



Becoming a Member of Colorado Soccer Association

June 2015

Colorado Soccer Association, affiliated with FIFA, US Soccer, US Youth Soccer and USOC, is a charitable and educational organization formed to organize, advance and foster the sport of soccer for players in the State of Colorado.

Founded in 1978, CSA has grown over the years to a membership of over 65,000 registered youth players and services over 70 clubs statewide.

CSA is a non-profit 501c(3) organization which is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors elected by the membership.

CSA has an office staffed by both coaches and administrators to handle all facets of governing youth and adult soccer in Colorado.

Colorado Soccer Association

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Benefits of Membership

As a member of Colorado Soccer Association, a club shall have the right to participate in all the sponsored or sanctioned activities of the Association. These benefits include:

- ❖ Online Registration
 - CSA has exclusive rights to one of the best membership database management software in the country.
 - This means easy online registration for all member clubs and easy maintenance of teams from your home or club office.
- ❖ Insurance Coverage
 - All players, coaches and referees who register with CSA will have comprehensive insurance coverage.
 - General liability coverage, as well as supplemental accident coverage, is included for all sanctioned activities.
- ❖ Coaching Education
 - CSA has access to some of the nation's finest coaches to help each member club develop players and coaches.
 - All levels of coaches can be educated through the CSA coaching programs: from the first time soccer novice, to the former player who desires a career in soccer coaching.
- ❖ Programs – Each member club has access to CSA programs that can enhance all aspects of a club:
 - TOPS soccer program for children with disabilities of all ages.
 - Risk Management programs for the safety of our children. CSA provides background check for all individuals who assist with soccer development in Colorado.

- Soccer Start programs that focus on making soccer available to lower income children in underserved communities.
- Olympic Development Programs for athletes who desire to play at the Regional, National and Olympic levels.
- Each year CSA hosts State Tournaments that include
 - State Cup – A competitive tournament for U12 and older that selects a champion team from each age group to travel to US Youth Soccer National Championships.
 - Presidents Cup – a competitive tournament for U11 through U18 players that provides a competitive experience to be State (all age groups), Region and US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup National Champions.
 - Kohl's Cup – A fun, small-sided tournament for children ages U6 – U8.
 - CSA Cup – A recreational tournament for children U9 – U19

Types of membership

There are three classifications of membership: voting member, nonvoting member, and associate member.

1. Voting Members:

Voting members of the Association shall consist of properly constituted and affiliated non-profit soccer clubs in good standing with the Association.

2. Nonvoting Members:

Individual players, coaches, referees, parents and administrators are nonvoting members of the Association through their affiliation with a properly constituted soccer club or as officers, directors, or committee chairmen of the Association.

3. Associate Members:

Organizations or individuals devoted to soccer, but not soccer clubs, affiliate members, or other affiliate members, may be affiliated with the Association as associate members. They will have nonvoting status, but will be able to partake in the services offered by the Association under conditions determined by the Board of Directors.

How to become a member

All applications will need to be received by the October 1st deadline for each subsequent fall year. New applications presented for inclusion for the spring season will only be considered when extenuating circumstances occur. Upon approval of the member applicant's documentation or upon recommendation by the Membership Committee, the Board of Directors may grant Provisional Membership status to allow the application process to proceed.

Each soccer club applying for voting membership in the Association must:

1. Complete the CSA member application form in its entirety. Any inaccurate information will disqualify an application from review and potential approval.
2. Submit background checks through the CSA provided avenue for all full and part time staff members and contracted employees.
3. Submit a copy of rules, procedures, constitution, bylaws, 501(c) (3) non-profit status application, board of directors list, financial stability plan and a player base list to the Membership Committee.
 - Included in the player base, must be at least one hundred (100) currently unregistered players. Mergers of existing clubs are specifically excluded from the one hundred unregistered player requirements.

The Board of Directors may waive one or more membership requirements for a new soccer club or club merger, which it determines, has applied in good faith, and demonstrated compelling cause for the creation of a new CSA member soccer club within the club's declared community.

All new member clubs approved by the Board of Directors shall serve a two-year probationary period with annual reviews by the Membership Committee. This probationary status shall be retroactive to all new clubs and clubs formed by merger, which have been approved by the CSA Board of Directors since April 1, 2000.

***Upon their discretion, the Colorado Soccer Association Board of Directors reserves the right to withhold approval of any club applications they believe are not in the best interest of CSA's players or existing members.**

Other CSA Member Responsibilities

1. Each voting member soccer club shall retain its own autonomy but shall adhere to the bylaws, rules and procedures of the Association in all matter pertaining to activities sponsored or sanctioned by CSA, US Youth Soccer, USASA and USSF.
2. A member organization that was a member of the Federation on September 1, 1998, or currently is a member of the Federation must have in its bylaws the following:
 - a. CSA and its member organizations shall be open to any soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, officials and any amateur soccer organization within the territory of the CSA officials not subject to suspension under section 4 of Bylaw 241, USSF, CSA, USYS or USSF Bylaws, Rules and Procedures, included but not limited to USSF Bylaw 241, Section 4.
 - b. CSA and its member organizations will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex or national origin.
 - c. All member organizations, their teams and players, shall abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Colorado Soccer Association, the United States Youth Soccer and the United States Soccer Federation, and the rules and procedures as set forth by the Board of Directors and all-applicable rules and regulations of the USYS and USSF. The Federation articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, and requirements take precedence over and supersede the governing documents and decisions of CSA and its members to the extent applicable under state law, and CSA and its members will abide by those articles, bylaws, policies and requirements.

- d. CSA and its member organizations, will not join any organization that has requirements that conflict with the Federation's articles, bylaws, policies and requirements.
- e. Member organizations shall register all of its directors, players, coaches, teams, referees and administrators as specified by and at the intervals established by CSA. CSA shall register all of its directors, players, coaches, teams, referees and administrators annually and timely pay all dues and fees of CSA.
- f. CSA and its member organizations will abide by the Federation's articles, bylaws, policies, and requirements on interplay.
- g. CSA and its member organizations shall each have a Board of Directors selected through an open and democratic election process. All member organizations must have a voting membership, which fairly represents those (classes) referred to in section a.
- h. Actions and policies adopted by the Board of Directors or Executive Committee of CSA shall be reported to its member organizations, or their authorized representatives, at least once each year at a meeting of the member organizations.
- i. CSA, US Youth Soccer and USASA will provide equitable and prompt hearing and appeal procedures to guarantee the rights of individuals to participate and compete. Those procedures shall include that all grievances involving the right to participate and compete in activities sponsored by the Federation and CSA and its member organizations may be appealed to the Federation's Appeals Committee that shall have jurisdiction to approve, modify or reverse a decision.
- j. All member organizations shall be non-profit organizations and are urged to pursue and maintain tax-exempt status under the Internal

Revenue Code. CSA shall maintain its tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code.

- k. CSA and its member organizations shall adopt policies prohibiting sexual and physical abuse that meet certain minimum criteria established by Federation (subject to any contrary requirements contained in state or local law applicable to CSA).
- l. The member organizations will allow CSA to review the documents and procedures of the member organizations, on request of CSA, not less than once every 4 years, to determine compliance with these bylaws. CSA will allow the Federation to review the documents and procedures of CSA, on request of the Federation not less than once every 4 years, to determine compliance with the Federation's bylaws.