



**RECREATIONAL LEAGUE MANUAL**

# PUEBLO RANGERS SOCCER CLUB

Recreational League Rules for players age 3 through age 12\* (U3 through U12\*)

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\*Not yet in middle school

**PUEBLO RANGERS SOCCER CLUB RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY, ADD TO, OR DELETE ANY OF THESE RULES OR BY-LAWS AT THEIR DISCRETION.**

**Rules 1 through 12 apply to all ages unless otherwise noted.**

## 1. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- a. Players will be assigned to team/divisions by their **Birth Year** .
- b. A player who is assigned to a team, who is the proper age and has completed the registration process, is eligible to participate in the Pueblo Rangers Soccer Club Sports Program.
- c. A player may be registered on only one CSA affiliated team at any time.
- d. Players that are not registered may not play.
- e. Coaches are required to play each eligible player at least one half of each regulation game. (Exception, see article 11.)
- f. Coaches/Referees may not add players to official team rosters. Any noted discrepancies between roster and players must be brought to the attention of the Recreational Director for correction. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action.
- g. In the event a team cannot field all players required for a game, the coaches will have the first opportunity to divide players between the two teams on the field. If that coach refuses to split his/her teams the center referee will divide the players equally and play the game, *or agree to play short.***
- h. In the event that a player quits attending practice, the coach must notify the Recreational Director as soon as possible.

## 2. TEAMS

- a. Roster will be compiled after registration and players will be assigned to teams on a first come basis, maintaining geographical integrity by Zip code where possible. Pre-registration will commence at the end of each season. After pre-registration, players will be assigned to teams on a first come first serve basis. At the option of the Recreational Director and/or executive board, roster may be evened or adjusted to obtain a good balance in team size.
- b. Teams sizes are as follows:

DIVISION	PLAYERS ON TEAM	PLAYERS ON FIELD
U3	3 to 8	3
U4	3 to 8	3
U5	3 to 8	3
U6	4 to 9	4
U7	5 to 10	4 + 1
U8	7 to 14	5 + 1
U9	8 to 16	6 + 1
U10	8 to 16	6 + 1
U11	8 to 16	8 + 1
*U12	8 to 16	8 + 1

\*Not yet in Middle School

U3 to U6 divisions WILL NOT use a goal keeper.

- c. Coaches will not allow a player to practice or play with a team unless the player has completed the Pueblo Rangers registration form.
- d. Players must be registered with Pueblo Rangers in order for the CSA liability insurance to be effective. Without being registered, coaches are PERSONALLY liable for any injuries or incidents involving a player who is not registered.
- e. Coaches must inform the Recreational Director when any player drops from the team.

- f. Coaches may not add or delete any player from their team roster. All changes will be made by the Recreational Director.
- g. Coaches will contact players within two days of receiving their team roster to begin practice. Coaches should conduct a parent meeting within the first three practices; only children who are on the roster may participate in the games. If your roster is incorrect let the Recreational Director know so it can be corrected.
- h. A player may request to participate in a division one level above his/her age.
- i. Players may NOT participate in a division below their age group, except under circumstances of physical or mental impairment and the Recreational Director approval.
- j. In the event that a team dominates all other teams in their division, they may be required to move up one age division.

### 3. EQUIPMENT

- a. Each player must wear shin guards, which must be completely covered by socks.
- b. Cleats are recommended, but not required for play. Cleats may not extend from the sides, front, or the back of the shoe. Shoes with "toe cleats", metal cleats, spikes, or metal-tipped cleats are not allowed.
- c. Each player must wear an official Pueblo Rangers Soccer Club uniform.
- d. The following items are NOT permitted:
  - Hair control devices with any hard parts.
  - Jewelry of any sort, including earrings of any kind regardless of covering.
  - Any article worn which is deemed a danger to the players by the referee will not be allowed.
  - Medical tags, religious medals, if worn, will be taped to the chest.
  - Shirts will be tucked in at all times during play.
  - Players with arm casts will be allowed to play provided the cast is covered with foam padding and parent release form is provided to the referee coordinator prior to the scheduled game.

### **3. PRACTICES**

- a. Pueblo Rangers Soccer Club teams may scrimmage any team, one age up or one age down.
- b. The head coach or his assistant (adult) must be present at every practice and game of the team.
- c. Each team is required to practice at least once a week and no more than three times per week.
- d. Practices are not permitted at Langoni Soccer field or Lake Minnequa Fields.

## **5. SCHEDULES**

- a. The season will consist of those games scheduled by the Pueblo Rangers Soccer Club. **ALL GAMES WILL BE PLAYED AS SCHEDULED.**
- b. Any games scheduled outside of the Pueblo Rangers league will not be sanctioned by Colorado Soccer Association or Pueblo Rangers. Coaches and Parents will be personally responsible for any injuries or incidents relative to such games.
- c. Official score, league standings and/or win/loss statistics will **NOT** be kept.
- d. **SCHEDULES WILL NOT BE CHANGED TO ACCOMMODATE COACHES/ PLAYERS ABSENCE.**
- e. Any coach that takes more than one team must find adequate assistance in the event that both teams play at the same time.

## **6. CANCELLATION OF GAMES**

- a. Cancellation of games will occur on site. Soccer is an all weather sport. Games may be canceled if the Recreational director or Pueblo Rangers Soccer Club Board has determined that the field is unsafe for play.
- b. Lightning in the immediate area of a game or practice will terminate activity.
- c. If a game in progress is canceled after the end of the first half, that game will be considered completed.
- d. Coaches are responsible to check the Pueblo Rangers web site ([www.pueblorangers.net](http://www.pueblorangers.net)) or field closure phone number (542-2408 opt. 1) to determine if games have been canceled.

## 7. DURATION OF THE GAME

- a. All games will begin at the prescribed time, in accordance with the game schedules provided by the Recreational director. The official time clock will be kept by the Center Referee.
- b. Teams that are 5 minutes or more late to their scheduled game may be subject to a forfeit or reduced game time.
- c. All divisions will play timed halves except the lower divisions, which will play 4 quarters per game to facilitate player substitution. The length of each half and quarter, ball size and team composition is as follows:

AGE GROUP	FIELD SIZE	# PLAYERS	TEAM SIZE	GAME LENGTH	BALL SIZE
U3	20yds x 30yds	3v3	3 TO8	4-8min. qtrs	3
U4	20yds x 30yds	3v3	3 TO8	4-8min. qtrs	3
U5	20yds x 30yds	3v3	3 TO8	4-8min. qtrs	3
U6	30yds x 40 yds	4v4	4 TO9	4-10min. qtrs	3
U7	30yds x 50yds	5v5	5 TO10	4-12min. qtrs.	3
U8	35yds x 55yds	6v6	6 TO12	2-25min. Halves	3
U9	40yds x 60yds	7v7	7 TO14	2-25min. Halves	4
U10	40yds x 60yds	7v7	7 TO14	2-25min. Halves	4
U11/U12	50yds x 80yds	9v9	9TO 16	2-25min. Halves	4

\*Not Yet in Middle School

## 8. START OF PLAY

*No game will start until all teams and parents are on the appropriate side of the field as noted on the field signs.*

- a. Starting at the U6 age group, parents and teams will be on the opposite sides of the field. There is signage on the fields designating “Parent Side” and “Team Side”. Coaches are responsible for placement of their teams and parents.
- b. For U8 through U11/12, the beginning of the game, choice of ends and the kick-off shall be decided by the toss of a coin.
- c. For U3 through U7 the away team (white) will have the first kick-off.
- d. When restarting after half-time, ends shall be changed and the kick-off shall be taken by a player of the opposite team to that of the team who started the game.
- e. To resume play at the beginning of the second and fourth quarters, the team in possession of the ball at the end of the first and third quarters will kick-in from the sidelines at mid-field.
- f. Teams will change goals only at the half.

## 9. GENERAL RULES

- a. Field dimensions are modified to accommodate younger players. (see section 7).
- b. In the interest of safety, one finger on a non-moving ball shall constitute possession by a goal keeper.
- c. Slide tackling is not permitted.
- g. Injuries:

The referee shall stop the game if, in his/her opinion, a player has been injured (**PLAYER IS DOWN**); have the player removed as soon as possible from the field of play, and resume the game. If the player is slightly injured, the game shall not be stopped until the ball has ceased to be in play. A player who is able to go to the touch or goal-line for attention of any kind shall not be treated on the field of play.

## 10. REFEREES

- a. All referees working the Center of U9 and up will be United States Soccer Federation (USSF) certified.
- b. A referee's authority to enforce Pueblo Rangers Soccer Club rules and by-laws and FIFA "Laws of the Game" will commence when the official enters the field of play and terminate when he/she leaves the field of play. His/Her decision on points of fact connected with play shall be final.
- c. The Board, Recreational Director, Field Manager, Referee Coordinator, and Club Coaches will enforce Rangers rules and by-laws in all areas surrounding the playing fields before, during and after all scheduled events.
- d. Complaints regarding referees may be filed with the Referee Coordinator for investigation. Referees are held to the same standards of conduct as are Rangers coaches. Referees may be suspended from officiating Rangers activities for violations of these standards.
- e. Coaches may talk to referees before the game, half-time, intermission, or after the game for rule clarification.
- f. Disrespectful comments towards the referees during the course of a game from coaches or players constitute *dissent* and the appropriate action will be taken by the referee which may include a caution (yellow card) or ejection (red card) for players or ejection for coaches and spectators.
- g. Referees must conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. This is an instructional and recreational league. Officials are encouraged to help participants understand the laws of the game and their application. However, the coach is responsible for instructing his players on the laws of the game.
- h. Referees are not perfect and young referees are still learning, as such, aggressive, disrespectful, and inappropriate comments toward minor referees will not be tolerated.

## **11. CONDUCT OF COACHES, PLAYERS, PARENTS AND SPECTATORS**

(For the Policy for serious Misconduct click [Here](#).)

- a. Inappropriate and disruptive conduct includes but is not limited to:
  1. Using abusive language or gestures directed at anyone at any time.
  2. Taunting players, coaches, officials, Rangers personal or spectators by means of baiting or ridiculing.
  3. Threatening physical violence or engaging in physical violence against any spectator, coach, player, official, or Rangers personal.
  4. Throwing or kicking any object in the spectator viewing area, player's bench area, or field that in any manner creates a safety hazard or is perceived by game officials as thrown/kicked with intent to strike another person.
  5. Urging players to violate the Laws of the Game.  
Example: Urging a player to push or trip other players
  6. Standing or sitting behind the goal lines, entering the field of play, or encroaching on the opposing team's bench area.
  7. Questioning the calls, knowledge, skills, or positioning of an official.
  
- b. Refusal by participants to comply with the above statements or an official's instructions is just cause for an official to suspend play until the offending party has left.

### c. Coach Conduct

1. All coaches are expected to display good citizenship and sportsmanship at all team functions, maintain a high degree of team and player morale, and at all times avoid the use of profane language in the presence of the players. All coaches shall show the other team's players and coaches respect and behave in a sportsman like manner.
2. Pueblo Rangers follows the USSF policy of "Ask, Tell, Dismiss" when dealing with inappropriate behavior. Should a coach act in an irresponsible manner, the official shall follow the prescribed three step procedure. For the first offence – the official may ASK the coach to please stop the offending behavior (ie standing behind the goal, patrolling the length of the field, stepping onto the field, open disagreement with officiating decisions) Should the coaches behavior continue, the official may TELL the coach to stop the offending behavior. If despite these two warnings, the coach's behavior continues, the center Referee is to dismiss the coach. It should be noted that for behavior that is public, profane, persistent or personal, the Referee may skip the first two steps and proceed directly to a dismissal.
3. A dismissed coach must move at a minimum to the parking lot until the game has concluded. If the offending coach refuses to leave or takes more than 5 minutes to leave, the game may be terminated.
4. The sole written rationale for a coach dismissal is irresponsible behavior. FIFA procedures dictate that no red card is displayed for a coach dismissal (Local competition rules may require other procedures). A coach dismissal is not a minor event and an incident report will be filed by the official with the referee assigner and league director. If no other coach or parent is present and willing to coach the youth team, the match cannot be continued and is terminated.

d. Spectator Conduct

1. Spectators must be located on the opposite side of the field that their team occupies on field 6 through field 12.
  2. Spectators are expected to conduct themselves in an adult manner at all times, at all games, setting an example of good citizenship and sportsmanship for the participants. Harassment of referees, players, coaches, Pueblo Rangers Soccer Club officials, or parents of the opposing teams will not be tolerated at any time.
  3. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of the spectators/parents associated with their teams.
  4. When a spectator displays inappropriate and disruptive behavior the game may be STOPPED by the Official. The Official may ask unruly spectators/parents to conduct themselves in an orderly manner or may identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of quieting or removing the violator(s) from the game area. The game area includes the playing field, adjacent sidelines, behind the goals and, if within verbal earshot, the parking lot. If this is not effective, and after a warning from the coach or an official, those responsible may be instructed to leave the sight and sound of the game. Play will resume after the behavior has been addressed. In the event that a spectator cannot be associated with either team both coaches must then cooperate in the spectator's removal. If the coaches cannot or refuse to solve the problem in 5 minutes, the game will be abandoned. In egregious cases, the referee could allow the coaches to remove all of the spectators from the venue as a condition of resuming the match.
- e. ON U10 AND OLDER AGES, SPECTATORS AND COACHES ARE NOT ALLOWED BEHIND THE GOAL LINES, OR IN BETWEEN THE TOUCH LINES. Officials may suspend play until such time as spectators have cleared the goal line.

f. Player conduct

1. All players are expected to conduct themselves in a polite, law observing and sportsmanlike manner at all times, both on and off the playing field, and serve as an example of good citizenship to his fellow teammates, members of other teams, and those who do not participate in Pueblo Rangers Soccer Club.

## **12. DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR COACHES**

- a. Coaches are subjected to disciplinary action for:
  1. Failure to uphold the Pueblo Rangers Soccer Club rules and by-laws.
  2. Unsportsmanlike conduct.
  3. Arguing with officials.
  4. Failure to support Pueblo Rangers Soccer Club program and its personnel.
  5. Failure to maintain and return Pueblo Rangers Soccer Club property and equipment.
  6. Allowing unregistered players to participate in Pueblo Rangers soccer club games or practices.
  7. Any violation of the coaches' code of conduct.
  
- b. Disciplinary action will be documented and kept on file for a period of at least one year. Disciplinary action may consist of, but not limited to:
  1. Verbal warning.
  2. Written warning.
  3. Suspension of coaching privileges.
  
- c. Appeals may be filed with the Pueblo Rangers Soccer Club Board of Director within 5 days of any disciplinary action.

### 13. Rules for U3 through U5

FIELD SIZE	# PLAYERS	TEAM SIZE	GAME LENGTH	BALL SIZE
20yds x 30yds	3v3	3 TO 8	4-8min. qtrs	3

- a. The away team (white) will have the first kick-off.
- b. To resume play at the beginning of the second and fourth quarters, the team in possession of the ball at the end of the first and third quarters will kick-in from the sidelines at mid-field.
- c. Teams will not have goal keepers.
- d. One coach from each team may be on the field to instruct and direct their players.
- e. Spectators may sit on either side of the field.
- f. Players may substitute at any time.
- g. There is no heading of the ball. If a player heads the ball, the opposing team will be awarded an indirect free kick at the spot of the infraction.
- h. There is no punting or drop kicking from the goalkeeper. If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the closest point to the infraction and outside of the box.
- i. There are no throw-ins. The game will be restarted with a kick-in from the touch line.
- j. No offside (Coaches in these divisions may not instruct players to continually play in an offside position.)
- k. After any foul, the game will resume with an indirect free kick only.
- l. No penalty kicks. Any foul inside the penalty area is an indirect kick at the place the infraction occurred.

## 14. Rules for U6

FIELD SIZE	# PLAYERS	TEAM SIZE	GAME LENGTH	BALL SIZE
30yds x 40 yds	4v4	4 TO 9	4-10min. qtrs	3

- a. The away team (white) will have the first kick-off.
- b. To resume play at the beginning of the second and fourth quarters, the team in possession of the ball at the end of the first and third quarters will kick-in from the sidelines at mid-field.
- c. Teams will not have goal keepers.
- d. Coaches and assistants are not allowed on the field during play but may move around the outside of the field to instruct their players.
- e. Spectators must sit on the opposite side of the field as the coaches/teams.
- f. With a referees permission players may substitute at any dead ball.
- g. There is no heading of the ball. If a player heads the ball, the opposing team will be awarded an indirect free kick at the spot of the infraction.
- h. There is no punting or drop kicking from the goalkeeper. If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the closest point to the infraction and outside of the box.
- i. There are no throw-ins. The game will be restarted with a kick-in from the touch line.
- j. No offside (Coaches in these divisions may not instruct players to continually play in an offside position.)
- k. After any foul, the game will resume with an indirect free kick only.
- l. No penalty kicks. Any foul inside the penalty area is an indirect kick at the place the infraction occurred.

## 15. Rules for U7

FIELD SIZE	# PLAYERS	TEAM SIZE	GAME LENGTH	BALL SIZE
30yds x 50yds	5v5	5 TO 10	4-12min. qtrs.	3

- a. The away team (white) will have the first kick-off.
- b. To resume play at the beginning of the second and fourth quarters, the team in possession of the ball at the end of the first and third quarters will kick-in from the sidelines at mid-field.
- c. Teams must have a goal keeper.
- d. The coach, one assistant and sub-players may occupy the coach's box. One coach or assistant must remain within the coach's box (if marked), or within ten yards of mid-field, and one coach or assistant may stand behind the goal for the purpose of instructing the keeper. Coaches may enter the field when motioned onto the field by the Referee.
- e. Spectators must sit on the opposite side of the field as the coaches/teams.
- f. With a referees permission players may substitute at any dead ball.
- g. There is no heading of the ball. If a player heads the ball, the opposing team will be awarded an indirect free kick at the spot of the infraction.
- h. There is no punting or drop kicking from the goalkeeper. If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the closest point to the infraction and outside of the box.
- i. There are no throw-ins. The game will be restarted with a kick-in from the touch line.
- j. No offside (Coaches in these divisions may not instruct players to continually play in an offside position.)
- k. After any foul, the game will resume with an indirect free kick only.
- l. No penalty kicks. Any foul inside the penalty area is an indirect kick at the place the infraction occurred.

## 16. Rules for U8

FIELD SIZE	# PLAYERS	TEAM SIZE	GAME LENGTH	BALL SIZE
35yds x 55yds	6v6	6 TO 12	2-25min. Halves	3

- a. At the beginning of the game, choice of ends and the kick-off shall be decided by the toss of a coin.
- b. With the exception of offside, the referee will call the game according to the current Laws of the Game.
- c. Teams must have a goal keeper.
- d. The coach, one assistant and sub-players may occupy the coach's box. One coach or assistant must remain within the coach's box (if marked), or within ten yards of mid-field, and one coach or assistant may stand behind the goal for the purpose of instructing the keeper. Coaches may enter the field when motioned onto the field by the Referee.
- e. Spectators must sit on the opposite side of the field as the coaches/teams.
- f. Spectators are not allowed behind the goal lines or in between the touch lines.
- g. With a referees permission players may substitute at any dead ball. Players must be on the center line and ready to substitute when the ball goes dead.
- h. There is no heading of the ball. If a player heads the ball, the opposing team will be awarded an indirect free kick at the spot of the infraction.
- i. There is no punting or drop kicking from the goalkeeper. If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the closest point to the infraction and outside of the box.
- j. The game will be restarted with a throw in from the touch line.
- k. No offside (Coaches in these divisions may not instruct players to continually play in an offside position.)
- l. Teams will change goals only at the half.

## 17. Rules for U9

FIELD SIZE	# PLAYERS	TEAM SIZE	GAME LENGTH	BALL SIZE
40yds x 60yds	7v7	7 TO 14	2-25min. Halves	4

- a. At the beginning of the game, choice of ends and the kick-off shall be decided by the toss of a coin.
- b. The referee will call the game according to the current Laws of the Game.
- c. Teams must have a goal keeper.
- d. The coach, one assistant and sub-players may occupy the coach's box. One coach or assistant must remain within the coach's box (if marked), or within ten yards of mid-field, and one coach or assistant may stand behind the goal for the purpose of instructing the keeper. Coaches may enter the field when motioned onto the field by the Referee.
- e. Spectators must sit on the opposite side of the field as the coaches/teams.
- f. Spectators are not allowed behind the goal lines or in between the touch lines.
- g. With a referees permission players may substitute at any dead ball. Players must be on the center line and ready to substitute when the ball goes dead.
- h. There is no heading of the ball. If a player heads the ball, the opposing team will be awarded an indirect free kick at the spot of the infraction.
- i. There is no punting or drop kicking from the goalkeeper. If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the closest point to the infraction and outside of the box.
- j. Offside will be called.
- k. Teams will change goals only at the half.
- l. The build-out line will not be used for recreational games.

## 18. Rules for U10

FIELD SIZE	# PLAYERS	TEAM SIZE	GAME LENGTH	BALL SIZE
40yds x 60yds	7v7	7 TO 14	2-25min. Halves	4

- a. At the beginning of the game, choice of ends and the kick-off shall be decided by the toss of a coin.
- b. The referee will call the game according to the current Laws of the Game.
- c. Teams must have a goal keeper.
- d. The coach, one assistant and sub-players may occupy the coach's box and must remain within the coach's box (if marked), or within ten yards of mid-field, except when motioned onto the field by the Referee.
- e. Spectators must sit on the opposite side of the field as the coaches/teams.
- f. Spectators and coaches are not allowed behind the goal lines or in between the touch lines.
- g. With a referees permission players may substitute at any dead ball. Players must be on the center line and ready to substitute when the ball goes dead.
- h. There is no heading of the ball. If a player heads the ball, the opposing team will be awarded an indirect free kick at the spot of the infraction.
- i. There is no punting or drop kicking from the goalkeeper. If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the closest point to the infraction and outside of the box.
- j. Offside will be called.
- k. Teams will change goals only at the half.
- l. The build-out line will not be used for recreational games.

## 19. Rules for U11/U12

FIELD SIZE	# PLAYERS	TEAM SIZE	GAME LENGTH	BALL SIZE
50yds x 80yds	9v9	9 TO 16	2-25min. Halves	4

- a. At the beginning of the game, choice of ends and the kick-off shall be decided by the toss of a coin.
- b. The referee will call the game according to the current Laws of the Game.
- c. Teams must have a goal keeper.
- d. The coach, one assistant and sub-players may occupy the coach's box and must remain within the coach's box (if marked), or within ten yards of mid-field, except when motioned onto the field by the Referee.
- e. Spectators must sit on the opposite side of the field as the coaches/teams.
- f. Spectators and coaches are not allowed behind the goal lines or in between the touch lines.
- g. With a referees permission players may substitute at any dead ball. Players must be on the center line and ready to substitute when the ball goes dead.
- k. Teams will change goals only at the half.

## **Policy for serious Misconduct toward Referees, Game Officials and Club Officials**

### Section 1. General

Misconduct may occur before, during and after matches, including travel to or from a match. Misconduct may also occur at later times when directly related to duties of a referee, game official or club official.

### Section 2. Rule Application

- (A) This policy shall supersede any inconsistent rules that pertain to assaults or abuse upon referees, game officials, and club officials.
  
- (B) Nothing in this policy shall be construed to restrict or limit the Pueblo Rangers league director or the board of directors from applying equal or greater restrictions to anyone not listed in section 4(a) of this policy (i.e., a spectator associated with a team).
  
- (C) This policy shall only apply to players, coaches, managers, club officials, or league officials participating in Recreational League activities.

### Section 3. Terms and References

As used in this policy –

- (1) “Referee” or “game official” includes the following:
  - (a) all currently registered USSF referees, assistant referees, fourth officials or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match.

(b) Any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee.

(c) Any club assistant referee.

(d) Referee assigners.

(2) "Club official" include the following: any non referee positions including volunteer positions.

(3) "Hearing" means a meeting of at least three neutral members, one of whom is designated or elected to serve as chairman. The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to guidelines established by the Pueblo Rangers Organization.

(4) (a) Assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon referees, game officials, and club officials. For purposes of this policy, "intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.

(b) Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts: hitting, kicking, punching, pushing, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at an official that could inflict injury; damaging uniforms or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.

(5) (a) Abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to an official or to their property or equipment.

(b) Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts: using foul or abusive language toward an official that implies or threatens physical

harm; spewing any beverage on an official's personal property; or spitting at (but not on) the official.

## Section 4. Hearings

### (A) General

- (1) When any player, coach, or manager assaults or abuses a referee, club official or game official, the league director and board of directors will be immediately notified.
- (2) When an allegation of assault is verified by the league director the person is automatically suspended until contacted by a Pueblo Rangers official or until a hearing is conducted.
- (3) The Pueblo Rangers will hold any necessary hearings within thirty (30) days of the verification of the abuse or assault.
- (4) Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind the automatic suspension.

## Section 5. Penalties and Suspensions

### (A) Assault

- (1) The person committing the assault may be suspended as follows:
  - (a) For a minor offense to the game or club official or the officials equipment or personal property, at least 1 month from the time of the assault;
  - (b) For any other assault, at least 3 months from the time of the assault. For an assault committed by an adult on a game or club official that is 17 years of age or younger, at least 1 year; or for an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least 3 years. Serious assault may also result in a permanent dismissal.

## (B) Abuse

The minimum suspension period for abuse on a referee, game official or club official shall be at least one (1) scheduled match. The Pueblo Rangers official adjudicating the matter may provide a longer period of suspension when circumstances warrant (e.g., habitual offenders).

## Section 6. Appeals

A person who is found to have committed abuse and/or assault may appeal within ten (10) days from receipt of the decision.

## Section 7. Procedure for Reporting Assault and Abuse

Referees, game officials, or club officials shall transmit a written report of the alleged assault or abuse, or both, within 3 days of the incident (unless there is a valid reason for later reporting) to the referee assigner or league director.

**The Pueblo Rangers reserves the right to modify the above policies at any time or as deemed necessary.**