



# Alberta Player Development League

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**Operating Rules**

**2025**

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# Alberta Player Development League Operating Rules

The Alberta Player Development League (APDL) is an extension of the Youth Program of the Alberta Soccer Association (Alberta Soccer) and as such is subject to all relevant Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of Alberta Soccer, the Canadian Soccer Association (Canada Soccer) and all relevant guidelines as stated in the APDL Operating Rules. Any potential breach of this rule will result in a review of the APDL club involved by Alberta Soccer and Canada Soccer.

## 1. Definitions and Acronyms

1.1. The following terms have this meaning in this policy:

- 1.1.1. Affiliate Player shall mean a player who is called up to participate in a match or matches with a team they are not registered to but are a member of the same club within the same district they are registered to.
- 1.1.2. ASA shall mean the Alberta Soccer Association, a society incorporated pursuant to the Societies Act (Alberta).
- 1.1.3. APDL shall mean the Alberta Player Development League.
- 1.1.4. APDL clubs are Affiliated Members through their Districts and are NYCL holders that participate in the APDL.
- 1.1.5. APDL Team shall mean APDL Team rosters that has a minimum of fourteen (14) eligible players for outdoor and a minimum of twelve (12) eligible players for indoor and a maximum of twenty (20) eligible players.
- 1.1.6. Bench Personnel shall mean persons registered to a team and on the bench during a match.
- 1.1.7. CMSA shall mean Calgary Minor Soccer Association.
- 1.1.8. CPIC shall mean a check of the National Repository of Criminal Records based on a person's name and date of birth which includes a vulnerable sector check.
- 1.1.9. CSA shall mean Canada Soccer.
- 1.1.10. Cup Competition shall mean a competition where a team is vying to win a Cup.
- 1.1.11. Cup Tied shall mean a player not being able to participate at an alternative level of play or another team play due to previous participation at a Cup Competition.
- 1.1.12. Emergency Trialist shall mean a player who is called up to participate in a match or matches with a team that they are not currently registered with, with the aim of registering with that team and is replacing a player due to injury.
- 1.1.13. EMSA shall mean the Edmonton Minor Soccer Association.
- 1.1.14. FIFA shall mean the Federation Internationale de Football Association.

- 1.1.15. Individual—all categories of membership defined by the ASA’s Bylaws, as well as individuals employed by, or engaged in, activities with, the ASA including, but not limited to, any person up to 80 years of age for all Amateur Members participating as Players, Managers, Coaches, Trainers, Executives, General Members or Officials, Volunteers, Auxiliary Workers, and Employees, or engaged in activities within practice or competition in the sport under the supervision and direction of the Alberta Soccer Association.
- 1.1.16. Match shall mean any soccer game that is a Sanctioned Game and has met all of the ASA requirements in order for its results to be recorded by ASA for any league play, tournament or competition.
- 1.1.17. NYCL shall mean National Youth Club License as awarded by Canada Soccer to a club of an Affiliate Member of ASA. The license applies to all ages and streams within the club.
- 1.1.18. Non APDL clubs are Affiliate Members through their District and are not a NYCL holder and are not participating in the APDL.
- 1.1.19. Open Transfer Window shall mean the period in which players can transfer to and from APDL teams and non APDL teams.
- 1.1.20. PDP shall mean Player Development Program. NYCL holders participate in the PDP aiming to create the best environment possible for player and coach development in the Development/Performance Stream.
- 1.1.21. Referee or Match Official shall mean any person who has met the requirements set forth by ASA (as amended from time to time) and has become eligible to provide Referee Services to any Sanctioned Match and shall include an assistant referee, fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) official, any referee assessor, any referee mentor, referee instructors or any other person specified by ASA to be a Referee and whose name is listed on the Eligible List of Referees for the relevant soccer season.
- 1.1.22 Trialist shall mean a player who is called up to participate in a match or matches with a team that they are not currently registered with and from a non-APDL club, with the potential of registering with that team. APDL Trialist who are registered with districts north of Red Deer can only be used for APDL North teams. APDL Trialist who are registered with districts south of Red Deer must only be used for South teams. Red Deer District players may be used for APDL North and South teams.

## 2. APDL Committees

### 2.1. APDL Governance Committee

- 2.1.1. The APDL Governance Committee is responsible for the governance and oversight of the APDL as per the committee's Terms of Reference.

- 2.1.2. The APDL Governance Committee must approve new club admittance.
- 2.1.3. The APDL Governance 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 APDL and in the interests of fair play.
- 2.1.4. The APDL Governance committee is responsible for levying fines for violations of the APDL Operating Rules
- 2.1.5. Committee members are comprised of the following:
  - 2.1.5.1. Alberta Soccer Executive Director
  - 2.1.5.2. Alberta Soccer Technical Delegate
  - 2.1.5.3. Alberta Soccer Board Delegate
  - 2.1.5.4. Two (2) APDL District Representatives
    - 2.1.5.4.1. One (1) CMSA Delegate
    - 2.1.5.4.2. One (1) EMSA Delegate
  - 2.1.5.5. Consideration will be given to new participating APDL Districts as necessary.

## 2.2. **ASA**

- 2.2.1. The ASA is responsible for the day-to-day administration and operations of the APDL.
- 2.2.2. The ASA may present temporary rules or regulations for consideration and approval by the APDL Governance Committee.
- 2.2.3. The APDL Operating Rules will be reviewed and presented annually by the ASA and sent to the APDL Governance Committee for approval.
  - 2.2.3.1. Any Rule changes must be presented to the APDL clubs by July 1 annually for the season to start in September of that year.
  - 2.2.3.2. The APDL team fees will be presented to the APDL clubs by July 1 annually for the season to start in September of that year.
- 2.2.4. League Fees and Provincial Participation fees are approved annually by the ASA Board of Directors.

## 2.3. **APDL Technical Advisory Committee**

- 2.3.1. The APDL Technical Advisory Committee is responsible for providing APDL club advice on Technical Standards and Operational Rules.
- 2.3.2. Committee Members are comprised of the following:
  - 2.3.2.1. One Male team technical representative from NYCL holders.

2.3.2.2. One Female team technical representative from NYCL holders.

2.3.2.3. Person appointed by the Technical Director.

2.3.2.4. ASA.

2.3.3. The Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee will be the ASA Technical Director.

#### 2.4. **APDL Discipline Committee**

2.4.1. All Discipline, other than mandatory suspensions shall be dealt with by the APDL Discipline Committee

2.4.2. APDL Discipline Committee is responsible for any suspensions and fines regarding the APDL.

2.4.3. Committee Members are comprised of the following:

2.4.3.1. 3 ASA Staff Members

### 3. **Field of Play**

#### 3.1. **Outdoor**

3.1.1. All outdoor matches shall be played on fields that meet FIFA international game standards as outlined in the FIFA Laws of the Game;

3.1.1.1. Length 100 m – 110 m

3.1.1.2. Width 64 m – 75 m

3.1.2. Outdoor match fields must be marked per the FIFA Laws of the Game.

3.1.2.1. This includes Corner Flags and Goals with Nets

3.1.3. Home teams must provide covered benches capable of seating a minimum of 10 players/bench personnel.

3.1.3.1. Tents covering benches is acceptable for this standard.

3.1.3.2. The benches must be on the opposite side as the spectators.

3.1.3.3. Home teams must provide the 4<sup>th</sup> official with a table and chair.

#### 3.2. **Indoor**

3.2.3. 9 v 9 Field Dimension

3.2.3.1. Length 60 m – 75 m

3.2.3.2. Width 42 m – 55 m

## 4. League Administration

- 4.1. The ASA will hold a minimum of two (2) league meetings annually with at least one (1) of the meetings held in person.
- 4.2. All clubs are required to have at least two (2) representatives (one technical and one administrative) present at all league meetings. Failure to do so will result in a five hundred dollar (\$500) fine.
- 4.3. Clubs may not be represented by outside clubs.
- 4.4. The ASA will promote the APDL with the ASA Communications Coordinator.
- 4.5. Seasons**
  - 4.5.1. APDL outdoor season will be 11 v 11 and runs September 1 - November, April – July 31.
  - 4.5.2. APDL indoor season will be 9 v 9 and runs January - March.
  - 4.5.3. Club programming is November – December and August.

## 5. Clubs

- 5.1 Application for entry into the APDL season shall be open to any Alberta Soccer member club, registered with an Alberta Soccer member district, that attains a Canada Soccer National Youth Club License (NYCL) one (1) year prior to the APDL September intake date.
- 5.2 APDL Clubs will be required to meet the minimum standards for the National Youth Club License (NYCL). Any potential breach of this rule will result in a review of the APDL club involved by Alberta Soccer and Canada Soccer. Participation in any league activity will be revoked if an APDL club loses the NYCL license.
- 5.3 APDL clubs must pay a Five Thousand Dollar (\$5000) bond to ASA and held while the club is in APDL
  - 5.3.1 APDL performance bonds will be forfeited if the team resigns from the APDL prior to the completion of the team's APDL schedule (including rescheduled matches and provincials)
  - 5.3.2 The ASA Board of Directors reserves the right to access this bond if the club refuses to pay any monetary fines or legitimate levies by July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year
  - 5.3.3 Clubs must replenish the bond by August 1<sup>st</sup> yearly to remain eligible for continued participation in the APDL.
- 5.4 Club admittance into the APDL will be approved by the APDL Governance Committee and must be in good standing with Alberta Soccer and their home District Association.
  - 5.4.1 Any club listed in bad standing will be reviewed by Alberta Soccer and/or Canada Soccer.

- 5.5 APDL clubs must register a team in both genders at all age categories yearly to participate in the APDL unless an exception is provided by the APDL Governance Committee.
  - 5.5.1 APDL club not in compliance with this rule is subject to review of good standing by Canada Soccer and/or Alberta Soccer.
- 5.6 Each season after 2024 – 2025 there will be a U14 intake group with U17 aging out of the league.
- 5.7 APDL clubs must complete the APDL Information Sheet and submit it to the ASA Manager of Competitions per the deadlines provided. Fees are to be paid to Alberta Soccer including any fees as per the fee schedule. Failure to meet the deadline will result in a Five Hundred Dollar (\$500) fine.

## 6. Teams

- 6.1 APDL team rosters will have a minimum of fourteen (14) eligible players for APDL September intake by August 15 annually and a maximum of twenty (20). APDL clubs found to not have their rosters in by the deadline will incur a Five Hundred Dollar (\$500) fine per team.
- 6.2 APDL rosters will be frozen on July 1st of every year. New players cannot be registered after this point. This applies to any lower-level team from which players may be called up to the APDL team.

### 6.3 Outdoor

- 6.3.1 An APDL team must meet the fourteen (14) eligible player requirement
  - 6.3.1.1 APDL teams unable to meet the minimum of fourteen (14) eligible players will have the match proceed with a two hundred and fifty (\$250) fine per match.
  - 6.3.1.2 APDL teams unable to field a minimum of seven (7) eligible players will forfeit the match.
- 6.3.2 All Laws of the Game from the International Football Association Board (IFAB) will be adhered to except for:
  - 6.3.2.1 A team with fewer than fourteen (14) eligible players on the game sheet up to 15 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, will be considered in breach of minimum player standards.

### 6.4 Indoor

- 6.4.1 An APDL team must meet the twelve (12) eligible player requirements
  - 6.4.1.1 APDL teams unable to meet the minimum of twelve (12) eligible players will be fined per player below the twelve (12) player minimum and the match will proceed with a two hundred and fifty (\$250) fine per match.



- 6.4.1.2 APDL teams unable to field a minimum of six (6) eligible players will forfeit the match.
- 6.4.2 All Indoor Matches will follow the ASA Indoor Rule book.
  - 6.4.2.1 A team with fewer than twelve (12) eligible players on the game sheet up to 15 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, will be considered in breach of minimum player standards.
- 6.5 Forfeited Matches:
  - 6.5.1 When a match is forfeited, at fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start of play or because of a team fails to show up, the opposing team shall be awarded points for a win and a three-zero score.
  - 6.5.2 When neither team has the required players fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start of play, or when neither team shows up, no points will be awarded, and no score shall be recorded for either team. The match shall not be rescheduled. Each team will receive a five hundred (\$500) fine.
  - 6.5.3 When a team played one or more ineligible players in a match, the match will be forfeited, and the opposing team will be awarded the points for the win and a five-zero score.
  - 6.5.4 Teams who forfeit their scheduled (or rescheduled) APDL match are fined as follows:
    - 6.5.4.1 1<sup>st</sup> occasion five hundred dollars (\$500)
    - 6.5.4.2 2<sup>nd</sup> occasion one thousand dollars (\$1000)
    - 6.5.4.3 3<sup>rd</sup> occasion two thousand five hundred (\$2500) team's continued participation is subject to review by the ASA Governance Committee.
- 6.6 APDL teams and players must be registered with an Affiliate Member through their District and subject to district fees.
- 6.7 No APDL team may play in another league at the same time they are registered with the APDL.
- 6.8 APDL teams will follow the approved match schedule as approved by the ASA.
- 6.9 APDL clubs unable to fulfill their team obligations must inform the ASA in writing no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the September intake.
- 6.10 APDL clubs that withdraw after April 1<sup>st</sup> will forfeit all team's initial season fee and are still required to pay all team fees for the following season.
- 6.11 APDL team withdrawing after the deadline will be fined two thousand dollars (\$2000).
- 6.12 All APDL Coaches must be certified as per the Canada Soccer Player Development Program (PDP) Guidelines.

- 6.13 All APDL teams must have a minimum of one (1) coach that is of the same gender as the team. Failure to meet this requirement will result in the team being removed from the APDL schedule.
- 6.14 All APDL team bench personnel identified on the team roster and/or appearing on an APDL Regular Season Game Sheet must have a Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Check on file with their respective Alberta Soccer Regular Member (District Association) as per Alberta Soccer Rules & Regulations.
  - 6.14.1 APDL team bench personnel as listed on the team rosters must match the game sheets and be in attendance on the bench at APDL matches.
- 6.15 The match balls are provided by the home team.
  - 6.15.1 Balls must be FIFA Quality Pro Certified
- 6.16 Home teams must provide a certified Athletic Therapist at all home matches listed on the game sheet. Failure to provide will result in a two hundred and fifty dollar (\$250) fine per match.
  - 6.16.1 Certification according to the Canadian Athletic Therapist Association (CATA) or one of the following approved options:
    - 6.16.1.1 Standard First Aid & First Responder from a Certified Provider
      - 6.16.1.1.1 Canadian Red Cross, St. John Ambulance etc.
      - 6.16.1.1.2 Canadian Red Cross Sport First Responder and Sport Aid course
- 6.17 All Teams must in good standing as it relates to league fees, and fines, as per the dates in the operating regulations. Failure to comply will be subject to review by the APDL Governance Committee.

## APDL Operating Regulations

### 7 Team Responsibilities

- 7.1 All APDL clubs must provide the team colours of their home and away jerseys including the goalkeeper jersey colors by August 15<sup>th</sup> yearly.
- 7.2 All APDL players appearing on an APDL Regular Season game sheet must be dressed in accordance with the appropriate team colours identified on that game sheet.
- 7.3 All non-playing personnel (including substitutes, substituted players, and injured players) are expected to be distinguishable from all players on the field of play.
- 7.4 Team Colours by Match:
  - 7.4.1 Home team – Light jersey
  - 7.4.2 Away team – Dark jersey

- 7.4.3 In the event rescheduling of matches requires a team to play back-to-back days a request can be made to the league, at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance, for a review of the colours to be worn for the second match in the back-to-back schedule.
- 7.4.4 If there are any color conflicts, the home team must change.
- 7.4.5 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.
- 7.4.6 Failure to change the jersey will result in a team fine of two hundred and fifty (\$250).
- 7.5 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. The player numbers must be the same on both the home and away jerseys.
- 7.6 Players may wear any undergarments, provided that any visible undergarment matches the portion of the kit it is visible nearest to OR team may wear white with light-coloured, black with dark coloured jerseys.
  - 7.6.1 A decision must be made by each team regarding undergarments and all players on the team will be expected to wear consistent colours.
- 7.7 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 or 4<sup>th</sup> Official 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.

## 8 Match Day Operations

- 8.1 All players and club officials must have District approved ID. All players and club officials must check in with the match officials, as per match-day countdown. Players and club officials failing to check in with the match officials will be considered ineligible in the match.
- 8.2 All participants must be on the game sheet.
- 8.3 The team can dress a maximum of twenty (20) players per match.
- 8.4 Teams can have up to five (5) registered bench personnel with CPICs.
  - 8.4.1 APDL teams may have their clubs Technical Directors on the bench and can be written in on the game sheet for training and evaluation of their teams coaching staff. The Technical Director must show proof of identity to the match officials prior to kick off.

- 8.4.2 In extenuating circumstances, a club Technical Director may step in for a head coach for the team to meet its coaching requirements if the head coach is unable to attend the match due to unforeseen circumstances and must be submitted to the ASA Technical Director for approval.
- 8.5 Teams who list ineligible bench personnel, are subject to a team fine of five hundred dollars (\$500) per person per offence and the match is forfeited.
- 8.6 Teams may have a maximum of five (5) affiliate or trialist players per match.
- 8.7 Injured Players
- 8.7.1 Clubs can apply to the ASA League Coordinator to include injured players, to sit on the team bench during matches clearly identifiable with their numbered jersey.
- 8.7.2 A player who receives medical attention from an Emergency Medical Technician or Doctor as a result of an in game injury is deemed an ineligible player until the player has provided the ASA a doctor's letter allowing the player to resume participation
- 8.8 Each team is responsible for the behaviour of all players, bench personnel, and spectators.
- 8.9 Home teams must video all home matches and stream or upload within forty-eight (48) hours of the competitions to the approved ASA video platform. Failure to stream or upload match video by timelines will result in a two hundred dollars (\$200) fine per day not uploaded after 48 hours.
- 8.9.1 Minimum video quality will be standard definition 640 x 480 quality.
- 8.10 Match Timing

<b>Pre-Match Timing</b>	<b>Event</b>
60 Minutes to Kick-off	Team Arrival
60 Minutes to kick-off	Match Officials Arrival
45 Minutes to kick-off	Game Sheet and Player Card Review
40 Minutes to kick-off	Pitch Inspection & Team Warm-up Commencement
8 Minutes to kick-off	Team Warm-up Ends
7 Minutes to Kick-off	Changes to starting line-up confirmed
6 Minutes to Kick-off	Player Line-up and equipment inspection
4 Minutes to Kick-off	Player Walk-out
2 Minutes to Kick-off	Handshake and coin toss
<b>Match Timing</b>	<b>Event</b>
45 Minutes + Added time	First Half
15 Minutes	Half-time
45 Minutes + Added time	Second Half
<b>Post-Match Timing</b>	<b>Event</b>

30 minutes after final whistle	Game Sheets and Misconduct Summary to Teams
11:59 PM of the end of the first business Day after match	Match Reports submitted online by Home Team
11:59 PM of the end of the first business day after Match	Match Reports verified online by Away Team

- 8.9.1. Any altering of the Match timing must be agreed by both teams and referees prior to the start of the match.
  - 8.9.1.1. If Match timing is altered the referee fee will remain the same.
- 8.10. APDL Cup matches will not include extra time, tied matches will go directly to penalty kicks.
  - 8.10.1. APDL Cup final matches, tied matches will include extra time of two (2) ten (10) minute halves, and if still tied will go directly to penalty kicks.
- 8.11. If a match must be abandoned due to weather (or other considerations), and a minimum of 70% has been completed, then the result shall stand. If less than 70% has been completed, then the match shall be replayed and the ASA Manager of Competitions shall reschedule it with a cost split between the home team, the away team and ASA.
- 8.12. The home team is responsible for submitting both the game sheets and the misconduct summary. All match reports must be uploaded to the APDL website by the end of the first working day following the match. The home team must ensure the match score and all yellow and red cards have been recorded.
  - 8.12.1. Failure, to meet these responsibilities, will result in one warning. Each subsequent offense will result in a two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) fine.
- 8.13. Home and Away teams are responsible for submitting an online referee feedback form within forty-eight (48) hours following the match. Failure to do so will result in a two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) fine.
- 8.14. All match changes will be emailed to the affected teams, clubs and district facility representative by the ASA. All teams must confirm receipt of match change via email to the ASA.

## 9. Registration

- 9.1. All APDL players and bench personnel appearing on an APDL Regular Season Game Sheet must be registered with their Regular District of Alberta Soccer.
  - 9.1.1. Alberta Soccer and Canada Soccer registration fees will be paid through the home District Association of the APDL team.
  - 9.1.2. Players can not be registered to a roster as an overaged player.
- 9.2. Name of teams - must be consistent club-wide with Age Group/Gender clarification

- 9.3. The following shall be provided by each APDL team to the ASA Competition Coordinator as per deadlines provided:
  - 9.3.1. Name, email address, telephone number, and CPIC of team manager
  - 9.3.2. Name, email address and telephone number of social media person for club
  - 9.3.3. Name, postal address, e-mail address, telephone numbers, and NCCP Number, CPIC of the team bench personnel, qualified as per National Youth Club Standards, with time deadlines provided.
  - 9.3.4. A late fee of One Hundred dollars (\$100) per day per team for incomplete information will be charged.
- 9.4. Any team contact changes throughout the calendar year are the responsibility of the team within seven (7) days change of team personnel.
  - 9.4.1. APDL roster additions and deletions must be submitted by the applicable District registrar to the ASA for approval before they are considered official.
- 9.5. Each bench personnel on an APDL Game Sheet must have District identification at each match or they will be considered as ineligible to participate.

## 10. Player Eligibility

- 10.1. All relevant rules and regulations of Alberta Soccer and Canada Soccer apply to player eligibility in the APDL. Teams must familiarize themselves with all such rules, including but not limited to transfer rules, non-amateur reinstatements and seven-day waiting periods.
- 10.2. Any registered youth player is eligible to play in the APDL subject to age requirements.
- 10.3. Any player who is listed on an approved roster will be deemed eligible to play in APDL matches from that point forward.
- 10.4. Players removed from an APDL Roster cannot be used as an Affiliate or Trialist Player for the same roster they were removed from for the current season.
- 10.5. Any player not on the APDL team official roster must complete an APDL Trialist or Affiliated Player Form and submit it to the ASA Competition Coordinator for approval twenty-four hours (24) in advance of the affected match.
  - 10.5.1. APDL Trialist who are registered with districts north of Red Deer can only be used for APDL North teams. APDL Trialist who are registered with districts south of Red Deer must only be used for South teams. Red Deer District players may be used for APDL North and South teams.
    - 10.5.1.1. Players who resided outside the Red Deer District will use their home physical address to determine eligibility as determined by the Manager of Competition.

- 10.5.2. If an APDL club requires an emergency affiliate or trialist player, to meet the minimum fourteen (14) eligible players guideline, the affiliate or trialist player form must be submitted to the ASA prior to kick off of the affected match.
- 10.5.3. The APDL Trialist Form must be signed off by the player's home Technical Director giving the player permission to participate as a Trialist Player.
- 10.5.4. Trialists who participate in the APDL will be identified with a "T" beside their name on APDL game sheets. Affiliate players who participate in the APDL will be identified with an "AP" beside their name on the APDL game sheet.
  - 10.5.4.1. Each APDL club is responsible for managing club trialists.
  - 10.5.4.2. Age eligible rostered players are free to affiliate to any eligible APDL roster within their home club without a maximum number of matches.
  - 10.5.4.3. A non-APDL club player may be a trialist in a maximum of five (5) matches per season with the APDL clubs.
- 10.5.5. There is no trialist allowed from one APDL club to another APDL club.
- 10.5.6. There is no contact with players from other APDL clubs allowed during the season.
  - 10.5.6.1. If parents initiate, contact with another APDL club this should be declared to the home APDL club and contact stopped.
- 10.5.7. All trialists from non-APDL clubs must have completed the APDL Trialist Form before training or match activity can occur.
  - 10.5.7.1. After the maximum trialist matches have been reached the result of the trial should be communicated to the non-APDL club and the ASA Technical Director and the club's home District.
    - 10.5.7.1.1. Any contact with prospective players must be done through the non-APDL club Executive or Technical Director.
      - 10.5.7.1.1.1. ASA must be copied on communications to the non-APDL club, and the ASA League Coordinator must contact the impacted districts.
      - 10.5.7.1.1.2. If the parent of a non-APDL club player contacts the APDL club this contact should be made known to the non-APDL club leadership as prescribed above.
- 10.6. APDL registered players, are not permitted to participate as a trialist or affiliate player in competitions outside the APDL in any youth District League or tournament.
- 10.7. The eligibility of the affiliated or trialist player(s) are subject to review. APDL clubs found to have played an ineligible player(s) will incur a five hundred dollar (\$500) fine per player and the match is forfeited.

- 10.8. APDL Registered players, are permitted to participate as an Affiliate Player for their L1AB Club.
  - 10.8.1. APDL registered players are permitted to participate as a trialist to any L1AB club if their club does not hold an L1AB license but must seek approval of the trialist players APDL club technical director.
- 10.9. An ineligible player is defined as any player not meeting the player eligibility regulations as outlined above or:
  - 10.9.1. who is currently suspended from APDL league play or;
  - 10.9.2. whose fine(s) have not been paid prior to their participation or;
  - 10.9.3. who is not properly listed on the game sheet submitted to the match officials prior to the match or;
  - 10.9.4. Where the identity of a player declared on the game sheet of an APDL match can be proven to be someone other than the person named or;
  - 10.9.5. A player suspended from Canada Soccer, Alberta Soccer or District is subject to review and may result in suspension from the APDL.
    - 10.9.5.1. The review will be conducted as per the ASA Discipline Complaint and Appeals Regulations.
- 10.10. When a match is forfeited within forty-eight (48) hours prior to match time, the team responsible for the forfeit will be responsible for any and all fees and costs associated with that match.
- 10.11. APDL Transfer Rules
  - 10.11.1. Players registered with APDL clubs cannot transfer to non-APDL clubs during the season unless approved by APDL Governance Committee.
  - 10.11.2. Players with non-APDL clubs are permitted to transfer to APDL clubs during the season.
  - 10.11.3. Players registered with an APDL club team cannot transfer to another APDL club during the season unless approved by the APDL Governance Committee.
  - 10.11.4. April 1-30 yearly is an Open Transfer Window for APDL Teams.
    - 10.11.4.1. An APDL transfer form must be completed and submitted prior to the April 30 deadline.
    - 10.11.4.2. Teams must retain 75% of their named roster from within their own club on March 31 yearly during the April transfer window.
  - 10.12.5 The period after the last day of Tier 1 provincials is an Open Transfer Window for APDL Teams.
    - 10.12.5.1 Vacant spots can be filled after the Tier 1 provincials.



10.12. Players registered with an APDL club will be allowed to tryout in the Canada Summer games soccer team.

10.12.1. APDL registered players are ineligible for the Alberta Summer Games soccer team.

## 11. Schedule and Venues

11.1 The ASA will determine all APDL schedules including the dates, times, and opponents for all matches.

11.2 Home teams are responsible for all associated costs for securing a home field of play and ancillary services for all scheduled APDL Regular Season home matches for the indoor and outdoor seasons.

11.3 The indoor and outdoor schedules will be provided to the teams four (4) weeks prior to their respective first matches.

11.4 The only allowable changes to the published schedule will be rescheduled due to field closures or abandoned matches.

11.5 Grace Period for Late Arrivals

11.5.1 Teams will be given a fifteen (15) minute grace period from the official kick-off time for late arrivals.

11.5.2 The Rescheduled match will be in the same city as the original scheduled match.

11.5.3 Rescheduled matches are the responsibility of the teams involved to get into contact with each other to come to an agreement on a suitable location, time, and date (while still following league rescheduling guidelines) and will be communicated to the ASA to submit for game officials

11.6 Whenever possible, APDL shall be not required to play more than three (3) matches in a seven (7) day period and no more than four (4) in a fifteen (15) day period.

11.6.1 There will be no more than fourteen (14) days between matches whenever possible except for periodized breaks.

11.7 If a team is scheduled to travel, more than 100 KM, to another city to play and the match must be cancelled due to inclement weather or any other health or safety concerns, the home team must communicate the match cancellation to the travelling team.

11.7.1 Whenever possible the cancellation should be communicated to the travelling team five (5) hours before the scheduled kick-off.

11.7.2 If the ASA Manager of Competitions determines that the home team was negligent in communicating the cancellation, resulting in unnecessary travel for

the travelling team, the match will be rescheduled in the travelling team's city at the cost of the negligent team.

11.7.3 The home team must notify the ASA of the match cancellation at the same time as the travelling team.

11.7.4 Communication errors, as determined by the ASA, will result in the home team receiving a five hundred dollar (\$500) fine and payment to match officials for match fees.

11.8 APDL clubs must play matches involving teams that are travelling from the North to the South or South to the North on an Artificial Turf (AT) Field that meets League Standards or have access to an AT field as backup if for any reason the scheduled grass field is unplayable.

11.8.1 If matches involving a team which has traveled more than 100 KM, cannot be played on the home team's AT field for whatever reason, the match 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.

11.8.1.1 The APDL club responsible for the field will be fined two hundred dollars (\$200) for any breach of this rule.

11.8.2 The Referee has the authority to not start a match if the conditions of the field do not meet standards in relation to;

11.8.2.1 Surface deemed unsafe due to condition of turf, grass or standing water.

11.8.2.2 Goals deemed unsafe or of the wrong size.

11.8.2.3 Improper field markings, including field size.

11.8.3 If a team arrives for a scheduled match and it is not played because the field does not meet standards, as determined by the Referee, the consequences are as follows:

11.8.3.1 The home team will be fined One Thousand dollars (\$1000)

11.8.3.2 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. These dates must be submitted to the ASA League Coordinator within one week from the originally scheduled match.

11.8.3.2.1 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.

11.9 Where an APDL team does not have or designate a home venue the APDL club must work with their home District to secure a home venue and is responsible for all costs associated with that booking, including administrative fees.

11.9.1 Home teams may charge entry fee if a venue allows for it and will retain all revenue associated with entry into the match.

11.9.2 Any team charging entry fees to an APDL Regular Season match must provide the cost structure of entry to the ASA at least seven (7) days in advance of the scheduled date of the match.

## 12 Match Officials

12.1 Match Officials for APDL matches shall be scheduled by Alberta Soccer.

## 13 Substitutions

13.1 Unlimited substitutions are permitted. Substitution slips are not required.

## 14 Standings and Tie Breaking

14.1 Three (3) points shall be awarded to the winner of the match and zero (0) points shall be awarded to the losing team. In the event of a tie, one (1) point shall be awarded to each team.

14.2 In the event of a tie the following procedure will apply:

14.2.1 Results between the tied teams.

14.2.2 Greater goal difference between the tied teams.

14.2.3 Greater goal difference in all league matches.

14.2.4 Greatest number of goals scored in all league matches.

14.2.5 If the top two teams are still tied after applying these tie-breaking procedures, the league champion will be determined by a 60-minute match to be played with extra time and penalties if necessary. (2 30min halves)

14.3 In the event the competition involves an uneven number of games due to reasons beyond the control of ASA, the following procedure will be followed by all teams.

14.3.1 Total Points divided by number of games played

14.3.2 Total goals scored by the number of games played

14.3.3 Plus/minus divided by the total number of games played.

## 15 Sponsorship and Communication

- 15.1 Alberta Soccer will review all sponsors associated with the APDL and APDL clubs annually.
  - 15.1.1 A list of sponsors associated with APDL clubs will be provided to Alberta Soccer by July 1<sup>st</sup> annually.
- 15.2 All signage provided by Alberta Soccer for sponsors must be displayed during APDL matches in a location visible to spectators.
  - 15.2.1 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 Alberta Soccer, via the ASA, if this standard cannot be met.
- 15.3 Alberta Soccer shall maintain the APDL website as linked by Alberta Soccer via [www.albertasoccer.com](http://www.albertasoccer.com)
  - 15.3.1 Statistics will be posted on the APDL website by the ASA
- 15.4 Alberta Soccer and the ASA will send a minimum of three (3) Press Releases regarding the APDL each calendar year.
- 15.5 Alberta Soccer and the ASA will maintain a consistent social media presence regarding the APDL Regular Season.
- 15.6 All participating APDL clubs will provide a minimum of one (1) active social media link for their club and/or APDL teams.

## 16 Indoor Match Play Consideration

- 16.1 All indoor APDL matches are subject to the rules outlined above with the following exceptions.
  - 16.1.1 9 v 9 Format
    - 16.1.1.2 APDL Match Timing Rule 8.9 does not apply to indoor matches due to facility constraints.
  - 16.1.2 Match will be 2 x 35-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime
- 16.2 All Indoor APDL matches will be played as per ASA Indoor Rules.
- 16.3 All Indoor APDL matches will be unlimited substitutions.

## 17. Discipline

- 17.1. Discipline to APDL teams shall be based on the information contained on the game sheets and referee misconduct reports submitted to the ASA following each match.
- 17.2. Referees shall record all cautions and ejections issued during a match on the applicable game sheets and summarize the same on the referee misconduct report.

Each referee who participated in the match must sign each game sheet and the referee misconduct report.

- 17.3. A misconduct form must be completed and signed as noted even when no discipline has occurred during the match.
- 17.4. The referee must submit a report giving all pertinent information surrounding the ejection of players and/or bench personnel and/or team supporters within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion or abandonment of a match.
- 17.5. Match Officials and/or Alberta Soccer representatives on duty at a match 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 match, within forty-eight (48) hours of the match.
- 17.6. Individuals who have been listed on a game sheet will be deemed to have participated in that match.
- 17.7. Each team in an APDL match must receive their copy of each team's game sheet and misconduct summary once signed by the referee and both teams. Refusal by bench personnel to sign the misconduct summary or game sheet will not negate the reports and the team will not be permitted to appeal any resulting discipline.
- 17.8. All incidents involving an assault on, or threatening behavior towards match officials shall be referred to the ASA and identified offenders are suspended indefinitely from all ASA related activities pending a hearing outcome with the ASA.
- 17.9. All Discipline of the APDL, shall be dealt with in accordance with the Alberta Soccer Discipline Complaint and Appeals Regulations.

## 18. Suspensions and Fines

- 18.1. All fines must be paid by the club prior to the team's next match.
- 18.2. Suspensions and fines shall be in effect until the suspension is served and the fine is paid. Players are suspended from all Alberta Soccer Association competitions until the suspension has been served.
- 18.3. All minimum suspensions shall be automatic and will not involve a hearing by the APDL Discipline Committee unless:
  - 18.3.1. An appeal is launched in accordance with the procedure in the Alberta Soccer Discipline and Complaints Regulation and Appeals Policy and conditions have been met for an appeal.
  - 18.3.2. A hearing is determined necessary upon review by the APDP Governance Committee.
- 18.4. The ASA will communicate all suspensions to the applicable player and team manager within forty-eight hours (48) but it will remain the responsibility of each

APDL team to monitor yellow card accumulation suspensions and red card suspensions.

- 18.4.1. Playing of ineligible players in these circumstances will result in discipline as outlined in the APDL Operating Rules.
- 18.5. Suspensions will be served in the next APDL sanctioned match for the offending player or bench personnel with the following considerations:
  - 18.5.1. Suspension of a player registered on another team while a trialist or affiliate player with the APDL will apply to APDL matches and that player's home district will be advised of the suspension.
    - 18.5.1.1. The home district reserves the right to suspend the player for matches in their sanctioned leagues.
- 18.6. If a coach participates in other Canada Soccer, Alberta Soccer or District sanctioned leagues the Alberta Soccer and/or APDL, the ASA will communicate with the necessary league administration to determine where the suspension will be applied in addition to the APDL suspension.
- 18.7. APDL suspensions will restrict a player and/or coaches' participation in Provincial, National or International Select programs.
- 18.8. Yellow cards accumulated but not resulting in a suspension shall expire with the current season and will not affect the next APDL season.
- 18.9. Red cards accumulated in the APDL are subject to applicable penalties in the Alberta Soccer Discipline Complaint and Appeals Regulation.
- 18.10. **Appropriate Communication**
  - 18.10.1. Parents contacting the ASA directly on questions that have been answered to club/team staff, when posing the same question repeatedly, and when club staff are copied on emails and asked to respond to their members by ASA will result in a one (1) time warning followed by a five hundred dollar (\$500) fine to the club for each occurrence following the warning.
- 18.11. Refer to the ASA Discipline Complaint and Appeal Regulation document for suspensions.

## 19. Appeals

- 19.1. Decisions of the Referee in matters pertaining to the Laws of the Game are final and no appeal of those decisions.
- 19.2. There is no appeal of the minimum suspensions and fines found in the ASA Discipline Complaint and Appeal Regulation.
- 19.3. Any appeal of suspensions and fines beyond the minimum must be filed as per the procedure in the Alberta Soccer ASA Discipline Complaint and Appeal Regulations