fee made payable to the ASA which will not be deposited until the ASA Discipline Committee determines there is grounds for appeal and a hearing takes place.

**A.5.3.ii.** The ASA Discipline Committee ruling will remain in effect pending the outcome of this appeal.

## **A.6 Yellow Card Offences**

**A.6.1** The following discipline for Yellow Card accumulations shall apply to play and be automatic.

**a)** Three Yellow cards = One game suspension

**b)** Additional Two Yellow cards = One game suspension + \$50 fine **F20**

**c)** Additional One Yellow Card = Two game suspension + \$50 fine **F21**

**d)** Additional One Yellow Card = Player suspended until appearance before ASA Discipline Committee for further disciplinary action.

e) Two yellow cards issued to a player in a single game will not be counted as accumulated Yellow Cards but will be counted under the Red Card accumulations below.

**A.6.2 Two Yellow Cards issued to the same player during a single game**

- a) First occurrence = One game suspension
- b) Second occurrence = One game suspension + \$50 fine **F22**
- c) Third occurrence = Two game suspension + \$50 fine **F23**
- d) Fourth occurrence = Player suspended until appearance before ASA Discipline Committee for further disciplinary action.

**A.7 Red Card Offences and Ejections**

**A.7.1** All red card offences and any team official ejections will be reviewed by the AMSL Commissioner for a decision on length of suspension.

**A.7.1.i.** The AMSL Commissioner may then refer the matter to an ASA Discipline Committee to determine if more severe penalties than noted below will be applied.

**A.7.2** The ASA Governance Policy on Discipline and Appeals Appendix C – Discipline Penalties will apply to all Red card offences with the addition of the following:

- a) Any second offence will also carry a \$50 fine. **F24**
- b) Any third offence will also carry a \$100 fine. **F25**
- c) Any fourth offence – Player is suspended until appearance before ASA Discipline Committee for further disciplinary action

**A.7.3** All team staff ejected from a game by the referee will serve an automatic one game suspension.

- a) Any second offence will also carry a \$50 fine. **F30**
- b) Any third offence will also carry a \$100 fine. **F31**
- c) Any fourth offence – Team official is suspended until appearance before ASA Discipline Committee for further disciplinary action.

**A.7.4** Any coach who is a spectator at a game they are suspended from participating in is prohibited from using all electronic communication devices at the field from 45 minutes prior to kick off to final whistle.

**A.7.4.1.** Any such reports shall result in extended suspension for the team official until appearance before ASA Discipline Committee for further disciplinary action.

## **Appendix B – CSA Criteria for Exemption to Player Eligibility 18 & Over**

Players aged 18 yrs and over who are not eligible to compete based on the Regulations for National or Regional Championships may apply, through their Provincial Association, to the Canada Soccer Eligibility Panel for an exemption. Based on the criteria below, the Canada Soccer Eligibility Panel may grant previously ineligible players the ability to participate in the National or Regional Club Championships. All decisions made by the Canada Soccer Eligibility Panel are final and binding, and not subject to appeal.

- 1) Player must currently have Government of Canada approved right of abode in Canada and provide a copy of the appropriate paperwork that must be valid to December 31 of the current playing season or beyond;
- 2) Player must have received an approved International Transfer Certificate;
- 3) Player must be registered with their Provincial/Territorial Association as of July 31st of the current playing season; in Coastal BC must be registered by March 31st;
- 4) Player must have arrived in Canada prior to the start of the outdoor registration;
- 5) The deadline for submitting the exemption request is July 31st of the current year and Coastal BC is March 31st;
- 6) Teams can only apply for three (3) exemptions per playing season;
- 7) Exemptions need to be applied for annually.

## **Appendix C - Alberta Major Soccer League (AMSL) and University / College Soccer Memorandum of Understanding**

1. All teams will declare by the end of February annually their status for the upcoming AMSL season, the status can be changed no later than the roster deadline outlined in the AMSL operating rules.
  - a. AMSL – Championship Team
    - i. \$1,000 Performance Bond
    - ii. \$500 Team Fee
    - iii. Provincial Declaration Fee of \$600
    - iv. Agreement on AMSL Minimum standards
      1. Including fine schedule for breach of minimum standards
    - v. Commitment to attend Provincials and Nationals if qualified annually
      1. No AMSL Championship can decline a spot at Provincials or Nationals once the declaration is made and is subject to a minimum \$2,500 fine if a spot is declined.
  - b. AMSL - University Development Team
    - i. \$3,500 Development Fee
    - ii. \$1,000 performance Bond
      1. Previously a \$1,000 bond
    - iii. Agreement on AMSL Minimum standards
      1. Including fine schedule for breach of minimum standards
    - iv. Commitment to participate in the AMSL from the opening of the season until August 15<sup>th</sup> annually.
      1. Alberta Soccer will determine re-schedule dates in consultation with the affected teams but will have full authority if the affected teams cannot agree to a game date.
        - a. If a game is forfeited prior to August 15<sup>th</sup> normal penalties will apply as per the AMSL Rules.
        - b. If a University Development Team cannot complete their schedule (because of weather re-schedules) they will have the choice to participate after August 15<sup>th</sup> or forfeit the remaining games with no penalty.
2. AMSL Minimum Standards;
  - a. Compliance with Alberta Soccer Governance Policies including but not limited to;
    - i. By-laws
    - ii. Rules & Regulations
    - iii. Governance Policy on Discipline & Appeals
    - iv. Governance Policy on Harassment
  - b. Compliance with the AMSL Vision, Mission and Standards
  - c. Compliance with AMSL Operating Rules

### 3. Other Notes

- a. There must be a minimum of 4 AMSL Championship teams per division to continue operations of the league. If less than 4 teams declare as AMSL Championship teams in February, the status of the league will be reviewed by Alberta Soccer with the League Affiliated Districts.
- b. Challenges
  - i. League Challenges
    1. League challenges will remain the same as current rules where the last place team, north and/or south, can be challenged.
  - ii. Provincials Challenges
    1. The lowest placed AMSL Championship team can be challenged as per ASA Provincial Rules.
- c. AMSL Championship Prize Money will be as follows:
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$1500
  - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$1000
  - iii. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$750
  - iv. 4<sup>th</sup> Place - \$500
- d. All teams regardless of being an AMSL Championship Team or a University Development Team are eligible for AMSL Championship Prize Money.
- e. University Players
  - i. Any team with committed CIS or NCAA committed athletes on the AMSL roster must declare their status 15 days prior to the first AMSL league game.
  - ii. Any team with more than 25% of their roster with CIS or NCAA commitments must declare as a University Development Team unless they show releases (described below) to bring the available player total below the 25% (a maximum of 6 players with a 25 player roster) threshold.
  - iii. All AMSL Championship teams must maintain a roster with a minimum of 16 players who do not have CIS or NCAA commitments or have letters of release from their commitments to participate in Provincials and Nationals.

## **Appendix D – AMSL Lightning/Severe Weather Policy**

The CSA Lightning Safety / Severe Weather Policy will be in effect at all times from arrival of teams and officials at the facility, until the end of the match.

If thunder is heard all teams and officials must seek shelter immediately. The game will be delayed or suspended, with the following guidelines for timing of possible resumption:

1. If both teams playing are local, the allowable delay/suspension will be determined by the referee, so that the actual completion time of the game does not exceed 60 minutes beyond the scheduled completion time.
2. If one of the teams are traveling, the allowable delay/suspension will be determined by the referee, so that the actual completion time of the game does not exceed 90 minutes beyond the scheduled completion time.
3. Points 1 & 2 are subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Subject to - facility access, Match Official availability and weather conditions, all efforts should be made to play a total of 90 minutes. However, as per AMSL rule 5.1.4, a minimum of 60 minutes total will constitute a “complete” game if necessary.
  - b. The referee will consult with the home team, to ensure that the booking of the field is sufficient to accommodate the delay or suspension.
  - c. There will be a mandatory 15 minute warm up period for teams and match officials, prior to starting or restarting the match, after a weather delay or suspension. This 15 minutes will be factored into the total time calculation. The warm up is not to start until the referee has given approval to be on the field.
  - d. If the delay or suspension exceeds 45 minutes, match officials who have a prior commitment are not obliged to stay, if unable to do so. A minimum of a referee and two assistants are required in order for the game to resume.
4. Officials who stay to allow a game to be completed, will be compensated accordingly, for the extra time that is required. Alberta Soccer will cover these costs, as well as any additional field rental required.
5. **The referee is the final authority on decisions made at the match relating to the policy.**

### AMSL Fine Schedule

Number	Corresponding Rule	Fine
F1	Standards, League Administration	\$200
F2	Rule 2.4	Withdrawal of team after deadline will result in forfeiture of team bond.
F3	Rule 3.1	\$100 team fine for late submission
F4	Rule 3.1.4.3	(a) \$1000 (b) \$1000
F5	Rule 3.2.1	\$100 team fine for late submission
F6	Rule 3.2.2	\$100 team fine for late submission
F7	Rule 3.2.3.i	\$100 for late submission
F8	Rule 3.2.4	\$100 fine per player per game below the minimum
F9	Rule 4.9.i	\$25 per game sheet where not indicated
F10	Rule 4.9.i.i	\$25 per game sheet where not indicated
F11	Rule 4.9.iii	\$25 per game sheet where not indicated
F12	Rule 3.2.6	\$100 District fine for late, per roster
F13	Rule 4.6.iii	\$100 team fine
F14	Rule 7.3 a)	\$100 team fine
F15	Rule 7.13 (a)	\$450 Home team fine
F16	Rule 8.4.1	\$100 Team fine
F17	Rule 4.11	\$100 team fine for each ineligible player
F18	Standards, Teams, 9	\$100 team fine
F19	Rule 14.3.i.	\$100 Home team fine for all occurrences.

<b>F20</b>	Rule A.6.1 b)	\$50 team fine
<b>F21</b>	Rule A.6.1 c)	\$50 team fine
<b>F22</b>	Rule A.6.2 b)	\$50 team fine
<b>F23</b>	Rule A.6. 2 c)	\$50 team fine
<b>F24</b>	Rule A.7.2 a)	\$50 team fine
<b>F25</b>	Rule A.7.2 b)	\$100 team fine
<b>F26</b>	N/A	\$100 team fine for any team who does not submit a Coach and MVP of the year ballot.
<b>F27</b>	N/A	\$100 fine for each time an unregistered team official is noted on a game sheet.
<b>F28</b>	Rule 4.6.iv	\$100 team fine
<b>F29</b>	Standards, Teams, 2	\$100 team fine per game
<b>F30</b>	Rule A.7.3 a)	\$50 team fine
<b>F31</b>	Rule A.7.3. b)	\$100 team fine
<b>F32</b>	Rule 5.3.1	\$100 Team fine
<b>F33</b>	Rule 5.3.1.2 a)	\$100 Team fine
<b>F34</b>	Rule 5.3.1.2.b)	\$100 Team fine
<b>F35</b>	Standards, Teams, 10	\$100 Team fine
<b>F36</b>	Rule 14.4	\$100 Team Fine