

# Player Movement and Transfer Policy

Effective Date	31 May 2026
Approved By	CLMSA Board of Directors
Review Cycle	Annual review before each outdoor season
Applies To	All CLMSA players, parents/guardians, coaches, team officials, directors, and administrators

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect fair player development, roster integrity, and community-based soccer within Cold Lake Minor Soccer Association (CLMSA). This policy establishes clear expectations for player registration, transfers, trialist use, internal movement, and participation across tiers.

The policy is intended to ensure that player movement supports legitimate development needs without weakening local teams, manipulating rosters, or distorting Tier 4 competition.

## 2. Governing Framework

This policy is to be interpreted consistently with the current rules, regulations, and procedures of Lakeland District Soccer Association, Alberta Soccer, and any other governing body with jurisdiction over the applicable competition.

Where a conflict exists between this policy and a binding Lakeland, Alberta Soccer, or Canada Soccer requirement, the higher governing requirement prevails. Where the governing rules permit discretion, CLMSA will apply this policy to determine its position, consent, recommendation, or objection.

## 3. Policy Principles

CLMSA supports player movement where it is genuinely required for development, access to an appropriate level of play, safety, fairness, or team viability.

CLMSA does not support player movement where the purpose or practical effect is to:

- avoid playing for the player's home community without valid justification;
- strengthen another community's team at the same tier;
- weaken a viable CLMSA roster;
- allow a higher-tier player to influence lower-tier competition;
- delay or manipulate registration to preserve lower-tier eligibility; or
- create an unfair competitive advantage.

The default expectation is that Cold Lake players register and play with CLMSA where CLMSA offers an appropriate team, tier, and age group.

## 4. Definitions

Home Community means the community association that corresponds to the player's ordinary residence or recognized community registration area. (within 24km of the city boundary of Cold Lake).

Same-tier movement means a player seeking to register or play with another community association at the same level of competition that is available through CLMSA.

Higher-tier player means a player who, during the same registration year or season, is rostered, selected, actively committed to, or regularly participating with a Tier 2 or Tier 3 team.

Lower-tier competition means Tier 4 league play, Lakeland Cup, provincial qualifying competition, or any other competition where standings, medals, placement, advancement, or qualification are affected.

Transfer means a formal movement from one registered team, club, community, or district to another, subject to applicable Lakeland and Alberta Soccer deadlines and procedures.

Trialist or guest player means a player temporarily participating with a team other than the player's registered team, where permitted by governing rules.

#### 5. Same-Tier Movement Outside Cold Lake

A Cold Lake player seeking to register or transfer to another Lakeland community at the same tier must obtain prior written approval from CLMSA and, where required, the receiving community association and Lakeland District.

CLMSA will not normally approve same-tier movement where CLMSA offers a viable team at the player's appropriate age group and tier.

Approval may be considered only where there is a documented and supportable reason, including:

- CLMSA does not offer the player's age group or tier;
- CLMSA cannot form a viable roster;
- a combined-community solution is required;
- a documented safety, conduct, or conflict issue cannot reasonably be resolved within CLMSA; or
- another exceptional circumstance exists and is supported by evidence.

Same-tier movement will not be approved solely because another team is perceived to be stronger, more likely to win, more convenient, or preferred by the player or parent.

#### 6. Movement to a Higher Tier

CLMSA supports player movement to a higher tier where the player has been properly assessed and selected, and where the higher-tier opportunity is not available within CLMSA.

Where a player seeks to move to a Tier 2 or Tier 3 program, CLMSA may support the movement if:

1. the player has met the selection criteria for that program;
2. the movement complies with all Lakeland and Alberta Soccer requirements;
3. the movement does not involve improper dual rostering, delayed registration, or roster manipulation; and
4. the player's lower-tier participation, if any, remains compliant with applicable rules.

Movement to a higher tier must be documented. Informal arrangements are not permitted.

#### 7. Higher-Tier Players and Tier 4 Competition

A player who is rostered, selected, or actively participating with a Tier 2 or Tier 3 youth team shall not participate in Tier 4 competition in a manner that affects standings, medals, placement, qualification, or advancement unless expressly permitted by governing rules.

Higher-tier players shall not be used to strengthen Tier 4 teams for competitive advantage. Higher-tier players may not participate as trialists on lower-tier teams where prohibited by Lakeland or Alberta Soccer rules.

If Lakeland permits Tier 2 or Tier 3 players to participate in Tier 4 league play due to scheduling or lack of higher-tier games, CLMSA's position is that such participation should be subject to written district approval, full roster transparency, game-sheet disclosure, and specific confirmation that the participation does not improperly affect official Tier 4 standings or advancement.

#### 8. Internal CLMSA Player Movement

Movement between CLMSA teams may be approved where it supports player development, team viability, safety, or appropriate competitive placement.

The Technical Director, in consultation with the relevant coach, age-group director, and technical committee where required, may recommend movement between:

- house league and higher Tier teams;
- within/between Tiered teams;
- age groups, where appropriate; and
- training groups or development pools.

Internal movement must be based on player suitability, development needs, roster balance, and fairness. It must not be used to stack teams or disadvantage players without a reasonable development basis.

#### 9. Transfer Request Process

A parent or guardian seeking player movement or transfer must submit a written request to CLMSA that includes:

1. the player's name and date of birth;
2. the current team, age group, and tier;
3. the requested destination team, community, and tier;
4. the reason for the request;
5. supporting documentation, where applicable; and
6. confirmation that the parent or player has attempted to resolve the matter within CLMSA where relevant.

The request will be reviewed by the President or designate, the Technical Director, and the applicable age-group director. The Board may review requests involving significant roster impact, discipline concerns, or precedent-setting issues.

CLMSA may approve, deny, or approve a request with conditions.

#### 10. Decision Criteria

In assessing a movement or transfer request, CLMSA will consider:

- whether CLMSA offers a viable team at the appropriate level;
- whether the player is seeking the same tier elsewhere;
- the impact on CLMSA's roster viability;

- the impact on fair competition;
- whether the request is development-based or preference-based;
- whether a combined-community solution is available;
- whether there are safety, conduct, or exceptional circumstances;
- whether the request complies with governing deadlines; and
- whether the movement would create an unfair competitive advantage.

## 11. Documentation and Transparency

All approved transfers and movement decisions must be documented.

Where a CLMSA player is approved to play as a trialist, guest player, or higher-tier call-up, the player must be properly identified on the game sheet where required. Any use of trialist or guest players must comply with the applicable approval requirements, game limits, roster limits, and transfer consequences under governing rules.

CLMSA may request roster information, game sheets, and written clarification from Lakeland or another community association where player eligibility is unclear.

## 12. Non-Compliance

A player, parent, coach, or team official who circumvents this policy may be subject to review by CLMSA.

Potential consequences may include:

- denial of future transfer support;
- removal from a CLMSA team roster;
- referral to Lakeland for eligibility review;
- referral to discipline where warranted;
- forfeiture or challenge of games where an ineligible player was used; and
- suspension of team official privileges, where appropriate.

## 13. Appeals

A parent or guardian may request reconsideration of a CLMSA decision by submitting a written appeal to the Board within seven days of receiving the decision.

The appeal must identify:

1. the decision being appealed;
2. the reason the decision is alleged to be unreasonable or inconsistent with policy; and
3. any new information not previously available.

The Board's decision on reconsideration is final within CLMSA, subject to any applicable Lakeland or Alberta Soccer appeal process.

## 14. Policy Statement for Lakeland Matters

Where CLMSA is asked to approve, comment on, or respond to same-tier movement outside Cold Lake, CLMSA's default position shall be:

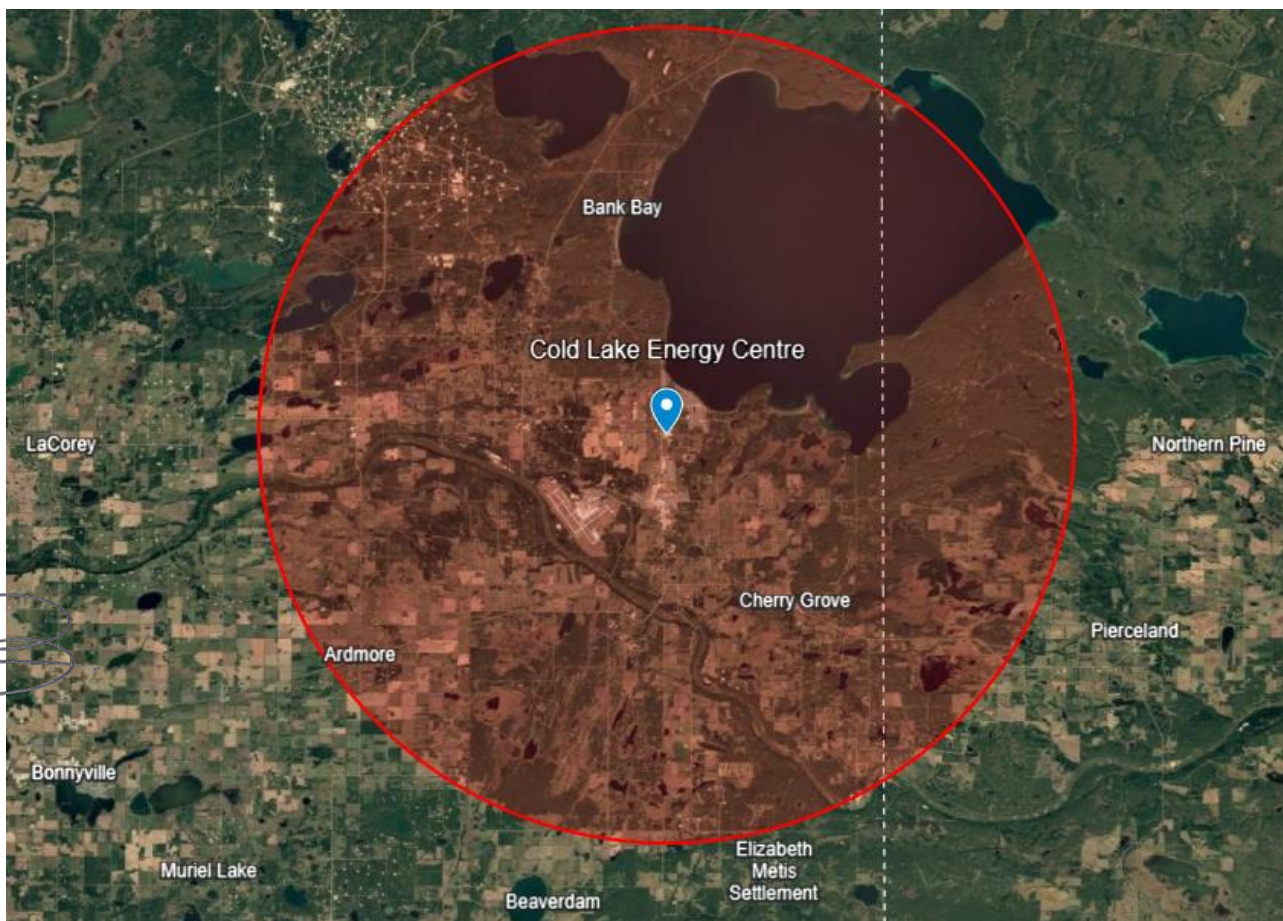
*CLMSA supports legitimate player movement where required for development, access to an unavailable level of play, team viability, or documented exceptional circumstances. CLMSA does not support same-tier movement out of a player's home community where CLMSA offers an appropriate program and where the movement would weaken local team formation, undermine community-based soccer, or create an unfair competitive advantage.*

Where CLMSA is asked to comment on Tier 2 or Tier 3 players participating in Tier 4 competition, CLMSA's default position shall be:

*CLMSA does not support the use of higher-tier players in Tier 4 competition where the participation affects standings, medals, qualification, advancement, or competitive outcomes. Tier 4 competition should remain a legitimate development and competition stream for properly rostered Tier 4 players.*

#### 15. Review

This policy shall be reviewed annually before the outdoor season and may be amended by the CLMSA Board as required to remain consistent with Lakeland and Alberta Soccer rules.



CLMSA Approved Date: ~~May 31, 2026~~

President's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 6 June 2026