

Policy Category	Operational - Program
Policy Name	CDMFA Release Policy
Source	CDMFA Boundaries & Release Committee
Date	Voted April 7, 2022. Effective May 26, 2022, Draft Update Feb2023, voted March 2023, graphics updated June 2023

## CDMFA Release Policy

\*\* For the 2023-2024 Seasons, this policy will only apply to tackle programs. As there is currently no playoff or tournament format, flag programs will not require releases.

### 1. New Players to CDMFA

- 1.1. New Player: A player that registered to play for a team within the CDMFA that has not previously been registered with a team within the CDMFA
- 1.2. Designated zone: as per the CDMFA Eligibility, Club Recruitment Zones and Boundaries Policy, a player's primary residence determines their assigned or designated zone.
- 1.3. For players to be eligible to play in the CDMFA they must conform to CDMFA eligibility restrictions as detailed in the CDMFA Eligibility, Club Recruitment Zones and Boundaries Policy. The intent is to play for that Team whose Recruitment Zone includes their primary residence. A "new player" can play for any club or association within the CDMFA if they adhere to the conditions that are described below.
- 1.4. If a player is released to a specific team/association within the CDMFA, the release will apply for the duration of that player's CDMFA eligibility with that association.
- 1.5. A maximum of five (5) "new to football" players can be released per association in one season, with no more than three (3) going to the same association.
  - 1.5.1. Shared boundary releases will not count against any association. (Refer to the CDMFA Eligibility, Club Recruitment Zones and Boundaries Policy)
- 1.6. If there is an instance where a new registrant is requesting to be released from their designated boundary, but that "home" association has already released 5 players, or that player would be greater than 3 players to the one association, the league can ask a club to release a player, in very specific circumstances. These circumstances must be verified by the CDMFA Eligibility Committee, and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, and will not count towards the maximum number of released players.
  - 1.6.1. Examples that would NOT be considered for release: a coach's child wanting to move to a team outside their designated zone to be where the parent is coaching; moving to a team to be with a friend; preference for a 12v12 or 9v9 format
- 1.7. Releases are requested by the player using the CDMFA Release Request Form and are submitted for review by the CDMFA Eligibility Committee. If approved, affected players are thus thereafter recorded as "Import Player" within that system.

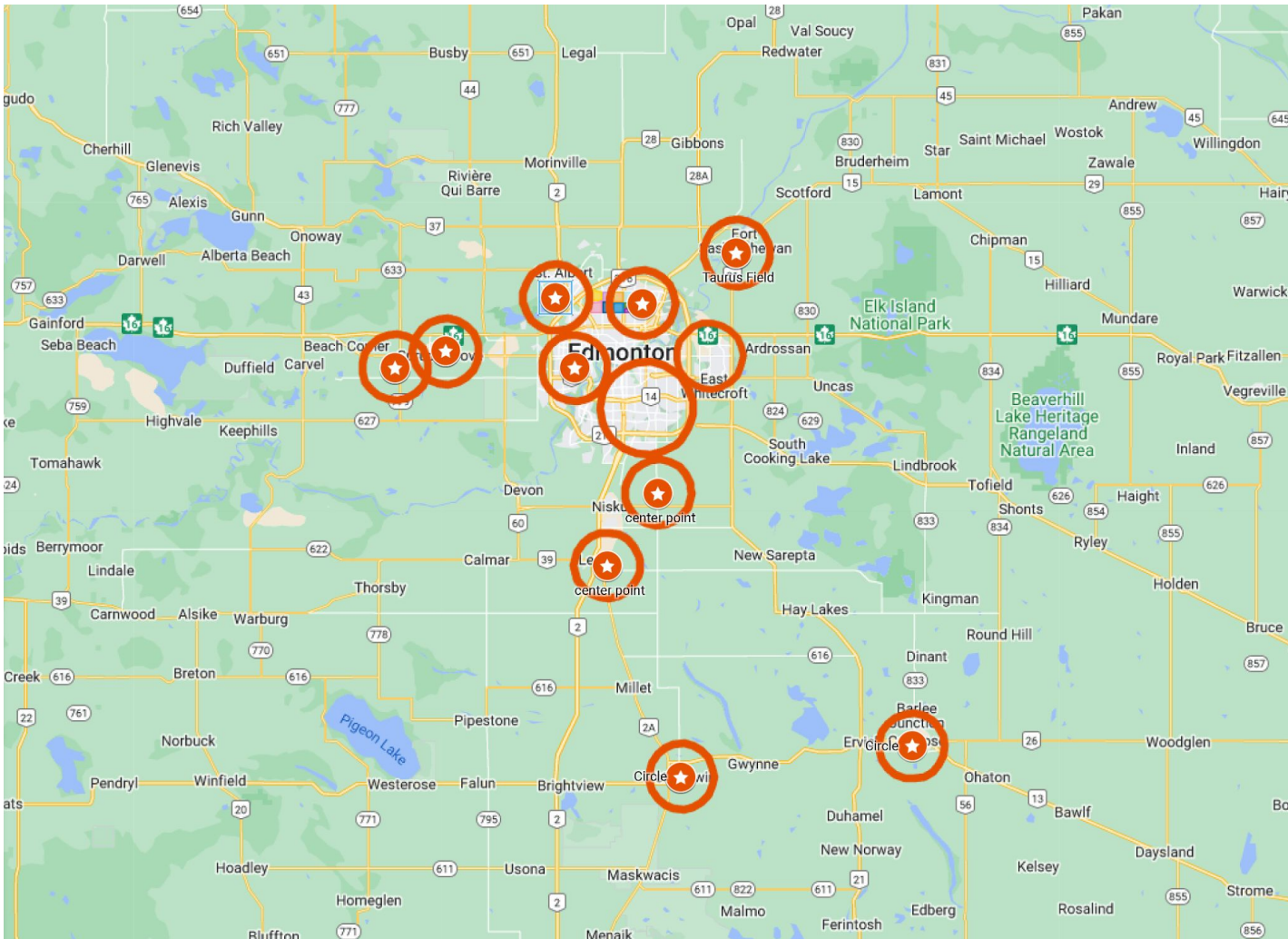
- 1.8. If a player is found to be registered for two or more clubs, CDMFA staff will notify the teams involved and the guardians. A decision must be declared prior to participating in the first practice.
  - 1.8.1. No team shall knowingly register a player if they have already registered with another team. If a player is registered with two teams in the same season, the registration for the new team will be considered void. (CDMFA Registrations Policy)
- 1.9. Players may not practice with teams or associations until they are properly registered, including releases. The only exception to this rule are open camps that are not related to league or team play.
- 1.10. Once a player has played a regular season game with a team, they are not allowed to switch teams. They would have to wait until the next season to play with another team. (CDMFA Registrations Policy)
  - 1.10.1. Regardless of whether they have played a game or not, Football Alberta does not allow for any switching between teams as of September 15 for fall programs of the given year. (Football Alberta AGM 2022)
- 1.11. Players who want to participate in a program that is not currently offered by the clubs in their designated zone (Flag, Girls 6v6, Novice, etc), can register at the club of their choice that does offer the program in question
  - 1.11.1. just for those programs
  - 1.11.2. It would not be considered a release.
  - 1.11.3. They would be considered a “new player” and associations need to follow the guidelines described in this policy for that player to play on an association outside their boundary.
- 1.12. Participating Associations may refuse to release a player if they so choose, however the refusal shall be open to appeal to the CDMFA Board. The league must consult with the home team/association of a player that is requesting a release in order to play football.
- 1.13. Should an appeal on the release decision be requested, the CDMFA Board will follow the steps outlined in the CDMFA Disciplinary Process.
  - 1.13.1. The existing Home Club must supply a reason for not granting the release
    - 1.13.1.1. If no resolution can be reached then the Release Request will be examined by the Eligibility Committee and make a determination
    - 1.13.1.2. If the club claims there is malicious intent or interference from another club, the complaint would be referred to the Discipline Committee
- 1.14. CDMFA reserves the right to audit rosters of registered players for each association. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of each association to report to the CDMFA Executive if they have new players that have registered for their association from outside their designated or shared recruitment zone. This can be done with an email to the CDMFA Program Director.
- 1.15. If it is found that an association has played with a new player that has not been reported to the CDMFA, that player would be considered an illegal player. This would make the roster and the game played ineligible.
- 1.16. This policy is to be reviewed at a minimum of every two years, and amended as necessary.

## 2. Existing Players/Members of CDMFA

- 2.1. For a player to be eligible for play in the CDMFA he must conform to CDMFA eligibility restrictions and, as detailed in the CDMFA Eligibility, Club Recruitment Zones and Boundaries Policy, he must play for that Team whose Recruitment Zone includes his primary residence, unless all other Clubs in that Recruitment Zone have released that player.
- 2.2. If a player is released from a specific team/association within the CDMFA, it will apply for the duration of their CDMFA eligibility with that association.
- 2.3. Once a player has played a season, they are no longer considered “released” players, as that club is now their “home team.”
- 2.4. The league can ask a club to release a player, new or existing, in very specific circumstances. These circumstances must be verified by the CDMFA Eligibility Committee, or Discipline Committee as applicable, and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, and will not count towards the maximum number of released players.
  - 2.4.1. Examples that would NOT be considered for release: a coach’s child wanting to move to a team outside their designated zone to be where the parent is coaching; moving to a team to be with a friend; preference for a 12v12 or 9v9 format
- 2.5. Releases are requested by players using the CDMFA Release Request Form and are submitted for review by the CDMFA Eligibility Committee. If approved, affected players are thus thereafter recorded as “Import Player” within that system.
- 2.6. If a player is found to be registered for two or more clubs, CDMFA staff will notify the teams involved and the guardians. A decision must be declared prior to participating in the first practice.
  - 2.6.1. No team shall knowingly register a player if they have already registered with another team. If a player is registered with two teams in the same season, the registration for the new team will be considered void. (CDMFA Registrations Policy)
- 2.7. Players may not practice with teams or associations until they are properly registered, including releases. The only exception to this rule are open camps that are not related to league or team play.
- 2.8. Once a player has played a regular season game with a team, they are not allowed to switch teams. They would have to wait until the next season to play with another team. (CDMFA Registrations Policy)
  - 2.8.1. Regardless of whether they have played a game or not, Football Alberta does not allow for any switching between teams as of September 15 for fall programs of the given year. (Football Alberta AGM 2022)
- 2.9. Players who want to participate in a program that is not currently offered by the clubs in their designated zone (Flag, Girls 6v6, Novice, etc), can register at the club of their choice that does offer the program in question
  - 2.9.1. just for those programs
  - 2.9.2. It would not be considered a release.
  - 2.9.3. They would be considered a “new player” and associations need to follow the guidelines described in this policy for that player to play on an association outside their boundary.

- 2.10. Participating Associations may refuse to release a player if they so choose, however the refusal shall be open to appeal to the CDMFA Board. The league must consult with the home team/association of a player that is requesting a release in order to play football.
  - 2.10.1. The existing Home Club must supply a reason for not granting the release
  - 2.10.2. A mediation meeting would take place with the Head Coach, President and Parent to address the concerns
    - 2.10.2.1. If no resolution can be reached then the Release Request will be examined by the Eligibility Committee and make a determination
    - 2.10.2.2. If the club claims there is malicious intent or interference from another club, the complaint would be referred to the Discipline Committee
    - 2.10.2.3. If the player/family is claiming there is a violation of the Code of Conduct, the complaint would be referred to the Discipline Committee
- 2.11. Should an appeal on the release decision be requested, the CDMFA Board will follow the steps outlined in the CDMFA Disciplinary Process.
- 2.12. CDMFA reserves the right to audit rosters of registered players for each association. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of each association to report to the CDMFA Executive if they have new players that have registered for their association from outside their designated or shared recruitment zone. This can be done with an email to the CDMFA Program Director.
- 2.13. If it is found that an association has played with a player that has not been reported to the CDMFA, that player would be considered an illegal player. This would make the roster and the game played ineligible.
- 2.14. This policy is to be reviewed at a minimum of every two years, and amended as necessary.
- 2.15. As of the CDMFA Board vote on April 7, 2022: Any players currently playing with an association outside of their recruitment area will be “grandfathered,” they can continue to play for their existing clubs and not require a release, or count toward the import limits for the upcoming season. This policy item will be extended to siblings who may wish to also play for the same club.

Map of Associations in Greater Edmonton Area



\*An interactive version of this map to be included on the CDMFA website.