

Policy Category	Operational - Program
Policy Name	Release Policy
Source	CDMFA Boundaries & Release Committee
Date	Voted: April 7, 2022. Effective: May 26, 2022

## RELEASE POLICY

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. If a player is released to a specific team/association within the CDMFA, it will apply for the duration of his CDMFA eligibility with that association.
3. A release does not remove eligibility from teams in their regular recruitment zone. The release does not make the player a free agent in the league.
4. 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.
5. 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 Discipline Committee, and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, and will not count towards the maximum number of released players.
  - a. 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
6. Releases are requested using the *CDMFA Release Request Form* and are submitted for review by the *CDMFA Discipline Committee*. If approved, affected players are thus thereafter recorded as “Import Player” within that system. When a Team requests a release, it must request the release of all Teams within the applicable Recruitment Zone and all of those Teams must approve the request.
7. 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.
8. Only Clubs are to request a release of a player from another team. This is intended to foster team-to-team communications.
9. Participating Associations may refuse to release a player if they so choose, however the Capital District Minor Football Association - Rules, Policies and Procedures 9

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.

10. Should an appeal on the release decision be requested, the CDMFA Board will follow the steps outlined in the CDMFA Disciplinary Process.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Any players that want to play Novice or Atom, who’s recruitment area does not offer these programs can join another association *just for those programs* without requesting a release.
14. Changing Teams  
Any player who has already played a regular season game is not allowed to change teams.