2026 VCSL Juniors Festival - Culpeper

Sunday, November 8th, 2026

RULES:

1. **Laws of the Game**: All festival matches will be played in accordance with FIFA laws of the game except as modified herein. All decisions by the Festival Director are final. **No protests allowed**.

2. **General Prohibitions**: Alcoholic beverages, smoking, pets, and noise makers are prohibited.

3. **Team Registration/Acceptance/Check-in Procedures**:

a. The festival reserves the right to accept or reject any team application.

b. Applications must be completed online via the Gotsport registration link. Registration is not considered complete until the entry fee is received.

c. The registration deadline is October 30, 2026.

d. The registration fee is $175.

e. No team shall be deemed accepted unless acceptance has been issued within the Gotsport system. Notification of acceptance is sent via email by Gotsport to the team contact on record.

f. Once accepted, the application is non-refundable.

g. Online Check-In: Teams must upload tournament rosters by November 6, 2026.

h. Teams must have rosters present during the Festival.

i. There will be no check-in at the fields during the Festival.

4. **Team Contact Information**: Each team, upon check in, must provide a team contact, either the team's coach or the team's assistant coach, so that these individuals may be contacted in the event that circumstances require such. Be sure your team contact is someone who can be reached at any hour and has a cell phone. All inquiries/questions with the Festival should be from the Team Contact/Coach and not numerous parents from the team as this only delays response.

5. **Official Documentation**: You must participate with a 2026/2027 roster. Players must be registered for the 2026-/27 season. Guest players are allowed up to seven. Festival specific or all-star rosters are acceptable.

6. **Teams Allowed To Enter Festival**: Recreational, All-Star and Travel Teams are eligible to apply for this Festival. This Festival is for U10 and U9 teams only. Players born before August 1, 2016 are ineligible for this event.

7. **USSF Affiliate Members (Not USYSA Members):** Teams that are members of organizations of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) but not members of US Youth Soccer (such as AYSO, SAY, USSSA, US Club Soccer or Super Y Leagues) DO NOT have to have a US Youth Soccer Application to Travel form (although that team's organization may require that the team have permission). An approved team roster does need to be provided to festival officials verifying that players are registered with USSF.

8. **Permission To Travel**: Teams from outside Region 1 will need to have permission to travel from their appropriate State association. Region 1 has established the following policy concerning permission to travel when attending US Youth Soccer sanctioned tournaments in Region 1. The purpose of this policy is to make it as simple as possible for the US Youth Soccer Region 1 teams to travel to tournaments within Region 1. The new policy states that any US Youth Soccer State Association teams within Region 1 that are accepted into a tournament in Region 1 do not need permission to travel papers. Permission to Travel is not required in friendly games within Region 1.

National State Associations in Region 1:

Connecticut Jr Soccer Assn

Delaware Youth Soccer Assn

Eastern New York Youth Soccer Assn

Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Assn

Soccer Maine

Maryland Youth Soccer Assn

Massachusetts Youth Soccer Assn

New Hampshire Soccer Assn

New Jersey Youth Soccer Assn

New York State West Youth Soccer Assn

Pennsylvania West State Soccer Assn

Soccer Rhode Island

Vermont Soccer Assn

Virginia Youth Soccer Assn

West Virginia Soccer Assn

9. **Player/Coach/Spectator Behavior**: Due to the festival nature of this event, any player ejected from a match may be replaced in that match. However the ejected player will NOT be allowed to participate in his or her team's next match. Ejection for fighting by players and coaches will result in the player or coach NOT being allowed to participate in ANY remaining festival matches. Any coach ejected from a match will not be allowed to coach his/her immediate next match. Each Coach is responsible for the conduct of the players and parents on his/her team. Coaches not taking responsibility for their sideline's behavior may be cautioned and/or ejected.

Any player or coach ejected or spectator asked to leave will not be within sight or sound of the playing field. Per FIFA rules, only players will be shown a card (yellow or red) when being cautioned or sent- off. Two yellow cards in the same match equal an ejection and the player will sit out his/her next immediate match.

10. **Guest Players**: Guest players (up to 7) are to be legibly written on a copy of the Festival roster to be provided at online check in. Guest players must have valid player passes. Note: A guest player from another state association must have a permission to travel from their appropriate State association. Note: **Region One** teams do not require a permission to travel.

All player passes must match the affiliation of the roster. For example, if the team roster is USYSA, then all players on that team must have USYSA passes. A player may not guest play on a USYSA roster with a US Club player pass, and vice versa.

11. **Number of Players/Team Size**: Games are played 7v7 with goalkeepers. Max roster size for each team is 14 including guests.

12. **Player Equipment**:

a. Teams should bring a primary and alternate jersey of different colors. Where the color of the jersey is similar or identical, the designated home team (the team listed first in the schedule) will change jerseys. If no alternate jersey is available, pinnies will be provided by the festival.

b. All players must have uniforms with individual numbers on the jersey.

c. No jewelry may be worn by any player (earrings, watches, necklaces, etc.)

d. Players wearing casts are allowed to play with the approval of the Festival Director and Referee.

e. Shin guards are mandatory and must be worn at all times by all players.

f. All referee decisions are final regarding player equipment.

13. **Substitutions**: Substitutions are unlimited, but made only at the following times:
a. Goal Kick

b. After a goal

c. Half-time

d. Throw in – by possession team and by opposing team in conjunction.

e. After a yellow card – for carded player

f. An injured player may be substituted at the discretion of the referee. If a substitution is made for the injured player, the opposing team may also make one substitution.

14. **Home/Team Field Positions**: The Home team is listed first in the schedule. The Home team will change jerseys if there is a conflict or wear pinnies. Each team's players will take a position on one side of the field opposite the spectators.

15. **Referees**: One referee will be assigned to officiate each match. In the event of a missing Referee, the team's will officiate the match themselves.

16. **Balls**: Size 4 balls will be used in all games. The festival will not provide match balls. The home team is expected to provide a match ball. The visiting team will provide a match ball if the home team ball is lost.

17. **Match Length**: One 30 minute period will be played with no halftime for all matches. The referee is not required to add time for substitutions. The official clock is kept with the referee who may add time for injuries at their discretion.

18. **Field Dimensions:** The field is to be approximately 60 yards long by 40 yards wide. Goal boxes should be approximately 12 yards off the goal posts and penalty boxes, 4 yards from the posts. The penalty spot is 10 yards from the center of the goal. The center circle is approximately 6 yards in radius. The build out line should be approximately 20 yards from the end line.

19. **Goal Dimensions:** The preferred goal size is 6.5 x 18. 7 x 21 goals may also be utilized. 8 x 24 goals should not be used.

20 **Build Out Line**: A build out line will be utilized in all matches. The build out line is approximately 20 yards from each endline. When the goalkeeper has the ball in hand or when a goal kick is being taken, the defending team must retreat behind the build out line until the ball has been played. Once the goalkeeper has released the ball or the goal kick has been taken, the

defending team may advance past the build out line. If an infraction occurs, the referee shall award an indirect free kick at the spot of the incursion. The build out line is not the offside line.

21. **Punting:** No punting or drop kicking is allowed by goalkeepers. The goalkeeper may throw, roll or set the ball down to be put in play with their feet. Once the ball has been released from the hands, the opposing team may cross the build out line. If a punt occurs an indirect free kick is to be awarded at the spot of the infraction or on the line of the small penalty box closest to the infraction if it occurred within the small penalty box.

22. **Heading Rule:** Whenever the ball strikes a player in the head, play is stopped. The proper restart depends upon whether the player deliberately played the ball with his or her head. If deliberate, the proper restart is an indirect free kick for the opposing team. If this occurs within the goal area (small box), the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line (small box line) parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If the play by the head is deemed as inadvertent, then the proper restart is a dropped ball.

23. **Offside:** Offside will be enforced. With no assistant referees, the center will do their best to determine offside. Referees will be instructed to allow close calls to play on and focus on egregious instances of offside play or "cherry picking". The offside line for matches will be the midfield line, not the build out line. Players cannot be offside in their own half of the field but may be offside in the opposing half.

24. **Festival Format:** Each team plays 3, 30-minute matches. No playoffs.

25. **Advancement in Festival Play:** There is no advancement in Festival play. This is a one-day Festival with 3 mini games scheduled for boys blue and girls teams and 4 mini games scheduled for boys red teams per team regardless of results.

26. **Determination of Division Winners:** No Festival champions will be declared. No awards will be issued.

27. **Forfeits**: A forfeit shall be awarded if a team is not present and prepared to play within ten minutes of the scheduled commencement time. It is requested that teams be present 20 minutes in advance of the scheduled commencement of a match to aid in the timely start of play. Five players constitute the minimum number to field a team. As soon as the minimum number of players is present by game time or within the grace period, the match must start. If one team wants to lend the other team players to allow the match to be played at full numbers they may do so.

28. **Inclement Weather/Cancellation Policy**: Regardless of weather conditions, coaches and their teams must appear at their respective field, ready to play as scheduled. Failure to appear will result in forfeiture of the match. Only the Festival Director may cancel or postpone a match. Referees may not suspend a match for weather and must defer to the Festival Director who may cancel any and all games. In case of severe weather that occurs after the beginning of play, the Festival Director may reduce the length of the match and may discontinue or cancel the game. Should a match be terminated due to weather conditions after 15 minutes of play, the match will be considered official and the score at the time will stand. Due to the one-day nature of the event, if a match is terminated prior to 15 minutes of play, it is possible the game may be abandoned. The Festival will not consider beginning or continuing matches when a lightning storm exists**. NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE EVENT OF CANCELLATION. Note: Your application constitutes agreement with these rules and this paragraph.**

29. **Withdrawal Policy:** Once accepted, an application is non-refundable. Teams may receive refunds for withdrawal prior to the tournament only at the discretion of the Festival Director for the most extreme circumstances.

30. **Disclaimer**: Neither the Festival Director, Virginia Club Soccer League, the Virginia Soccer Alliance, Culpeper Soccer Club or any Festival Sponsors are responsible for any expenses incurred by any team if the Festival is canceled in whole or part, or in the event games are discontinued or canceled due to inclement weather or adverse field conditions. Nor will any refunds be made. The Festival reserves the right to decide all matters pertaining to the Festival. The judgment of the Festival Director is final. The Festival Director has authority to make all decisions and these decisions will be final. All referee decisions are final and binding.

31. **Important Notes**:

a. Have all player passes and official roster with you at the fields during the Festival. Although only checked at check in, the Festival reserves the right to check credentials during the event.

b. The Festival is dedicated to the development of all the players participating, good sportsmanship, and the "good of the game." The Festival Director may suspend, without recourse or appeal, any players, coaches, or spectators who demonstrate anything less.

End of Festival rules