



GENERAL POLICIES

reviewed January 15, 2024

RULES OF PLAY

The Rules of Play shall conform to the constitution of Alberta Soccer Association (ASA) subject to minor exceptions. These rules apply to all leagues sanctioned by Central Alberta Soccer Association, hereinafter referred to as CASA. Any provincial competition shall be governed by ASA Rules of Play. Any national competition shall be governed by Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) Rules of Play. Except where modified by CASA and/or ASA and/or CSA, the laws by which all games are to be played are those currently approved by the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA).

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Zero tolerance policy on any drugs or alcohol at ANY time while representing Stettler Minor Soccer Association. The penalty for any infraction of the policy will be immediate suspension for the duration of the season.

TRAVEL POLICY

Coaches are not responsible to drive players to and from "Away" games. Players are not allowed to drive to and from "Away" games and parents are strongly encouraged to drive players to and from "Home" games. This policy includes any tournaments a player may participate in. SMSA will follow the Rule of Two policy when coaches are driving players.

AFFILIATION POLICY

During regular season play, a team may affiliate a player from a lower or the same age group for numbers purposes only. The player must have a signed form from his/her own coach releasing them to play for the other team. The affiliating coach must also make arrangements to have the affiliated player's CASA ID card at the game and must indicate on the game sheet that this player is an affiliate. Players may only be affiliated for three games during regular season play. If they play a fourth game, they then become a permanent part of the affiliating team. The exception to this rule is any Exhibition games or non CASA related tournaments.

PLAYING UP

Players will register in the age group according to the year of their birth. After registration players may be moved up at the discretion of the SMSA Board. The decision to move a player up will be made in consultation with the Technical Director, at least one of the player's previous coaches and the player's parent/guardian.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All players, coaches, assistant coaches, and parents representing Stettler Minor Soccer Association will follow the Code of Conduct as set out by SMSA, CASA and the ASA. See separate policy for Code of Conduct and Code of Conduct to protect Children.

INJURY AND RETURN TO PLAY

Teams will be equipped with first aid kits in case of injury. All injuries requiring medical attention are to be reported to the board.

- Coaches will:
 - Promote proper conditioning, warm-up, and cool down techniques as effective methods of injury prevention
 - Recognize injuries that require a player to be removed from action
 - Refer players with severe injuries to medical professionals
 - Coordinate return to play at medical professional's instructions

Concussions:

A concussion is a brain injury. All concussions should be regarded as potentially serious. Most concussions recover completely with correct management.

Incorrect management of a concussion can lead to further injury. Concussions should be managed according to current guidelines. Anyone with suspected concussion following an injury must be immediately removed from playing or training and receive a prompt assessment by a medical doctor or nurse practitioner. Concussions are managed by licensed health care professionals working within their scope of practice and expertise. Concussions are managed by a limited period of rest followed by avoiding physical and brain activities that make concussive symptoms worse, and once concussion related symptoms have resolved, a step-wise return to school, work and sports-related activities. Return to education or work must take priority over return to playing soccer.

Concussion symptoms must have completely resolved and documented medical clearance completed by a medical doctor or nurse practitioner must be received before resuming full contact practice or game play. The recurrence of concussion

symptoms subsequent to the return to full contact practice or game play requires removal from training or playing and reassessment.

In all instances follow Canada Soccer's current guidelines for Concussion protocol for return to play steps following concussions.

UNIFORMS AND DRESS CODE

All travel teams will wear the jerseys provided them by the SMSA.

NO jewelry is allowed (Medic alert jewelry may be taped at the discretion of the referee). All players will wear the royal blue shorts and socks that match. Exceptions may be made by the referee in cases of extreme cold or wet.

SMSA REFUND POLICY

1.1 If written notice is received up to 14 days prior to the start of the season, a full refund will be issued.

1.2 If written notice is received 13 days or less prior to the start of the season, a full refund less \$20 processing fee will be issued.

1.3 If written notice is received up to 14 days after the start of the season, a full refund less \$50 processing fee will be issued.

1.4 No refunds will be issued after 15 days have passed from the start of the season, excepting requests stemming from an injury that is the direct result of participating in our program, in which case a full refund less all applicable league and insurance fees will be issued.

All notice for withdrawal of registrations and requests for refunds shall be sent to: registrar.stettlerminorsoccer@gmail.com

TEAM SELECTION

Any time numbers justify that there be two teams in one age group, players will be asked to attend not fewer than two practices before the season starts in order to make the teams as even as possible. The Technical Director of SMSA or designate in consultation with the affected coaches will split the teams up to the best of their ability. We are a tier IV League and will not have try-outs or “stack” our teams.

COACHES/PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Background Screening:

All coaches and parent volunteers for the teams shall have a Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Check completed every three years. References and evaluations from parents/players will be a deciding factor in choosing appropriate coaches. It is the board’s right to choose appropriate coaches based on the board’s evaluation.

Ethics Training:

Ethics training ensures coaches have the knowledge, confidence and skills needed to effectively manage challenging situations. All coaches will be required to take NCCP Making Ethical Decisions.

Coaches will abide by the following:

- ✓ I will be reasonable when scheduling practices, remembering that players have other interests and commitments.
- ✓ I will teach my players to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials and opponents.
- ✓ I will ensure all players who are prompt to games and practices, eager, try hard

and respectful are given equal play time no matter their actual abilities

- ✓ I will not ridicule or yell at my players for making mistakes or performing poorly.
- ✓ I will remember that the players play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
- ✓ I will make sure that the equipment and facilities are safe and match the players' age and abilities
- ✓ I will remember that participants need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise and set a good example.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

SMSA will strive to have a welcoming, inclusive, equitable environment where all children have the ability to play soccer. We will create a welcoming environment that has a culture that ensures everyone involved in, or participating in, soccer is made to feel actively encouraged, included, and valued. It involves actively seeking to understand and remove barriers to full and meaningful participation and bridges the gap for people who may have previously felt excluded. Training is available at <https://sportforlife-sportpourelavie.ca/catalog.php>

REFEREES

SMSA must be a minimum of two years older than the age group they are refereeing. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Referee Coordinator.

COMPLAINT POLICY

Any complaints or problems occurring during the season should first go to the coach. If the coach cannot resolve the issue, it can be referred to the coordinator for the particular age group. If it cannot be resolved at this level, it can be taken to the House League or Travel Team Coordinator. At this point it will go to a Discipline Committee (made of SMSA Board Members) for resolution. Please remember: all coaches, coordinators and the SMSA are volunteers doing their best.