

Copper Country Soccer Association Handbook

A guide to the 2026 Season



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Website:
coppercountrysoccer.org

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Welcome to Copper Country Soccer

For over 30 years, the Copper Country Soccer Association (CCSA) has provided local, recreational soccer programs for youth in Houghton, Baraga, and Keweenaw counties. Founded in 1992, CCSA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization affiliated with Soccer Association for Youth (SAY).

We believe all kids should have the chance to learn the game of soccer and continue development in personal and team skills. Our goal is to make soccer available to any child who wishes to play, providing scholarships and assistance for any family who needs it.

Our Team

The CCSA is run by volunteers - from the Board of Directors, to coaches, to the families who support it. The passion and sense of community among our member families and volunteers is at the heart of our organization and what keeps the CCSA thriving.

Board Members

Alicia Curto - Executive Secretary

Darin Ward - President

Brian Hutzler - Past President

Ryan Drife - Director of Referees

Chris Perez - Director of Coaching, Equipment Manager

Randy Lourn - Secretary

Tim Scullion - Treasurer



Copper Country Soccer Association Youth Soccer Recreation Program Code of Conduct

Purpose:

To promote a positive, respectful, and inclusive environment for all participants involved in the Copper Country Soccer Association (CCSA) Youth Recreation Program. All players, parents/guardians, coaches, referees, and volunteers are expected to abide by this Code of Conduct at all practices, games, and events.

Player Expectations:

- Treat all players, coaches, referees, and spectators with respect.
 - Always do your best, have fun, and demonstrate good sportsmanship.
 - Follow your coach's instructions and the rules of the game.
 - Use appropriate language and avoid taunting or abusive behavior.
 - Be a team player and support your teammates, win or lose.
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Parent/Guardian Expectations:

- Encourage your child to be respectful of coaches, referees, teammates, and opponents.
- Leave coaching to the coaches during games and practices.
- Respect referees and opposing players; mistakes are part of the game.
- Communicate respectfully with coaches, referees, players, parents, and volunteers.
- Model positive behavior and help create a safe, supportive environment.



Copper Country Soccer Association Youth Soccer Recreation Program Code of Conduct

Coach Expectations:

- Promote fair play, teamwork, and respect through your actions.
 - Provide a fun, inclusive, and age-appropriate environment.
 - Treat all players fairly and prioritize sportsmanship over winning.
 - Communicate respectfully with players, parents, and referees.
 - Promptly report safety or behavioral concerns.
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Spectator Expectations:

- Be supportive of and cheer for **all** players.
 - Respect referees, coaches, players, and other spectators.
 - Refrain from arguing, taunting, or disruptive behavior.
 - Help to create a positive experience and respectful environment for every player.
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Referee Expectations:

- Officiate fairly and impartially.
 - Prioritize player safety at all times.
 - Arrive prepared and conduct yourself professionally.
 - Communicate decisions clearly and respectfully.
 - Support player development through positive interactions.
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Disciplinary Actions:

Failure to follow the Code of Conduct may result in:

- Verbal or written warning
- Suspension from games or practices
- Removal from the program without refund (in cases of repeated or serious violations)



Handbook & Code of Conduct Acknowledgement (Signed During Registration)

I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the Copper Country Soccer Association Handbook and Code of Conduct. I understand the expectations for players, coaches, partents/guardians, volunteers, spectators, and referees, and agree to support and uphold these standards throughout the season.

I understand that failure to follow the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, including removal from activities or events, as determined by the Copper Country Soccer Association.



Player Safety

The CCSA is committed to creating a safe, positive, and respectful environment for all players. This guide explains how to recognize, respond to, and report safety concerns in compliance with state and federal law, and league policies.

If you witness or become aware of misconduct, unsafe behavior, harassment, bullying, discrimination, abuse, or any situation that may place a player at risk:

1. **Ensure Immediate Safety** - If someone is in immediate danger or requires medical assistance, contact emergency services (**911**) and notify a coach or other volunteer as soon as possible.
2. **Report the concern promptly** - Report the incident to a coach, board member, or other designated CCSA representative as soon as possible.
3. **Provide Relevant Information** - Include details such as the date, time, location, individuals involved, witnesses, and a description of the incident.
4. **Cooperate with the Review Process** - CCSA will review reported concerns promptly and may gather additional information from those involved.
5. **Maintain Respect and Confidentiality** - Concerns should be reported through appropriate channels rather than discussed publicly or on social media.

CCSA takes all reports of misconduct and player safety concerns seriously and will take appropriate action to ensure the safety of all players.

Any suspected child abuse or criminal conduct should be reported immediately to local law enforcement or appropriate child protection authorities.



Medical & Injury Information

Injury Procedures:

Player safety is our highest priority. Any player who is injured during a practice, game, or league activity should immediately notify their coach or another league official. Coaches and volunteers will take reasonable steps to respond to injuries and contact a parent or guardian when appropriate.

Emergency Contacts:

Parents and guardians are responsible for providing accurate emergency contact information during registration and notifying the CCSA of any changes throughout the season.

Concussion Awareness:

Any player suspected of having sustained a concussion or head injury must be removed from play immediately and may not return to participation until cleared in accordance with applicable medical guidance and league policies.

Common signs of a concussion may include:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Confusion
- Nausea
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Loss of consciousness

When in doubt, players should sit out until they've had a medical evaluation.

Medical Emergencies:

In the event of an emergency, CCSA personnel may contact emergency services and notify the player's parent or guardian using the emergency contact information provided.

Medical Conditions & Medications

Parents and guardians are responsible for informing coaches of any medical conditions, allergies, or emergency medications that may affect their child's participation. CCSA coaches, referees, and volunteers are not responsible for administering medication unless specific arrangements have been made in advance.



CCSA Volunteer Participation Program

Building Community Through Volunteer Support

The Copper Country Soccer Association is a volunteer-driven organization. Our ability to provide a positive soccer experience for players depends on the support and involvement of parents, guardians, and community members.

To help ensure that the responsibilities of running the league are shared fairly among participating families and to keep things simple, CCSA requires each family to contribute 1 hour of volunteer time throughout the season.

Families who do not complete the volunteer requirement will be charged a \$35 volunteer fee per player at the conclusion of the season. We will do our best to make this super easy to do, and getting involved with the CCSA Board and/or coaching fullfills this family requirement!

Volunteer Opportunities (Listed on Crossbar)

Volunteer opportunities may include, but are not limited to:

- Coaching, Asst. Coaching (Fullfills Volunteer Requirement)
- Photography
- Provide Baked goods at UPWard Coffee tent
- Set-up/Take Down Field Flags
- Field setup and teardown
- Weekly Equipment distribution and collection including balls, goals (for mowing purposes), Penny collection, Lost and found collection
- End-of-season event and celebration

Ongoing Board Positions

- Serve on the CCSA Board
- Registration Assistance
- Sponsorship Fundraising Activities
- Crossbar/Website updating and maintenance
- League Communications



Coaching

CCSA coaches play a vital role in creating a positive and rewarding experience for every player. Coaches are expected to foster a safe, supportive, and development-focused environment where players can learn, grow, and enjoy the game of soccer.

Coaching Philosophy

CCSA emphasizes player development, sportsmanship, teamwork, and the fun of the game. Coaches are encouraged to focus on teaching skills, building confidence, and promoting a lifelong love of soccer rather than prioritizing wins and losses.

Player Development

Coaches should provide age-appropriate instruction that supports the physical, technical, and social development of players. Expectations and training activities should be tailored to the age and skill level of each team.

CCSA encourages coaches to:

- Focus on skill development and game understanding
- Provide equal opportunities for learning and participation
- Promote teamwork, effort, and personal growth
- Encourage players to challenge themselves and improve

Practice Expectations

Coaches are expected to:

- Plan organized, age appropriate practices
- Arrive prepared and on time
- Provide a positive and inclusive learning environment
- Emphasize safety during all activities
- Communicate schedules, expectations, and changes clearly with parents/guardians.



Coaching Guidelines

By volunteering as a coach, individuals agree to support the mission and values of the CCSA.

2026 CCSA Guidelines for ALL Agegroups

1. Focus on development of players skills and ability keeping games competitive WHILE HAVING FUN!
2. Parental skill evaluation at sign-up + Pre-season skills evaluation will be used to maximize even distribution of player ability to facilitate Guideline #1 above!

Note: Any games where one team scores 5 or MORE goals than the other team - coaches to redistribute players scoring goals to even the teams to keep the game competitive and FUN!

3. If one or both teams have significantly fewer players than rostered, coaches are to divide up players to have even teams to facilitate Guideline #1 above.

Included in the registration fee is 2 different colored jersey's for every participant and every team will be the same two colors.

This way players can bring both jerseys to every game and they can then wear the opposite color when such time comes that they are required to play on the other team. There will also be pennies that can be worn in a pinch!



Player Equipment - ALL Players Need:

Shorts

Soccer shoes

Soccer Ball	
5U	Size 3
7U	Size 4
9U	Size 4
12U	Size 4
14U +	Size 5

Shin guards (worn underneath socks)

Socks

No jewelry

Water Bottle

Sweatshirt or light jacket in case of cold



2026 Guidelines for Game Rules According to Age Group

5U Age Group rules

- 5 on 5 or 6 on 6 (depending on numbers)
- No goalies
- No headers
- No slide tackles
- No off-sides
- Free kicks for overt fouls and hand balls
- Throw-ins with unlimited do-overs focusing on 3 parts of a throw-in: 1) Feet on the ground, 2) behind the line, 3) ball straight over-head!
- 1 x week: Sat. mornings at 9am for 60min. 25 min. of practice, 5 min. break
- Coaches Referee and coach on field
- 4 x 8 min quarters with 1 min. break between quarters
- 5 min half time break
- Subs at discretion of coaches
- ***Equal playing time.



7U Age Group Rules

- 7 on 7 or 6 on 6 (depending on numbers)
- YES goalies
- No headers
- No slide tackles
- No off-sides
- All Free kicks indirect (two people must touch the ball before it goes into the goal!)
- ONE Redo for faulty Throw-ins focusing on 3 parts of a throw-in: 1) Feet on the ground, 2) behind the line, 3) ball straight over-head!
- 2 x week: Tues or Thurs. + Sat. for 60 min.
- 2 Referees, ONE coach on field, ONE coach on sidelines
- 4 x 10 min quarters with 1 min. break between quarters
- 5 min half time break
- Subs at quarters
- ***Equal playing time.



9U Age Group Rules

- 8 on 8 or 7 on 7 (depending on numbers)
- YES goalies
- No headers
- No slide tackles
- YES off-sides
- Direct Free kicks for fouls against players + all hand balls. Indirect Free kicks (two people must touch the ball before it goes into the goal!) for foul “against the rules”, offsides, high kicks, illegal goalie handling
- ONE Redo for faulty Throw-ins focusing on 3 parts of a throw-in: 1) Feet on the ground, 2) behind the line, 3) ball straight over-head!
- 2 x week: Tues or Thurs. + Sat. for 60 min.
- 2 Referees, ONE coach on field, ONE coach on sidelines
- 4 x 10 min quarters with 1 min. break between quarters
- 5 min half time break
- Subs at quarters
- ***Equal playing time.



12U Age Group Rules

- 9 on 9 or 9 on 8 (depending on numbers)
- YES goalies: 8 Second Rule for the keeper (Keeper must release ball after 8 sec. or corner kick goes to opposing team.) Goalie punts decided upon field size
- No headers
- YES slide tackles as long as player is going for the ball
- YES off-sides
- Direct Free kicks for fouls against players + all hand balls. Indirect Free kicks (two people must touch the ball before it goes into the goal!) for foul “against the rules”, offsides, high kicks, illegal goalie handling
- Automatic turnover on faulty throw-ins
- 2 x week: Tues or Thurs. + Sat. for 80 min. + 5min. half time break
- 2 Referees, Coaches on sidelines
- Subs on throw-ins, corner kicks, and other teams goal kicks
- ***Equal playing time.



14U-18U Age Group Rules

- 11 on 11 (depending on numbers)
- YES goalies: 8 Second Rule for the keeper (Keeper must release ball after 8 sec. or corner kick goes to opposing team.) YES Goalie punts
- YES headers
- YES slide tackles as long as player is going for the ball
- YES off-sides
- Direct Free kicks for fouls against players + all hand balls. Indirect Free kicks (two people must touch the ball before it goes into the goal!) for foul "against the rules", offsides, high kicks, illegal goalie handling
- Automatic turnover on faulty throw-ins
- 2 x week: Wed. afternoon + Sat. afternoon for 95 min. + 5min. half time break
- 3 Referees with Coaches on sidelines
- Subs on throw-ins, corner kicks, and other teams goal kicks
- ***Equal playing time.



MTU Fields & Parking



All visitors are requested to park in Lots 24 or 85 during games and practices. Both lots are labeled in the image above.