



## COLORADO SOCCER ASSOCIATION

### MEMBERSHIP POLICY

#### I. Membership admission.

- A. Membership in the Association shall be initially reviewed by the Membership Committee. The Committee shall ensure all membership requirements are addressed and shall make its recommendation to the Board of Directors to admit or deny admission. If the applications are incomplete, then no recommendation to the Board needs to be made, and the Committee shall inform the applicant of deficiencies.
- B. All applications must be submitted by the last day of February to qualify for membership in the following Fall; or by the last day of September to qualify for membership in the following Spring.
- C. Upon submission of a completed membership package, the Membership Committee shall review the materials and make its recommendation to the Board of Directors. The Board shall not review the matter *de novo*, but rather review the proposed membership application and recommendation for compliance with requirements and policies of Colorado Soccer and USSF; to ensure legal requirements have been satisfied; to ensure that the concerns of existing members of Colorado Soccer have been properly considered; and to verify that the decision of the Membership Committee is not arbitrary.
- D. Membership in the Association requires an affirmative vote of seven of the twelve Board members. Membership is granted on a provisional basis and will be conditioned upon such further requirements as the Board may determine in its reasonable discretion. All New and Existing Entities granted membership shall also be considered Provisional Members for a two-year period.
- E. Applicants not admitted to membership may re-apply for admission to Colorado Soccer Association at any time but will not be considered until the next season for which the member is eligible.

#### II. Membership Application requirements.

This Section II applies to all New Entities and Expanding Entities. An application fee as determined by the Membership Committee is required for the Entity to be considered for membership.



A. Definitions.

1. 'New Entity' is defined as any entity which has not had at least three teams playing in Colorado Soccer sanctioned leagues for the previous two calendar years. The term does not include entities resulting from the merger of one or more existing Voting Members.

2. 'Expanding Entities' are existing Colorado Soccer members who, in the opinion of the Membership Committee, are establishing a discrete part of the club operating under the name and legal authority of the member.

B. An Entity applying for membership must include in its application a list of at least 65 players including three teams before admission will be granted. Of the 65 players, 20 players must be youths who were not registered as players with Colorado Soccer or US Soccer in the twelve months preceding application. The 65 players may be competitive or recreational players.

C. The applying Entity must designate a principal place of business for its administrative and practice operations.

D. It is recommended that all coach(es) and DOCs associated with the New Entity have appropriate training and licensing.

E. The applying Entity must observe rationally supportable geographic rules of the Colorado Soccer Association as determined solely by the Board of Colorado Soccer Association.

1. Factors that are to be considered in determining supportable geographic rules are:

- a. Schools and locations of schools in the area of the principal place of business;
- b. Physical Geography;
- c. Neighborhood Concepts;
- d. Population [demographics of the area of the principal place of business as per guidelines of Colorado Soccer]; and
- e. A demonstrated need for soccer services in the area of the principal place of business. In making this determination, the Committee shall consider the existence and performance of members within a 10-mile radius of the proposed Provisional Member and solicit comments from those members.



- F. Any applying Entity [New or Existing] must have complied with all state and federal nonprofit requirements, as well as Colorado Soccer Association team formation rules. The applying Entity must be an incorporated 501(c)(3) entity; have Bylaws that comply with applicable law and policy requirements of Colorado Soccer, USSF and FIFA; and it must identify a board or governing body that will handle administrative issues and be responsible for compliance with applicable Colorado Soccer Association rules, regulations, and policies. An Expanding Entity may use its existing corporate documents in its application but shall also include its proposal for a separate corporate entity and Board of Directors of the club it intends to establish. An applying Entity must also identify its recreational soccer program for minors under 11 years of age or provide an action plan for establishing a recreation soccer program for minors under 11.
- G. The Colorado Soccer Board of Directors may waive one or more membership requirements for an applying Entity if the Board of Directors determines the Entity has applied in good faith and has demonstrated a reason for its inability to fulfill the membership requirements required for admission as a Provisional Member.
1. Requests for waivers of any membership requirement must be filed in writing with the Association's Membership Committee by last day of February of the calendar year in which the applying Provisional Members wishes to begin seasonal year Fall play.
  2. All requests for waivers shall be reviewed and decided by the Board of Directors no later than the last day of April in the same calendar year.
  3. Announcement of a membership waiver meeting by the Board of Directors, along with a list of all applicants seeking waivers shall be published and distributed to all Association members in good standing at least fifteen days prior to said meeting. Provisional Members wishing to challenge or support the admission of a new Provisional Member may submit their written arguments to the Board.

### III. Provisional Member Requirements.

- A. All Provisional Members approved by the Board of Directors shall serve a two-year probationary period with annual reviews by the Membership Committee.
- B. All Provisional Members must comply with all Colorado Soccer Association and US Soccer Bylaws, policies and rules and are subject to all disciplinary rules.
- C. A Provisional Member shall not have more than 5 disciplinary hearings involving persons affiliated with the entity.



- D. The club must maintain its membership requirements [including number of players] for the two-year probationary period.
- E. No team from a Provisional Member shall be eligible for the State-run tournaments [President's Cup or State Cup] for a period of two years from the date of admission unless specifically authorized by the Board of Directors of Colorado Soccer.
- F. A Provisional Member must meet the standards of financial accountability and transparency as well as any insurance and risk management standards determined by Colorado Soccer.