



Policy Category	Operational - Program
Policy Name	CDMFA Player Eligibility
Source	CDMFA Boundaries & Release Committee 2022, Football Canada LTAD, ASAA Policy
Date	Rewrite 2024-03, Jan 10-25, January 6, 2026
Refer to Policies	Registration, Club Recruitment – Zones & Boundaries, Recruitment - tampering

This document defines criteria for player eligibility for each program.

## CDMFA Player Eligibility

### 1. UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS

- 1.1. Football is for the players.
- 1.2. All member teams are honourable.
- 1.3. CDMFA is a facilitating organization.
- 1.4. CDMFA shall hold Member Associations accountable to these RPPs.
- 1.5. Honest and Full Disclosure
  - 1.5.1. When providing information to the CDMFA, all parties involved are expected to provide complete and accurate information.
  - 1.5.2. The CDMFA reserves the right to investigate and/or follow up to ensure the accuracy of information presented.
- 1.6. Eligibility of a player to participate in CDMFA games or sanctioned events may be suspended or terminated by the CDMFA Executive in the event of any conduct that violates any standard of conduct set out by the CDMFA policies, including but not limited to, the CDMFA Code of Conduct.
- 1.7. New to Football Player shall mean any player who has never been officially registered on a club/program roster (Flag or Tackle) within the CDMFA in any prior calendar year.

### 2. PLAYER RECRUITMENT

- 2.1. Teams and Clubs are free to recruit new players without hindrance from within their assigned recruitment zone. Teams and Clubs shall not recruit players within the recruitment zone of another Club. The act of “actively recruiting” players shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, making the initial contact with a prospective player who resides within another Club’s recruitment zone, or making subsequent unsolicited contact with a prospective player who resides within another Club’s recruitment zone. See CDMFA Player Recruitment – Tampering Policy

### 3. GENERAL PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

The club President and Registrar shall be responsible for verifying the eligibility of the club’s rostered members.

- 3.1. **Waivers:** All members must have completed the required waivers upon registration using the approved CDMFA Registration Portal.
  - 3.1.1. Football Alberta Waiver



- 3.1.2. CDMFA Code of Conduct Waiver
- 3.1.3. CDMFA Media Release Waiver
- 3.1.4. CDMFA Privacy Policy Waiver
- 3.1.5. CDMFA Waiver of Liability
- 3.1.6. CDMFA Division Acknowledgement Waiver - new to 2025
- 3.1.7. Amateur Athletic Waiver & Release of Liability - Club Specific

### **3.2. Age**

- 3.2.1. For all programs, a player's age is determined as of December 31 of the current year.
- 3.2.2. Any individual meeting age requirements, regardless of weight, is eligible to play any position within their age division of the CDMFA.  
Refer to CDMFA Policy "Registrations"
- 3.2.3. Upon request, players must provide the club Registrar with proof of age (i.e. Birth Certificate or Alberta Health Care Insurance card).
  - 3.2.3.1. Clubs can digitally store a secure list of player names and their verified ages. Copies of source documents must be destroyed after verification.
- 3.2.4. Underage Players  
CDMFA strongly discourages moving players outside of their designated age group, however, if the current age category does not fit the developmental age of the player, they may be allowed to "play up" in a higher age division, if their parent/guardian submits a formal request and receives approval from the CDMFA Executive Committee..
  - 3.2.4.1. The request must be made on the prescribed form: CDMFA Underage Player Form and submitted to the CDMFA Executive Director for consideration.
- 3.2.5. Grade
  - 3.2.5.1. Upon request, players must also provide a current year original report card or a letter from the school that will prove to the club registrar's satisfaction the player's grade and school of enrollment during the current season of play.
  - 3.2.5.2. Players who are in "non-traditional" school environments and cannot define their grade level, will be assessed on a case-by-case basis as these standards are set by Football Alberta and ASAA and affect player/team eligibility for Minor Playoffs and/or High School seasons.  
Example: A home-schooled player who is listed as Grade 9, but is enrolled in more than ten credits of grade 10, or "dash 10" level courses would be considered a Grade 10 student.

### **3.3. Residence**

- 3.3.1. Primary Residence:
  - 1.1.1.1. The phrase "primary residence" shall refer to the place where a person lives most of the time and is considered their home for legal, school registration, and tax purposes, and in the case of a player or parent/guardian shall be the residence that is entered into the CDFMA



- registration system.
- 3.3.1.1. Acceptable proof of primary residence (as verified by the Club Registrar) must include two of the following documents, dated within the last 90 days; a primary utility bill (electric, gas, water), government issued ID, or a lease/mortgage statement in the parent/guardian's name
  - 3.3.2. It is expected that players will register with and play for the club in their designated zone. (Refer to the applicable Club Recruitment Zone Policy for a specific breakdown of the Zones & Boundaries)
    - 3.3.2.1. New to Football/CDMFA: Players that are new to Football and the CDMFA shall register with a club that has the recruitment rights based on their primary residence. In the case where there are more than one club in the recruitment area, the player may choose any club with the recruitment rights in that area.
    - 3.3.2.2. Existing/Returning CDMFA Members: Players that have played with a CDMFA club shall register with that club. Where a player has past affiliations with multiple CDMFA clubs, they shall register with the most recent club they played for. If that club does not offer the applicable program (ie U19), they can register with another team that has recruitment rights based on their primary residence.
  - 3.3.3. As per the Recruitment Zone and Boundary policy, a player's primary residence determines their assigned or designated zone.
    - 3.3.3.1. See Item 4 for clarifying statements for each program.
    - 3.3.3.2. If an existing player's primary residence changes and they wish to move to the club in the designated zone of their new residence, they must complete a Transfer Request. (Refer to CDMFA Transfer Policy).

#### **4. Program Specific Eligibility**

\*Programs labelled as "Traditional" are inclusive of all genders.

- 4.1. Spring Tackle - U19 12 vs 12 Tackle
  - 4.1.1. No individual who is currently enrolled in Grade 8 shall be eligible to play in the U19 Level of the CDMFA.
  - 4.1.2. No individual entering Grade 12 at any time during the current school year(January through June) of the current season will be eligible to play in the U19 level of the CDMFA.
    - 4.1.2.1. The "school year" shall be the year of the current season, ending at the completion of the term concurrent with that season. For the purposes of this clause, the third year of high school will be deemed to be Grade 12, regardless of the actual courses that an individual may be enrolled in.
  - 4.1.3. U19 Division. No player over the age of eighteen is eligible to play.
  - 4.1.4. As per the School Sport Alberta(SSA) rules: high school students may participate on or with a non-school football team during the SSA season of play if less than sixty percent (60%) of that non-school team's players are participating on or with a single non-member school football team as confirmed by the coach of the member school team for each student participating on or with a member school



team.

- 4.1.4.1. Season of Play is from May 1 through the last week of November for SSA Provincial Championships. July 1 - August 15 are considered blackout periods where SSA activity will happen

4.2. Spring Tackle - Girls U16 & U19

- 4.2.1. No individual who is currently enrolled in Grade 8 shall be eligible to play in the U19 Level of the CDMFA.
- 4.2.2. (U19) Sr Girls Division. No player over the age of eighteen is eligible to play
- 4.2.3. (U16) Jr Girls Division. No player over the age of fifteen is eligible to play

4.3. Spring Flag - Traditional\* U8-U18

- 4.3.1. U18. No player over the age of seventeen is eligible to play
- 4.3.2. U16. No player over the age of fifteen is eligible to play
- 4.3.3. U14. No player over the age of thirteen is eligible to play
- 4.3.4. U12. No player over the age of eleven is eligible to play
- 4.3.5. U10. No player over the age of nine is eligible to play
- 4.3.6. U8. No player over the age of seven is eligible to play

4.4. Fall Flag - U9 Traditional\*

- 4.4.1. U9 (Previously Novice Division). No player over the age of eight is eligible to play.
  - 4.4.1.1. It is mandated that the U9 division will be non-contact only. (Football Canada April 2018)
  - 4.4.1.2. Athletes turning 8 during the calendar year will have the option to register for either U9 Fall Flag or U11 6vs6 Fall Tackle

4.5. Fall Tackle - Traditional\* U11-U16

- 4.5.1. U16 Division:
  - No individual entering high school (grades 10, 11, or 12), at any time during the calendar year of the current season, will be eligible to play in the U16 Level of the CDMFA.
  - A Grade 9 player is ineligible for U16 Fall Tackle if they are concurrently rostered on a high school football team.
  - No player over the age of fifteen is eligible to play.
- 4.5.2. U13 Division. No player over the age of twelve is eligible to play.
- 4.5.3. U11 Division. No player under the age of 8 is eligible to register based on Football Canada guidelines. No player over the age of ten is eligible to play.
  - 4.5.3.1. Athletes turning 8 during the calendar year will have the option to register for either U9 Fall Flag or U11 6vs6 Fall Tackle



LTAD Level	<b>TACKLE PROGRAM **</b> Age on Dec 31 (year season is played)	Age Division **	Birth Year **
Fundamentals	6, 7, 8	U9 Flag only.	2018, 2019, 2020
Learn to Train	8, 9, 10	U11 6v6 Tackle	2016, 2017, 2018
Train to Train	11, 12	U13 9v9 Tackle	2014, 2015
Train to Train	13, 14, 15	U16 6v6 Female 9v9 or 12v12 Tackle	2011, 2012, 2013 No grade 10's for U16 fall tackle
Train to Train	16, 17, 18	U19 Traditional 12v12 Girls 6v6	2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 No grade 8's for both programs No grade 12's for 12vs12

\*\*to be revised for 2027

LTAD Level	<b>SPRING FLAG PROGRAM</b> Age on Dec 31 (year season is played)	Age Division	Birth Year **
Fundamentals	6, 7	U8	2019, 2020, 2021
Learn to Train	8, 9	U10	2017, 2018
Train to Train	10, 11	U12	2015, 2016
Train to Train	12, 13	U14	2013, 2014
	14, 15	U16	2011, 2012
	16, 17	U18	2009, 2010

\*\*to be revised for 2027