

# Request for Decision (R.F.D.)

December 2011

R.F.D. # 2011-012  
Revision Date: 30/09/2011  
Subject Title: Name Change for Non-Amateur Soccer  
Submitted by (name of person authoring RFD form) Bruce Henderson, Director of Organizational Development on 30/09/2011  
Organization Submitting RFD: OSA Semi-Pro League Steering Group  
Programme Area: Professional Soccer  
Secondary Programme Area(s): League Management  
Present Situation:

The reference to "*Non-Amateur Soccer*" in the OSA's published rules is based on terminology previously used by the FIFA and by the CSA.

In order to bring all references to professional soccer and semi-professional soccer in the OSA policies up-to-date the term "*Non-Amateur Soccer*" must be replaced by either "*professional*" or "*semi-professional*" based on the rules of the Canadian Soccer Association.

The Canadian Soccer Association defines "*professional*" and "*semi-professional*" based on the CSA standards for "*professional*" and "*semi-professional*" soccer.

In accordance with CSA Rule 10 a) iv), the CSA now recognizes three categories of professional leagues:

1. Professional League governed by CSA - meeting the requirements of the CSA's Professional Soccer Standards
2. Semi-Professional League governed by CSA - meeting the requirements of the CSA's Professional Soccer Standards for Semi-Pro League/Teams for a League in Membership of the CSA, or a league where teams are from more than one Province/Territory
3. Semi-Professional League governed by Province/Territory - meeting the requirements of the CSA's Professional Soccer Standards for Semi-Pro League/Teams for a League in Membership with a Province/Territory. The Provincial/Territorial Association may amend the financial limitations of the CSA's Professional Soccer Standards in order to sanction a Semi-Professional League comprising solely of teams from within its area of jurisdiction. Amendments must be forwarded to the CSA for confirmation or otherwise before sanction approval can be granted.

As per CSA Rule 10 a) iv) above, the CSA no longer permits a "*professional league*" to be governed by a Provincial Association but does permit a Provincial Association to govern a "*semi-professional league*". Consequently, all references to a "*professional league*" or to a "*non-amateur league*" in the OSA's published rules must be changed to a "*semi-professional league*".

Specific Decision Requested:

To amend the following policies:

- District Association Policy 1.2.5 h)
- League Policy 7.5
- League Policy 20.1
- League Policy 20.3
- League Policy 20.5
- League Policy 20.6 c)
- Registration Policy 2.3 b)
- Registration Policy 5.17
- Registration Policy 5.19
- Registration Policy 12.4
- Registration Policy 12.5
- Registration Policy 15.1

District Association Policy 1.2.5 h) A Club which meets The OSA definition of:

1. ~~professional~~ club which operates professional or semi-professional team(s) only
2. club which operates both professional or semi-professional and amateur teams
3. social club
4. service club
5. club operated by a municipality
6. club operated by a facility
7. club running a senior recreational league
8. for-profit club

League Policy 7.5 - Six incidents of League Status in the table: amateur or semi-professional

League Policy 20.1 A ~~Division III~~ Semi-Professional League, as defined by the Canadian Soccer Association, shall operate under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding Terms Of League Operations executed between the League and The OSA.

League Policy 20.3 Membership

- a) A Professional League or a Semi-Professional League may be granted Associate Membership upon application, compliance with The OSA Constitution, Rules, Regulations and Published Rules and acceptance by The OSA.
- b) Notwithstanding OSA League Policy 12.0, a Professional League or a Semi-Professional League shall not be required to provide an audited financial statement for the past year as a condition of membership, but shall provide sufficient evidence that a satisfactory audit of financial statements has been completed.
- c) ~~Notwithstanding OSA Club Policy 1.0, a member club of a Professional League in associate membership of The OSA shall not be required to obtain membership in any OSA member organization provided that club operates only professional teams.~~
- d) A Semi-Professional League shall annually provide The OSA (prior to the start of the season) evidence that every out-of-province team has permission from its provincial governing organization to participate in the League.
- e) A Semi-Professional League is subject to the following rules:
  - Each Semi-Professional Team may only register up to the maximum number of non-Canadian Citizens or Landed Immigrants permitted by the CSA. The maximum limit is determined annually by the CSA Board of Directors.
  - must submit a copy of the contract of all ~~non-amateur~~ semi-professional players to the organization which registers the player;
  - and must use the O.S.A. Registrant Book for player identification purposes.

League Policy 20.5 Temporary Registrations

In addition to the Temporary Registration Permits permitted to be used in an amateur competition in accordance with Registration Policy 9.0, a player registered with the O.S.A. or another Provincial Association affiliated to the C.S.A. is eligible to obtain a "TEMPORARY REGISTRATION PERMIT", which shall entitle the player to play for a semi-professional Club Team of a Club other than the one with which he/she is registered, subject to Registration Policy 8.0 and in accordance with the following rules:

- a) A "TEMPORARY REGISTRATION PERMIT" being used to play for a semi-professional team must be validated by the OSA.
- b) A "TEMPORARY REGISTRATION PERMIT" is valid for any competition involving (a) semi-professional team(s).
- c) A player shall be entitled to three "TEMPORARY REGISTRATION PERMITS" to play for a semi-professional team during each season. An outdoor season and an indoor season shall be considered as different seasons.
- d) The OSA shall be responsible for maintaining a record of the number of

"TEMPORARY REGISTRATION PERMITS" assigned to the player when playing for a semi-professional team.

e) A semi-professional League may impose limitations on the use of "TEMPORARY REGISTRATION PERMITS", provided that the limitations are applied consistently.

League Policy 20.6 c) Notwithstanding OSA Dispute Resolution Policy 1.0, a dispute between a registered player and member club of a Semi-Professional League or between member clubs of a Semi-Professional League shall be dealt with by the League Commissioner or Board of Directors under a published league policy which shall be approved by The OSA.

Registration Policy 2.3 b) The effective date of registration for a player registered on an amateur team shall be the day after the registration has been data entered in The OSA's computerized registration system. The effective date of registration for a player registered on a team playing in a semi-professional league shall be the day the registration has been data entered in The OSA's computerized registration system.

Registration Policy 5.17 Team Status in table: ~~Non-Amateur~~ Semi-Professional

Registration Policy 5.19 A Club may only register a maximum number of imports to play on a Semi-Professional Status Team and that maximum number shall be annually determined by the CSA Board of Directors.

Registration Policy 12.4 The amateur/professional/semi-professional status of players shall be determined in accordance with 12.1, 12.2, and 12.3 by the National Association with which they are registered.

Registration Policy 12.5 The C.S.A. shall keep an official register of the professional and semi-professional players under its jurisdiction.

Registration Policy 15.1 An amateur or ~~non-amateur~~ semi-professional player who has become eligible to play for a Club affiliated to a National Association may not qualify for a Club affiliated to another National Association unless the latter National Association has received an international transfer certificate issued by the National Association which the player wishes to leave. For the complete policies regarding international transfer certificates, you are referred to The OSA's Operational Policies.

In accordance with Policy 5.7 of the "Development And Approval Of Policies And Procedures", the Board is being requested to approve this RFD at one Board meeting (ie., the Concept approval and also the Final approval).

As the policies contained in this RFD are time sensitive policies, these policies shall go into effect on January 10, 2012.

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Budget Requirements (Change if any): This year: **\$0.00**  
Availability of Funds if not included in this year's budget: **not applicable**

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Advantages: **1. provides consistency between OSA terminology and CSA terminology.**

Possible

Objections:

Alternatives:

Attachments: **None**

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Decision

**Approved**

Date 11 - December - 2011

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