

PREMIER LEAGUE

Elite League

Section 3

301-1 Board of Governors. Each seasonal year the CJSA President, with the approval of the CJSA Board of Directors, shall appoint a Board of Governors who shall organize and administer the Premier League, U13-U16 Spring Qualifying League (formerly 3rd Division) U12 and under Developmental Program, U-11 and U-12 (9 v 9) the U-13 Qualifying Leagues and the State U-14 and U15 Fall League in accordance with all CJSA rules and regulations and in accordance with such rules or mandates as shall be adopted by the CJSA Board of Directors. At least one (1) member of the Board of Governors shall also be a member of the CJSA Board of Directors. The Premier League chairperson shall oversee the Board of Governors and may appoint additional persons (non-voting) for the purposes of improving the representation. Incidents warranting disciplinary action may be referred by the Board of Governors to the Premier League Disciplinary Board against any player, team official, team or club who fails to abide by the Laws of the Game and rules or policies adopted by CJSA. Suspensions involving players, team officials, teams or clubs can be recommended by the Board of Governors and referred to the State Disciplinary Board. Written statements and verbal statements can be requested as evidence to be considered by the Board of Governors and passed onto the State Disciplinary Board.

301-2 Premier League Structure.

Each spring playing season the CJSA Board of Directors shall sponsor and supervise the administration of the small sided Premier League for U11-U12 (9 v 9), U-13 to U19/20 (11 v 11), U13-U16 Spring Qualifying League (formerly 3rd Division) and a Developmental Program for U12 and below for boys and girls. In the U-13 to U-16 age divisions the 1st Division shall consist of approximately eight (8) teams and the 2nd Division shall consist of approximately eight (8) teams as determined by the rules of promotion and relegation as hereinafter stated. (The Promotion and Relegation does not apply to 11, 12, 17, 18, and 19/20 divisions). The U17-19/20 age division teams will be assigned groups by the Premier League Chairman.

Fall Premier. Each fall playing season the CJSA Board of Directors shall sponsor and supervise the administration of the Non Qualifying Premier League for boys and girls U11-U12 (9 v 9); Qualifying Leagues for boys and girls in the U-13 age division to determine participants in the U-13 1st, 2nd and Qualifying League Divisions for the spring playing season; and a Developmental Program for U12 and below. The total amount of teams entered in an age group will determine the number of fall brackets. At the conclusion of each fall qualifying season participants will be ranked for the following spring playing season based on the team's standings. Each fall playing season the Board of Directors shall also sponsor and supervise the administration of State U14 and U15 (non- high school players) leagues for boys and girls.

League Season. The spring Premier League season shall conclude no later than the third weekend in June. The fall playing season shall conclude no later than the third weekend in November. The Chairperson of the Premier League's Board of Governors may extend the seasons if adverse conditions arise preventing the majority of teams from completing their schedules.

Fines. A \$120 fine per occurrence for rule/policy/bylaw infractions, including but not limited to the following:

Failure to submit league entry by the deadline date

Failure to have your league roster approved by the set date or you first game

Failure of a team to show for a league game (second failure in same season will result in possible suspension)

Failure to enter online scores by date set

A \$50 fine, per occurrence, for failing to meet the referee requirements at a league match.

Premier Tryout Window – All Premier tryouts will start the day after the CJSA Spring Premier League ends. (At the CJSA BOD May meeting this policy was eliminated effective immediately)

301-3 Eligibility Requirements. All teams participating in the Premier League, U-13 Qualifying League or the State U-14 & U-15 Fall League must be in good standing with CJSA and meet the eligibility requirements set for participation in the State Cup.

1. The team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered CJSA youth players.
2. The team must be in good standing with CJSA and must be in compliance with, and has not violated any of the bylaws and policies of CJSA and/or US Youth Soccer.
3. The team must have at least fifty percent of its players registered with CJSA.
4. The team (except for the U19's) must compete in at least a four-team sanctioned league during the current seasonal year within CJSA, Region I or the US Youth Soccer National League.
5. A full-sided team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and every level of the State Cup competitions by maintaining a minimum of 9 players common to both rosters, small sided is 7 players.
6. A small-sided team must not allow more than 16 or less than 7 players on its team roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
7. Game rosters shall be prepared by the team and submitted prior to each game. The game roster for small-sided shall have a maximum of 16 and a minimum of 7 players, and all full-sided teams shall have a maximum of 18 and a minimum of 7 players on it. Every player on the game roster must be a CJSA registered member of the club. All rosters must include jersey numbers for each player. A team may have on its team roster only players of the following age groups for the seasonal year in which the team is participating in the National Championships:
 1. For teams competing in the Under 14 and Under 15 age groups, each player on the team must be (A) of the age of the age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year, or (B) of the age in either of the next 2 younger age groups of that age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year.
 2. For the teams competing in the Under 16, Under 17, Under 18, and Under 19 age groups, each player on the team must be (A) of the age of the age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year, or (B) of the age of any younger age group, through the Under 14 age group, of that age group competition in which the team is participating in that seasonal year.”
8. The team may not RELEASE, voluntarily or involuntarily, any player from its roster UNLESS a written request, stating the reasons why this action has been requested, has been made to and approved by CJSA on a form provided. A team may RELEASE INVOLUNTARILY a player from its roster ONLY if the player is unable to play for one of the following reasons: 1) The player has violated US Soccer, US Youth Soccer, or CJSA rules; 2) The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance. 3) The player

is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the season.

9. A team may compete in only one age group of the State Cup competition during the seasonal year.
10. The team may not ROSTER any player who has previously rostered during the seasonal year to another team, or the same team, UNLESS a written request, stating the reason why this action has been requested, has been made to and approved by CJSA on a form provided. At the time a team's roster is frozen, it may not have more than 5* previously rostered players. A player is considered rostered to a team when a club has submitted to its local District Registrar a properly completed team roster form assigning the player to a team OR when the player first participates for a team in any competition sanctioned by US Youth Soccer or CJSA or its member leagues, clubs or teams; WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. Players on Recreational Teams as defined in CJSA Rule 1277 shall not be considered a Previously Rostered Player. *Players that were only rostered within a club will not be considered a previously rostered player for that club.
11. A player may be rostered to only one team's State Cup roster at each level of the Cup competitions during the seasonal year.
12. A player who has been suspended may play after the player's term of suspension has expired.

U12 and below developmental teams must be in good standing with CJSA and *do not* have to meet the requirements set for participation in the State Cup.

301-4 League Entries. Teams wishing to participate in the U11-U12 (9 V 9) Non-League Qualifying, U-13 Qualifying League and the Premier U14 – U15 Fall League must complete a CJSA Premier League entry form. This entry form must be submitted into GotSoccer no later than 3:00 PM the second Friday in August. All teams wishing to participate in the Premier Spring League must also complete a CJSA Premier League entry form in GotSoccer. This entry must be submitted no later than 3:00 PM the second Friday in February. A proper entry shall include the league fee as established by the CJSA Board of Directors.

301-5 Promotion and Relegation. In the U-13 to U-15 age divisions, at the conclusion of each spring playing season the 8th and lower place finishers in the 1st Division shall be relegated to the 2nd Division for the following spring and the 2nd Division top finisher will be promoted to Division 1. In U-13 to U-15 age divisions; at the conclusion of each spring playing season the 8th and lower place finishers in the 2nd division shall be relegated to the Spring Qualifying League for the following spring and the top finisher in the U-13 to U-15 Qualifying League will be promoted to 2nd division. *NOTE: All Premier Divisions must consist of not less than 4 teams therefore the total number of teams participating in an age group will determine the placement of each team in a Division. The following spring, if open spots become available due to teams not returning to the league, the BOG will make the final decision of which team will fill the open division spot(s).

Fall U13 Qualifying League Division

*In instances where the U13 Fall qualifying league consists of two brackets the first, second, third and fourth place finishers in each bracket will be promoted to the 1st Division for the following spring. Remaining teams will be placed in the lower divisions based on team

standings and number of teams participating. If necessary the same formula will be used to determine placement in the 2nd and Qualifying divisions.

*In instances where the U13 Fall qualifying league consists of three brackets the first and second place finishers in each bracket of the league will be promoted to the 1st Division for the following spring. The next top two place teams with the overall highest winning percentages will become the 7th and 8th place team in the division. Remaining teams will be placed in the lower divisions based on team standings and number of teams participating. If necessary the same formula will be used to determine placement in the 2nd and Qualifying divisions.

*At the conclusion of the spring playing season the eighth place finisher in a Division shall be relegated for the following spring.

Note: All Premier Divisions must consist of not less than four teams; therefore the total number of teams participating in an age group will determine the placement of each team in a division.

Rights and Obligations of Qualification, Promotion, or Relegation

The right and obligation to field a team in any division (based on qualification, promotion or relegation) rests with the club sponsoring the team earning such placement (not with individual coaches, administrators, players or parents of the team itself).

301-6 Rosters A current team roster must be approved by the State Office prior to the first game or start of league play, whichever comes first. It is the club's responsibility to insure that the league roster is submitted and approved. For U-11 and U-12 small sided teams the team roster shall not have more than 16 youth players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year. For U13 and older teams, the team roster may have up to 22 youth players on the team roster at any given time during the seasonal year. A full-sided premier team roster shall have a minimum of 9 youth players on the roster at all times. A small-sided roster shall have a minimum of 7 youth players on the roster at all times. A premier team certified roster may not contain more than 5 previously rostered players at any time during the seasonal year. (Note: All U11, U12 and U13 teams participating in a Premier League must have no less than 9 rostered players whose birth dates are within the 12 month period of the cut-off dates for U11, U12 or U13 eligibility. A player is not eligible to participate in any games until they are properly registered and rostered to the club and CJSA. If a team should disband before they complete their league season, they must notify the Premier League Chairman and the CJSA State Office in writing. The player/coach passes must be returned to the appropriate District Registrar.)

Game Day Roster. A game day roster shall be prepared by the team and submitted to the game official prior to each premier league match. It may not contain more than 16 players for U-11 and U-12 small sided and 18 players for U-13 to U-19. No roster may have less than 7 players. A U13-U19 team may have a maximum of 22 players rostered on their team roster but only 18 of its players may be listed on its game day roster.

Club Pass. In addition to the players listed on its team roster, a club may include in its game day roster additional players from within its club. For premier league games, the game day roster must include no less than 9 members from its certified team roster and may add no more than 9 additional players per game (total of 18 players for U13-U19). A premier player, from the same club, may only play in an older age group at any division of premier play unless the player is rostered to an older age team but is age appropriate for the younger team. A classic player, from the same club, may play at the same or older age group at any division of premier

play. (NOTE: Club pass system may NOT be used for State Cup competitions at the State level, however at the Regional and National level cup rosters may be changed using the US Youth Soccer Club Pass. See US Youth Soccer National Championship Policies.)

301-7 Game Information (There is no overtime in league play)

Division	League Play	State Cup	Ball Size
U17-U19	45 minutes	45 minutes	5
U15-U16	40 minutes	40 minutes	5
U13-U14	35 minutes	35 minutes	5
U11-U12	30 minutes	30 minutes	4

1. **Lost Player Pass:** See Rule 3114
2. **Coach Pass:** See Rule 3116
3. No re-entry in the same half for U15 and older
4. Premier Age Divisions: See Rule 3212
5. If a team cannot field a minimum of seven (7) players within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time, they will forfeit the game.
6. **Unfinished games** due to any cause shall be replayed if neither team is at fault and play has not begun in the second half. If play is stopped during the second half and play cannot be resumed and if neither team is at fault, the Premier Chairman may deem the game complete. However, if play is stopped at any time due to one of the teams being adjudged to be at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the Premier Chairman whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit. Game changes must be in writing using the proper form.
7. **Lightning – Recognizing the threat.** Apply the 30-30 rule: When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder. If this time is 30 seconds or less, seek proper shelter. If you can't see the lightning, just hearing the thunder is a good back-up rule. Wait 30 minutes or more after hearing the last thunder before leaving shelter. Referees must protect the safety of all participants by stopping game activities quickly, so that participants and spectators may retire to a safer place before the lightning threat becomes significant. Remember, if you can hear the thunder, you are within reach of lightning.
8. **Red Card - Sending Off Policy and Coach Ejection.** See Appendix H; for additional sanctions related to referee assault or referee abuse, see Appendix J.

Home Team

1. When a team is scheduled to have a home game and cannot obtain a field, the away team will become the home team. Notification of **Game Change** forms must be completed and submitted to the CJSA Office for game changes. Games **MUST** be played on or before the date listed on your teams schedule sheet unless teams mutually agree to another date. If mutual agreement cannot be reached as to the time and/or date of a premier game, the Premier Director will have say as to time, day and location of the game. Both teams involved will be fined \$120. If a team requests a game date change for a reason other than weather, State Cup or unplayable field conditions and the other team does NOT agree to the change the team requesting the change will forfeit the game if the game is not played.
2. In the event a **game is rescheduled, canceled or abandoned** because of inclement weather, the game shall be played the following day unless an exception is

approved by the Premier Chairman. If a team travels and through no fault of either team the game must be replayed the traveling team becomes the home team and is responsible for the referee fees.

3. The home team will set the time of the game.
4. The **home team is responsible** for contacting the opposing coach at least 72 hours prior to the game to verify location, time and uniform colors.
5. If there is a color conflict with uniforms, the home team is responsible for resolving the conflict prior to the game.
6. The home team is to provide a game ball, a properly lined field, nets and corner flags. ***Goals must be anchored.***
7. Winning team is responsible for **reporting scores on line.**
8. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents and administrators. If a spectator's conduct warrants their removal from the field by the referee, it is the responsibility of the coach to work with the referee to restore order so that the game may be continued to its completion.
9. Physical violence, foul or abusive language, harassment of players or referees will not be tolerated.
10. The referees are in complete charge of the field and adjacent areas from the time they arrive at the game site until they depart. If a referee terminates a game prematurely, the determination of the outcome shall be the responsibility of the Premier League Chairman.

Standings and Awards

1. A team's standings in its division will be determined by the number of points it receives based on its win/loss record during the season. Points will be awarded as follows:

Three points for a win; One point for a tie; Zero points for a loss; *Minus three (-3) points for a forfeit*

2. In the case of point ties at the end of the league season, the following tie-breakers will be used to determine a league champion:

Head to head (disregard if more than two (2) teams)

Most Wins

Goal Differential – maximum of 5

Goals For – maximum of 5

Goals Against

Coin Toss

3. Awards will be presented only to the first place teams in Division 1, U13-U16.

301-8 Referees - Teams are to **use only certified assignors** to obtain referees for Premier League games. Referees are to be paid at the start of the game and the club/team is responsible for any assigning fees. The Referee Assignor of the home team must be notified at least four (4) days in advance of all games or changes to game schedule. Failure by the home team to adhere to the notification period for any reason other than weather, closure of field or a cup conflict will result in the following:

- Home field is awarded to the away team (Away team becomes Home team)
- Offending Club/Team will pay for the referee fees

- Offending Club/Team will be fined \$50.
- If the late game change (less than 96 hours) is caused by the away team not being able to fulfill its game obligation for any reason other than a delay in cup scheduling; the offending club/team will reimburse home team for referee expenses and will be fined \$50.
- If one or more of the officials fail to appear within thirty (30) minutes of the scheduled kickoff, and the opposing coaches mutually agree to play the game, the game shall be played and the results will be official. If the opposing coaches are unable to agree – the game will not be played. Both coaches must notify the State Office and the Premier League Chairman within 24 hours of the official's failure to show.

301-9 Premier League Disciplinary & Protest Board

The authority and responsibility of the Premier League Disciplinary & Protest Board to hear and adjudge matters of discipline and to impose sanctions or punishment against any player, coach, manager, club official, or team shall be as here after set forth.

1. The Premier League Disciplinary & Protest Board shall consist of three (3) members and four (4) alternates, each representative of a different district. The Premier League Chairperson shall appoint one member of the board to serve as Chairperson. Except for those matters covered by CJSA Policies 1000-10 (Referee Assault) and 1000-17 (Suspension Because Of Litigation) the Premier League Disciplinary Board shall exercise original jurisdiction over matters resulting from Premier League play, which are referred to the Board by either the Premier League Chairperson or the State Youth Referee Administrator.
2. Whenever the player, coach, manager, club official, or team whose actions are under review is from the same district as any premier league disciplinary board member, or the same club as any premier league disciplinary board member, such member shall withdraw from consideration of the matter and the chairperson of the board shall appoint a temporary board member(s) from among the alternates. Whenever an insufficient number of alternates are available to create a board of three (3) persons, the Premier League Chairperson shall appoint a temporary board member(s) from a district or club not involved in the matter.
3. The Premier League Disciplinary Board shall have the authority by affirmative vote of at least 2 members of the board to impose any, or all, of the following sanctions in matters where it deems appropriate. The board may:
 1. Issue a letter of reprimand to any player, coach, manager, club official, or team.
 2. Place on probation with such special conditions as are deemed appropriate any player, coach, manager, club official, or team.
 3. Suspend from Premier League play for a definite period of time not to exceed one year from the date of the offense any player, coach, manager, or club official, or team.
4. Whenever a matter is referred to the Premier League Disciplinary Board the Disciplinary Board Chairperson shall set a date and convene a hearing within 30 days of the referral. The Chairperson shall provide timely written notice of the date, time and place of the hearing to all persons concerned and to all persons or teams against whom sanctions or punishment may be imposed. At the hearing the board shall receive such oral or written testimony as it shall deem appropriate except that any person or team against whom sanctions or punishment may

be imposed shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard by the board in person and to submit such written evidence as they feel necessary and appropriate. At the conclusion of the fact-finding hearing the board, through its Chairperson, shall submit to the Premier League Chairperson a written decision stating the names of the persons heard; the documents examined; the procedures the fact-finding process followed; the factual findings of the board; the sanctions or punishments to be imposed if any; and, the reasons for the imposition of the sanctions. Upon receiving a written decision from a disciplinary board the Premier League Chairperson shall immediately notify those persons or teams against whom any sanctions have been imposed and shall forward to all such persons or teams, and to the State Administrator, a copy of the board's written decision, a copy of the US Soccer Notice of Appeal and a copy of the US Soccer Procedure for Appeals. All decisions of the Premier League Disciplinary Board shall stand and be of full force and effect until changed by a higher authority. (See US Soccer Bylaw 705.7)

5. Only the State Disciplinary Board may impose a suspension in excess of 1 year from the date of the offense. Whenever the Premier League Disciplinary Board concludes that a suspension of more than 1 year is warranted, it shall impose a 1 year suspension and, in writing, refer the matter to the State Disciplinary Board for consideration of the imposition of a longer suspension.

6. A team, player, or official may be suspended only for stated reasons, and for a defined period of time. No player or official of any club or team which has been suspended for an offense committed by the management of club or team shall also be suspended, unless proof is submitted connecting such player or official with the offense committed.

7. Clubs are encouraged to act on their own to discipline persons or teams within their organization where they feel it is warranted. It is expected that where clubs have taken timely and appropriate disciplinary action the necessity of referring such matters to a Premier League Disciplinary Board or the State Disciplinary Board will be avoided.

8. Any person or team aggrieved by a decision of the Premier League Disciplinary Board imposing a suspension of more than 90 days may appeal the decision to the State Disciplinary Board in accordance with the following rules:

- An appeal must be in writing and describe in detail the grounds for the appeal.
- All documents, exhibits and other evidence in the case.
- Copies of all rules, procedures, and bylaws used to support the charges and to conduct the hearing.
- The notice of charges and/or hearing provided the defendant.
- The written decision of the district.

The written appeal must be mailed within five (5) days from the date of the receipt of a written decision from the Premier Disciplinary Board. The appeal fee of \$50.00, payable to CJSA, Inc., in the form of a money order, cashier's check, or certified check shall accompany the appeal.

See Protest Section 1200

301-10 Recruitment

1. Any team participating in the CJSA Premier League play, or being formed for CJSA Premier League play, acting through its coaches, team officials, players or parents of players, which attempts to induce any player listed on a valid team roster of another team to leave their team shall be deemed to have recruited that player.

2. If the Premier League Disciplinary and Protest Board determines that a team has recruited a player, then the coach and/or team will be subject to a minimum three (3) game suspension for the first infraction; and the suspension of the team from the Premier League for any subsequent infraction.
3. Any team may conduct publicly announced open tryouts to acquire players. Any player or players' parents may initiate direct contact with any premier league team for the purpose of joining that team.
4. Invitations to players listed on valid rosters for play on indoor teams or as guest players for tournaments must be initiated through that player's coach.
5. Recruiting complaints shall be submitted in writing to the Premier League Chairman within thirty (30) days of the alleged recruiting.