



SOCAL SOCCER LEAGUE HANDBOOK

**2024-25
SEASON**



A US CLUB SOCCER SANCTIONED LEAGUE

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Introduction	5
Mission	5
Vision	5
Core Values	5
SOCAL Staff Contacts	6
SOCAL Club Membership	7
Criteria for Consideration into SOCAL Includes:	7
Home Field Requirement	7
Field Requirements	7
Scheduling Requirements	8
Club Requirements	8
Required Club Contacts	8
League-to-Club Communication	8
Fall Registration	9
Code of Ethics	10
For All Members	10
For Clubs	10
For Coaches	10
For Players	10
SOCAL Code of Conduct	11
Zero Tolerance Abuse Policy	13
One and Done Policy	14
SOCAL Player Transfer Policy	16
SOCAL Tryout Policy	18
Competition Matrix	20
Playing Rules	21
Player Eligibility	21
NPL Player Eligibility	21
NPL and Non-NPL Player Eligibility	21
Club Pass Players	21
Guest Players	21
Player Club Pass Limits	22
PLAYER CLUB PASS LIMITS (SAN DIEGO ONLY)	22
Club Pass Rule - PLAYER MOVEMENT BETWEEN TEAMS	22
Substitutions	23
Substitutions - SOCAL NPL	23
Match Officials	23
Officials	23
Referee Respect Campaign	24
Field Rules	26
Game Scoring & Reporting	26
Point System	26
League Standings	26
All Game Scoring (Including NPL)	26

Ties	26
Tie Breakers for League Standings	26
Forfeits	27
Spectator Seating	27
Personnel on the Bench	27
Protests	27
Incomplete Games/Abandoned Games	28
Heading	29
Heading Game Rule	29
No Re-Entry Protocol (for Head Injury and SCA)	29
Assembly Bill No. 2007	29
Reporting Head Injuries	29
Clearing Head Injuries	29
Equipment	30
Player Uniforms	30
Game Ball	30
Safety	30
Casts	30
Long Finger Nails	30
Jewelry	30
Shin Guards	30
Braces	30
Eyeglasses	31
League Discipline	32
Violation of League Rules	32
Administrator Red Cards	32
Penalty For Coach’s Expulsion (Send Off) and/or Falsifying Documents	32
Illegal Player/Falsification of Documents	32
Red Card/Double Yellow Reporting Process for Referees	33
Red Card/Double Yellow/Send Off Reporting Instructions (Including NPL)	33
Spectator Send Off Reporting Instructions	33
Red Card/Double Yellow/Send Off Reporting Instructions	33
How to Ensure a player is cleared after receiving a Red Card/Double Yellow/Send Off	33
Suspensions	33
End of Year Red Card Carryovers	34
US Club Soccer Discipline Matrix	35
Red Card/Double Yellow Offenses	36
Cautionable Offenses or Yellow Cards	36
Send Off or Red Cards Offenses	36
League Fines	37
Additional Fines:	37
No Show:	37
Fines Collected	37
Links to FIFA and US Club Soccer	38
FIFA AND U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION:	38
US CLUB SOCCER BYLAWS AND POLICIES:	38
Conclusion	38

Introduction

Welcome to the SOCAL Soccer League! We are excited to have you as part of our community, dedicated to promoting the growth, development, and enjoyment of youth soccer throughout Southern California. As a member of our league, you are joining a vibrant and passionate community that prioritizes sportsmanship, respect, and the pursuit of excellence both on and off the field.

This handbook has been carefully crafted to provide you with the essential information you need to navigate your membership with the SOCAL Soccer League. Whether you are a new member or have been with us for several seasons, we encourage you to review this guide thoroughly. It outlines the policies, procedures, and expectations that help us maintain a safe, competitive, and enjoyable environment for all participants.

Inside, you will find detailed information on membership conduct, participation requirements, and the resources available to support your journey within our league. We are committed to fostering a positive atmosphere where players, coaches, referees, and families can thrive. To achieve this, we ask that all members adhere to the guidelines set forth in this handbook, ensuring that the values of respect, integrity, and teamwork are upheld at all times.

Your involvement in the SOCAL Soccer League is crucial to our continued success and the development of youth soccer in our region. We value your participation and look forward to your active engagement in league activities. Should you have any questions or need further assistance, our team is always ready to support you.

Thank you for being a part of the SOCAL Soccer League. Together, let's make this season our best yet!

Mission

To allow all participating clubs to have the freedom to make decisions that are in the best interest of all their players and to place the league's priority first and foremost on true player development.

Vision

Our purpose is to set the highest standards for soccer Clubs to develop players to their fullest potential – physically, mentally and ethically.

Core Values

Service

Opportunity

Commitment

Adaptability

Leadership

#WEARE**S**O**C**A**L**

SOCAL Staff Contacts

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Bob Turner	Executive Director, San Diego	bob@socalsoccerleague.org
Cris Gilmore	Director of Special Programming	cris@socalsoccerleague.org
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Christine Van Slyke	Customer Experience Manager and League Support	christine@socalsoccerleague.org
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SOCAL Club Membership

Membership in SOCAL is considered and reviewed by application. Applications for new member Clubs begin January 15th of each year and close February 28th of each calendar year. All member Clubs must meet our criteria of membership as outlined in the application and be accepting of our rules, policies, and procedures. Our competitions are governed by regulations approved by the Technical Committee and our membership and are written in this handbook. The Technical Committee shall rule on all disputes and issues pertaining to SOCAL competitions. The Technical Committee may overrule stated rules, policies, or procedures in this handbook if it is determined to be for the good of the game. Additionally, all participants in SOCAL events are members of US Club Soccer and therefore must adhere fully and faithfully, both to the letter and the spirit, to its stated bylaws, rules, and policies.

When SOCAL's rules and policies are in direct conflict with the rules of another League or governing body, SOCAL may be restricted from implementing certain rules. However, our Code of Ethics must be adhered to at all times.

New one-time Membership Club League Fee \$3,500.00

Criteria for Consideration into SOCAL Includes:

1. Clubs must identify a minimum of 5 teams to participate in the SOCAL.
2. Clubs must have an established and identifiable Director of Coaching.
3. Clubs must have a Board of Directors and a specified Club Administrator.
4. Clubs must have sufficient home fields to accommodate all teams within the Club.
5. Clubs must have a player development program in place and be willing to support the platform of development that SOCAL is based on.
6. Geographical location of the Club applying will be considered.

Home Field Requirement

Clubs should have at least one game-quality Field (5-time slots) per eight teams. In the event of a complaint about the quality of a Field, the appropriate League Staff shall determine if a Field is game quality. All new Venues must be added to [GotSport](#) by July 1st.

Field Closures must be reported to fieldclosures@socalsoccerleague.org

Field Requirements

Fields shall conform to FIFA (Law 1) and be adjusted to an age group. The home Club is responsible for marking and setup of the field. All fields must be properly marked, GOALS MUST be properly anchored down, and have corner flags. The suitability of corner flags, properly anchored goals, and the playability of the field are at the sole and final discretion of the Referee, as per the laws of the game. Be sure to discuss any concerns you may have about the field prior to the start of the game. Once the game begins it will be considered a played game.

Scheduling Requirements

Games may only be rescheduled due to field permit issues, up until Tuesday (at midnight) prior to the play weekend. A game must be within 5 miles of the original venue and be within 1 hour of the original start time. Referees must also be able to accommodate the change in order for the change to be approved. Any changes after Tuesday at midnight may be considered a forfeit. Forfeit and referee fees will be charged for forfeited games. Games will not be rescheduled for coaching conflicts or matters of convenience. [US Club Soccer Certificate of Insurance Application](#)

All fields being used for SOCAL games are required to have Certificates of Insurance, from US Club Soccer, on file with the club supplying the home fields for the game.

Club Requirements

In order for a Club to be considered a member of SOCAL, the following conditions must be satisfied:

1. All teams participating in SOCAL events must belong to a single legal entity, with a single leadership structure, a single financial structure, and a single governance structure.
2. All teams participating in SOCAL events must have a common Club name, logo, and uniform (which should be unique to their Club) and should practice/play games in the same geographical area of operation.
3. All teams participating in SOCAL events must operate under a single technical structure/plan and report to a single Director of Coaching.
4. All players participating in SOCAL events must be registered under a single US Club Soccer sanctioned Club.
5. All Clubs participating in SOCAL must meet the minimum of 5-teams.
6. All Clubs participating in SOCAL must have field availability on all Saturday's and Sunday's for home games during each season in which they participate.
7. All teams within the member Club MUST wear the Club uniform. Teams may not wear uniforms from other Clubs.
8. Adhere to the [SOCAL Tryout Policy](#)

Required Club Contacts

Each Club's GotSport account must be kept up to date with the proper contact information. Please keep in mind that this is the primary method by which SOCAL communicates with your Club. Failing to have the proper contact information may result in your Club missing vital League communication. Each Club shall maintain the following Club contacts with a current email address:

1. Club Administrator
2. Coaching/Technical Director/DOC AND/OR Executive Director
3. Registrar
4. President
5. Field Scheduler
6. Treasurer

League-to-Club Communication

Communication will come from League Staff to Club Officials and/or Team Contacts. Please make sure all contact information for the appropriate required officials are updated in the GotSport system.

Emails to SOCAL staff from parents, managers or coaches will not be replied to and Clubs should instruct their members and staff that all communications must come to designated Club Officials for review and, if necessary, the Club Official may reach out to a SOCAL staff member for assistance.

Fall Registration

Teams from new and returning SOCAL Clubs, may begin the application process on March 15th. Team applications will be accepted through June 1st. After that date, no teams may be added without special consideration from the Technical Committee.

A team is only considered for approval if the team fee is received. Each participating SOCAL Club will submit payment in GotSport via credit card or one Club check. Checks must be postmarked by June 7th.

Code of Ethics

As a SOCAL Member, your adherence to the Code of Ethics signals your commitment to the basic laws of the organization, and thus basic moral standards of the soccer community at large.

For All Members

- A. Know, respect, and follow the [Laws of the Game](#).
- B. Treat others with respect and courtesy.
- C. Adhere to the rules and policies of SOCAL, [US Club Soccer](#), and [US Soccer](#).
- D. Recognize the rights, dignity, and worth of all – regardless of gender, ability, cultural background, or religion.

For Clubs

- A. Require sportsmanlike conduct at all times.
- B. Address issues with other Clubs in a professional and timely manner.
- C. Ensure that all Adults and players in your Club are familiar with the rules and expectations of
- D. Respect the Facilities used by other Clubs.
- E. Actively uphold the Player Transfer Policy.

For Coaches

- A. Place your Player's physical, mental, and emotional development and well-being ahead of all else.
- B. Continuously seek education on sound Coaching techniques.
- C. Model and teach good sporting behavior.

For Players

- A. Participate for your own enjoyment and development.
 - B. Take responsibility for your sportsmanship and conduct.
-

SOCAL Code of Conduct

The SOCAL Soccer League is committed to fostering a positive, respectful, and safe environment for all participants, including players, coaches, referees, parents, and spectators. This General Code of Conduct outlines the expectations for behavior and conduct for everyone involved in our league.

1. Respect for All Participants

- Treat all players, coaches, referees, parents, and spectators with respect, regardless of race, gender, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic.
- Avoid engaging in any form of discrimination, intimidation, harassment, or bullying.
- Use positive language and avoid derogatory, offensive, or abusive remarks.

2. Sportsmanship and Fair Play

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times, both on and off the field.
- Play and coach with integrity, respecting the rules of the game and the decisions of referees.
- Encourage fair play and respect for opponents, win or lose.

3. Commitment to Safety

- Prioritize the safety and well-being of all participants.
- Refrain from any form of physical violence, aggression, or intimidation.
- Report any unsafe conditions or behavior to league officials immediately.

4. Positive Support and Encouragement

- Support all participants, particularly young athletes, with positive encouragement.
- Focus on effort and personal improvement rather than just results.
- Avoid placing undue pressure on players to perform.

5. Responsibility and Accountability

- Take responsibility for your actions and understand the impact they have on others.
- Abide by the league's rules, guidelines, and policies.
- Be accountable for any misconduct, and cooperate fully with any disciplinary proceedings.

6. Substance-Free Environment

- Refrain from using or being under the influence of illegal substances, alcohol, or tobacco during any league-related activities.
- Promote a healthy, substance-free environment for all participants.

7. Respect for Property

- Treat all facilities, equipment, and property with care and respect.
- Avoid vandalism, destruction, or misuse of property.
- Clean up after yourself and help maintain the cleanliness of the facilities.

8. Positive Representation of the League

- Represent the SOCAL Soccer League positively at all times, both within and outside of league activities.
- Uphold the values and mission of the league in all interactions.

- Support the league's efforts to create a welcoming and inclusive community for all participants.

9. Adherence to Decisions

- Respect the decisions made by referees, coaches, and league officials.
- Avoid confronting or challenging referees or officials during or after games.
- Address any concerns through appropriate channels and processes as outlined by the league.

10. Commitment to Continuous Improvement

- Strive to continually improve your conduct, understanding, and enjoyment of the game.
- Participate in league meetings, training, and educational opportunities when available.
- Encourage a culture of learning and growth within the league.

Consequences for Violations

Violations of this General Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, including warnings, suspension, or expulsion from the league. All participants are expected to adhere to this code to maintain the integrity and positive environment of the SOCAL Soccer League.

Acknowledgment

By participating in the SOCAL Soccer League, you agree to uphold this General Code of Conduct and contribute to a positive, respectful, and safe environment for all.

Zero Tolerance Abuse Policy

All PARENTS/SPECTATORS must follow the SOCAL League Parent Code of Conduct.

All COACHES must follow the SOCAL League Code of Conduct.

If a PARENT/SPECTATOR is sent-off from a game, the parent will serve a minimum 3-game suspension to be enforced by the Club, team manager and team coach. A suspended parent that comes to a game during their suspension will result in the game being forfeited and the coach and manager being suspended from the next 3-games.

If there is a second incident of a PARENT/SPECTATOR send-off from the same team, the team will be placed on probation for the remainder of the season (including State Cup). A third incident will result in the team being dropped from the League.

If a COACH is sent-off from a game, the coach will serve a minimum 3-game suspension from coaching ANY TEAM IN THE Club that participates in the SOCAL League. A second coach send-off for the same coach will result in a 1-month suspension from coaching ANY team in the Club.

Referee abuse by a PARENT/SPECTATOR will result in the player of the offending parent/spectator being listed as ineligible for the remainder of the season from all games in SOCAL.

Issues involving parents from opposite teams that results in the game being stopped before it's completed will result in the game being a double forfeit and the next scheduled game will also be forfeited for each team, a **\$500 fine charged to each Club** and both teams will be placed on probation for the remainder of the season. Any further issues and the team will be dropped from the League.

PARENTS/SPECTATORS that verbally or physically assault any venue staff or SOCAL staff at any SOCAL event will have their player banned from participating in the League for the remainder of the season (including State Cup).

ANY PERSON who touches, confronts, chases, bullies, follows, cusses at, threatens, waits for, tries to fight, attacks or assaults a referee will be banned FOR LIFE from the SOCAL League and will be turned over to US Club Soccer for further disciplinary actions.

[For more details on suspensions from both US Club Soccer and SOCAL please reference pg.35](#)



One and Done Policy

The **One and Done Policy** is designed to promote a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all players, coaches, referees, and spectators involved in the SOCAL Soccer League.

This policy ensures that any instances of serious misconduct are dealt with swiftly and effectively to maintain the integrity of the sport.

Policy Overview

This **One and Done Policy** applies to all players, coaches, parents, and spectators associated with any team participating in the SOCAL Soccer League. Any violation of this policy, as described below, will result in immediate and significant consequences, including potential removal from the league.

Behavior Covered by the Policy

The following behaviors are considered serious violations under this policy and will result in review for immediate action:

1. Physical Violence:

Any act of physical aggression or violence toward another player, coach, referee, or spectator.

2. Verbal Abuse:

Use of derogatory, offensive, racial or abusive language toward others, including players, coaches, referees, or spectators.

3. Bullying or Harassment:

Any form of bullying, harassment, or discrimination based on race, gender, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other protected and private characteristic. Threatening or intimidating behavior, either in person or online.

4. Unsportsmanlike Conduct:

Deliberate actions that demonstrate a lack of sportsmanship, including cheating, purposeful harm to others, or disrespecting the rules of the game.

5. Substance Abuse:

Possession, use, or distribution of illegal substances, including alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, during any team-related activities.

6. Destruction of Property:

Vandalism or intentional damage to property, including fields, equipment, or facilities.

Consequences

If a player, coach, parent, or spectator commits any of the above violations, the following actions will be taken:

1. Immediate Removal:

The individual involved will be immediately removed from the game, event and venue.

2. Suspension or Expulsion:

Depending on the severity of the incident, the individual may face suspension or permanent expulsion from the team and/or league.

Depending on the severity of the incident, the **TEAM** may face suspension or permanent expulsion from the team and/or league.

For **PLAYERS**, suspension may range from one game to the entire season.

Expulsion will result in removal from the team for the remainder of the season, with no refund of fees.

3. Review by the League:

The incident will be reviewed by the league's disciplinary committee, and may be forwarded to US Club Soccer for further disciplinary actions. A final decision will be made regarding further consequences.

The individual and club representative will have an opportunity to present their side of the incident during the review process.

4. Reporting to Authorities:

In cases involving illegal activities (e.g., physical violence, substance abuse), the incident may be reported to local law enforcement or appropriate authorities.

Club Status in SOCAL

Any SOCAL member club with a team that is expelled from the league will be placed on immediate probation for the remainder of the seasonal year, which will include State Cup.

Clubs are responsible for the behavior of their teams which includes; parents, coaches, and players. Any violation by a parent or spectator will result in immediate removal from the event and possible suspension from attending future games or practices.

Commitment to Positive Behavior

By participating in the team, all players, coaches, parents, and spectators agree to uphold this One and Done Policy and commit to maintaining a positive and respectful environment for youth soccer.

SOCAL Player Transfer Policy

The SOCAL Player Transfer Policy goes into effect July 1 of the current year.

Revised Policy effective July 1, 2024

BEFORE July 1: Any player that has signed, paid, practiced, or played with a team CAN release and transfer to any other club/team without being in violation of the policy and without having to adhere to the requirements of the policy.

Example: Suzie's mom signs a Player Agreement with Real Madrid on February 20th and pays 1/2 of the club dues for the upcoming season. Suzie practices and plays a few tournaments with Real Madrid but decides that the team may not be a good fit for her. So, on June 15th, Suzie joins Manchester United. Even though Real Madrid already registered Suzie in GotSport as a player in their club, the club must release the player so that she can join Manchester United because it's before July 1st. Real Madrid cannot enforce the transfer policy or require payment in full as it is before the July 1st policy enforcement date. Either the Real Madrid Registrar or a SOCAL league official may release the player so that she can join Manchester United.

JULY 1 UNTIL THE END OF COMPETITION, INCLUDING STATE CUP, FOR THE OUTGOING TEAM:

Same situation as above only Suzie decides to leave Real Madrid on July 15th to join Manchester United. Since it's after July 1st, Real Madrid MUST release Suzie because, per US Soccer Federation rules, a club must release a player that asks to release, HOWEVER, the Player Transfer Policy is now in effect so 2 things must occur:

Step 1. The player must be PAID IN FULL per the player agreement signed with the outgoing club

AND

Step 2. The outgoing DOC MUST approve the transfer.

All decisions made by the outgoing DOC are final and are not subject to league intervention.

To clarify - no club can refuse to release a player.

After the July 1st date, BOTH Steps 1 AND 2 must be met in order for a player to TRANSFER to, or from, another SOCAL team prior to the end of competition for the team the player wishes to leave.

The transfer policy prevents a player from leaving one SOCAL team to join another SOCAL team without meeting the criteria of BOTH paying in full AND obtaining DOC permission from the outgoing club.

The incoming DOC MUST communicate directly with the outgoing club DOC. Approvals are not valid if obtained by coach, manager, Registrar, Club Admin. Approval can ONLY be granted by the Director of Coaching for the outgoing club.

- **NOTE: The SOCAL Player Transfer Policy can only be enforced with players moving between, or to and from SOCAL teams. SOCAL has no jurisdiction over other leagues and their policies.**
 - Players on a SOCAL club members team that plays in leagues outside of SOCAL that want to transfer to a SOCAL team are also covered by the Transfer Policy.
 - A player leaving a SOCAL team for another outside league IS covered by the Transfer Policy because it involves a player that was on a SOCAL team.
 - A player leaving a GA team for an ECNL team is not covered by the SOCAL policy. OR, a MLS Next player wants to transfer to an ECNL team, this is not covered by the SOCAL policy.
 - Anything that happens prior to July 1 must be allowed and cannot be contested.
 - Anything that involves a player transfer from July 1st and beyond must follow the Transfer Policy. The Transfer Policy ends when the team is done playing for the 2024/25 season. That can be at the end of the league season if the team isn't playing in State Cup. If the team plays State Cup then the Transfer Policy applies through the end of State Cup for the team.
 - Any player requesting to be released MUST be released but the outgoing club controls but can not transfer to another club until BOTH Steps 1 and 2 are completed.
 - NPL is not considered an outside league as it is part of the SOCAL programming.
-

SOCAL Tryout Policy

2024/2025

As agreed to by all SOCAL member club DOC's at the March 2024 DOC meeting, the league has implemented a **mandatory TRYOUT WINDOW POLICY**.

Below are the approved tryout dates for the 2024/2025 season.

TRYOUT DATES, by birth year are:

2017, 2018 and 2019 - Tryouts may begin **NO SOONER** than **Monday, December 2, 2024**

2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 - Tryouts may begin **NO SOONER** than **Monday, February 10, 2025**

2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 - Tryouts may begin **NO SOONER** than **Monday, April 21, 2025**

The Tryout window closes June 30, 2025 as the SOCAL Transfer Policy goes into effect July 1, 2025.

NOTE: As the Tryout Policy pertains to the Transfer Policy, for the 2024/2025 season (including all SOCAL events), the Transfer Policy goes into effect July 1, 2024 through the end of State Cup for the outgoing team. If the team does not play State Cup, then players are free to transfer at the end of the league season if their team is "done" playing for the 2024/25 season.

Players can NOT transfer to another club beginning July 1, 2024 unless;

1. The player is PAID IN FULL

AND

2. The outgoing DOC has given permission for the player to transfer.

No longer can a player transfer simply because they have paid in full. Outgoing DOC permission is also required for the transfer to occur.

CLUBS and TEAMS CAN:

Clubs **CAN** advertise for tryouts in any manner, and at any time, so long as the tryouts dates are not BEFORE the dates above.

Clubs **CAN** re-sign existing players from their own club at any time without holding tryouts at any age group.

Clubs **CAN** sign players coming from recreational programs.

Clubs **CAN** have, free or paid, camps, clinics, etc., for players WITHIN their own club at any time.

CLUBS and TEAMS CAN NOT:

Clubs and teams **CAN NOT** hold tryouts ANY SOONER than the dates above.

Clubs and teams **CAN NOT** publicly advertise via any platform (social media, email blasts, website, etc) tryouts being held ANY SOONER than the dates above.

Clubs/Coaches **CAN NOT** have FREE camps, clinics, etc., for players OUTSIDE of their club.

Clubs/Coaches **CAN** have camps, clinics, etc., for players outside of their club **ONLY IF** there is a fee charged for the session.

The Tryout Policy is NOT an anti-recruiting policy. Recruiting cannot be controlled nor managed. However, players cannot transfer without BOTH of the criteria listed above and in the Transfer Policy.

Any club that violates the Tryout Policy will be fined as follows:

1st offense - \$500 fine

2nd offense - \$1000 fine and probation

3rd offense - Club may be dropped from the league after review by Technical Committee.

As members of SOCAL, clubs agree to adhere to and follow all Rules and Regulations of SOCAL. Failure to adhere to the Tryout Policy and dates will result in monetary fines to clubs and coach suspensions for individual coaches that publicly advertise tryouts outside of the tryouts dates.

These dates apply to ALL MEMBERS of SOCAL. No club, or team, is exempt.

ALL SOCAL member clubs have agreed NOT to hold tryouts for other league platforms sooner than the dates listed above.

Competition Matrix

	U7-U10 (2018-2015)	U11 (2014)	U12 (2013)	U13-U14 (2012/2011)	U15-U16 (2010/2009)	U17-U19 (2008/07/06)
Field Size (yds)	55/65 L 35/45 W	70/80 L 45/55 W	70/80 L 45/55 W	100/120 L 55/80 W	100/120 L 55/80 W	100/120 L 55/80 W
# of players	7v7	9v9	9v9	11v11	11v11	11v11
Minimum # of players	5	6	6	7	7	7
Primary Player Roster Limits	12	16	16	26	26	26
# of players allowed to play each game	12	16	16	18	18	20
# of club-pass players allowed to play each game (San Diego)	3 players	3 players	3 players	4 players	4 players	4 players
# of club-pass players allowed to play each game (non-San Diego)	4 players	4 players	4 players	6 players	6 players	6 players
NPL Club-Passing Limits	Does not apply	Does not apply	Does not apply	2 outfield + 1 GK maximum*	2 outfield + 1 GK maximum*	2 outfield + 1 GK maximum*
Goalkeeper	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Playing Time	2x30	2x30	2x30	2x35	2x40	2x45
Half-Time	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins
Ball Size	4	4	4	5	5	5
Goal Size (ft)	6.5x18.5-7x21	6.5x18.5-7x21	6.5x18.5-7x21	8x24	8x24	8x24
Offside	Yes - after build out line	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Substitutions	Unlimited - Flights 1 - 4 on any possession, or if other team subs.					
NPL Substitutions	3 moments per half. Re-entry allowed. Half-time does not count as a moment					
Fouls (free kicks)	Indirect & Direct Free Kicks					
Free clearance Kick	8 yd	8 yd	8 yd	10 yd	10 yd	10 yd
Throw-in	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal

Penalty Kicks	Yes (mark at 10 yds)	Yes (mark at 10 yds)	Yes (mark at 10 yds)	Yes (mark at 12 yds)	Yes (mark at 12 yds)	Yes (mark at 12 yds)
Penalty Area (yds)	12x24	14x36	14x36	18 x 44	18 x 44	18 x 44
Goal Area (yards)	4x8	5x16	5x16	6 x 20	6 x 20	6 x 20
Heading	NO As per the Laws of the Game		YES As per the Laws of the Game			
Build-Out Line	Yes	None				

***NPL players may not club pass within the same age group. Players may only club pass up an age group within the NPL. These limits also apply to NPL players clubs passing to flight 1.
NPL players may not club pass to Flights 2-4.**

Playing Rules

All games under League jurisdiction shall be played according to the rules and regulations recognized by the SOCAL Soccer League which shall be the same rules set by FIFA/U.S. Soccer (USSF) except for those exceptions authorized by FIFA or USSF.

Player Eligibility

NPL Player Eligibility

A player may not play for more than one team within an age group in the NPL. Players may club pass "up" between NPL teams outside of their age group and may play no more than 2 games per day. No more than 2 players and 1 goalkeeper (who must play in goal) can Club Pass to another NPL team from the same club OR to Flight 1. NPL players may NOT club pass to teams in Flight 2-4.

NPL and Non-NPL Player Eligibility

- **For 11v11 games (2008-2007/06):** A maximum of 20 players may be dressed and play in a game. The 20 players must be on the official Match Report given to the match official and opposing team before the start of the game. Any players listed on the roster that will not play must have a line through their names on the Match Report or set as inactive players.
- **For 11v11 games (2012-2009):** A maximum of 18 players may be dressed and play in a game. The 18 players must be on the official Match Report given to the match official and opposing team before the start of the game. Any players listed on the roster that will not play must have a line through their names on the Match Report or set as inactive players.
- **For 9v9 games:** A maximum of 16 players may be dressed and play in a game.
- **For 7v7 games:** A maximum of 12 players may be dressed and play in a game.

Club Pass Players

A Player may ONLY be rostered to one team as a Primary Player. Players may only club pass within the same club per club pass rules. Club Pass players are only players within the same club.

Guest Players

No Guest Players (players with a Player Pass from another Club or League) are NOT allowed to play in SOCAL competitions. Guest players are not the same as Club Passed players.

Player Club Pass Limits (non-San Diego teams only)

Limits for the amount of players that can Club Pass are as follows:

- 7v7 and 9v9 games – limit 4 players per game
- 11v11 games – **limit 6 players** per game (non-NPL games) **UPDATED FOR 2024 SEASON**
- Club pass players must be handwritten in on Match Report or added to the team as Club Pass Player in [GotSport](#).
- **NPL Players** can ONLY Club Pass to Flight 1 teams and older NPL teams within their club.
- Limits of Club Passing for NPL players are 2 field players + 1 goalkeeper that MUST play in goal (not on the field).
- NPL players may NOT Club pass to Flight 2, 3 or 4 teams.

PLAYER CLUB PASS LIMITS (SAN DIEGO ONLY)

Limits for the amount of players that can Club Pass are as follows:

- 7v7 and 9v9 games – limit 3 players per game
- 11v11 games – limit 4 players per game (non-NPL games)
- Club pass players must be handwritten in on Match Report or added to the team as Club Pass Player in [GotSport](#).

****NO players FROM Leagues OUTSIDE OF SOCAL MAY CLUB PASS TO SOCAL TEAMS**

REGARDLESS OF THE League THEY ARE PLAYING IN. All players participating in SOCAL games MUST have US Club SOCCER PLAYER CARDS indicating the player participates in the SOCAL League. **ECNL/ECRL player cards are NOT valid in the SOCAL League.**

A player's PRIMARY team MUST be a SOCAL team. If a player plays on a few occasions (less than 50% of outside league team's games) on an outside league team they may, but the PRIMARY team MUST be the SOCAL team.

Club Pass Rule - PLAYER MOVEMENT BETWEEN TEAMS

(Applies to all ages groups except 2017-2018)

- Players may play no more than 2 games per day.
- Players may play 2 games in the same age group, and in the same flight although they may NOT play in the SAME geographical bracket. (As an example - a 2012 player can play for a 2012 team in Flight 2 South I but can not play for another team in Flight 2 South I. However, the player may play for a team in Flight 2 South II.)
- Non-NPL players can Club Pass either up or down between Flights 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- Players can Club Pass up from any flight to the NPL.
- NPL players can ONLY Club Pass to Flight 1 teams and older NPL teams within their club.
- Limits of Club Passing for NPL players are 2 field players + 1 goalkeeper that MUST play in goal (not on the field).

- NPL players may NOT Club pass to Flight 2, 3 or 4 teams.
- A player's PRIMARY team MUST be a SOCAL team. Players may only club pass within the same club per club pass rules. Club Pass players are only players within the same club. Players may only play for one club during any SOCAL event.
- Players that play up in an age group as their Primary team may be club-passed to a team in their actual age group. Example: Sally, born in 2012 plays on a 2011 team as her primary team may be club passed to play on a 2012 team because her age is appropriate for that team as well
- In the 7v7 age groups, players can play for 2 teams in the same flight/division since there are no standings. The 7v7 birth years are the only age groups where this is allowed.

Substitutions

As per FIFA guidelines, unlimited substitutions are allowed in all age groups, Flights 1, 2, 3 and 4 as follows (not including SOCAL NPL):

- Unlimited substitutions are allowed during any stoppage.
- Teams may substitute only with the Referee's permission. Substitutes must wait at the halfway line (off of the Field of play) until the Field Player has left the Field of play and/or the Referee has indicated the substitute may enter the Field of play.

Substitutions - SOCAL NPL

- 3 moments, per half, for substitutions. Half-time does not count as a moment. Re-entry is allowed per half at the moments used by the coach. Subbing on the moment of an opposition, still counts towards a team's 3 moments.
- In accordance with the new USSF Head Injury guidelines, a substitution for a suspected head injury will not count against re-entry rules.

Match Officials

Officials

Match officials must have a current year USSF Referee License. No match officials, other than Club linesmen, may have family members in the game they are working. Club linesmen may only signal when the ball has left the Field of play. They may not call offsides or fouls.

If a referee is not present within the 15 minute grace period for a scheduled game, the game will be rescheduled. The coach or manager must contact their club to notify them and the club administrator will contact Blake George to reschedule the game. **7 v 7 games may be played with a coach facilitating the game.**

Referee Respect Campaign

The State Referee Association proudly introduces the Respect Campaign, enforcing a zero-tolerance policy against abuse, assault, and racism at all levels of our soccer community. SOCAL Soccer League is committed to upholding these standards and protecting our referees.

We invite the Southern California soccer community to unite in creating the best possible game day experience for players, coaches, referees, clubs, spectators, and families. Our goal is to foster an environment of good sportsmanship, where everyone can compete, learn, and enjoy the game.

Unfortunately, there has been a troubling increase in racially charged, offensive, and inappropriate behavior on and off the field. This growing hostility threatens the integrity of the game and the well-being of its participants.

The campaign aims to promote universal respect by establishing clear "Standards" for all soccer participants, fostering an environment where respect is prioritized across all levels of play. Additionally, the campaign seeks to enhance the game day atmosphere by supporting the recruitment and retention of referees and participants, ensuring the continued growth and vitality of "The Beautiful Game" in Southern California.

STANDARDS

For Referees:

- **Wear RESPECT Armbands:** Display your commitment to respect with white armbands for adults and highlighter green for youth referees.
- **Enforce Zero Tolerance:** Address referee abuse, team abuse, and any form of racism immediately, following the laws of the game.
- **Report Abuse:** Notify the governing body, league, or tournament of any abusive actions for strict sanctions.
- **Be Proactive:** Conduct pregame conferences, communicate clearly, and build relationships. If abusive behavior persists, abandon the match and report it.
- **Maintain Control:** Prioritize player safety and fairness by adhering strictly to the laws of the game.

For Clubs/Teams:

- **Distribute Campaign Standards:** Share the Respect Campaign details with your community through emails and discussions at practices and matches.
- **Control Spectator Areas:** Ensure no spectators are behind Assistant Referees or goals. All spectators should be positioned to the left of the home bench.
- **Assign Sideline Monitors:** Promote positive and supportive environments with sideline monitors.

- **Protect Youth Referees:** Youth referees (under 18) will wear green armbands. Direct concerns to adult referees or administrators, not youth referees, in line with Safe Sport policy.
- **Refrain from Harassment:** Address concerns respectfully after the match through the proper reporting channels.

For Spectators/Parents:

- **Emphasize RESPECT:** Teach your players about respect for opponents, teammates, coaches, officials, and the game.
- **Avoid Harassment:** Refrain from challenging referees, players, or coaches. Remember, mistakes are part of the game.
- **Report Misconduct:** Notify your club leadership of any inappropriate behavior.
- **Become a Referee:** Expand your passion for soccer by becoming a referee.

For Leagues/Tournaments:

- **Promote Campaign Standards:** Share the Respect Campaign through emails, social media, and your website.
- **Control Spectator Areas:** Ensure no spectators are behind Assistant Referees or goals. Position all spectators to the left of the home bench.
- **Mandate Armbands:** Starting Fall 2024, referees will wear Respect Armbands to symbolize that abuse has no place in soccer.
- **Encourage Pregame Conferences:** Foster positive interactions between coaches, players, and referees.
- **Incentivize Good Behavior:** Reward teams for good conduct and penalize abuse to maintain a safe, fair environment for all.

Governing Bodies Code of Conduct:

- US Soccer Federation: <https://www.ussoccer.com/ussf-fan-code-of-conduct>
- US Club Soccer: <https://usclubsoccer.org/safeguarding-compliance/prohibitedconduct/>
- US Center for SafeSport:
<https://uscenterforsafesport.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2022-SafeSport-Code.pdf>
- Safe Sport Report a Concern: <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/>
- US Soccer Report a Concern: <https://www.ussoccer.com/safeguarding/report-a-concern>

Field Rules

1. No animals of any kind are allowed on the sideline at any SOCAL game. Check the venue you are playing at to confirm if pets are allowed at the venue. Regardless, THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE ON THE SIDELINES or BEHIND THE GOALS or in close proximity to the field of play to protect the players safety as well as the spectators safety.
2. No artificial noise makers such as drums, air horns, drones etc. are allowed.
3. No Alcohol
4. No Illegal Drugs
5. No Weapons of any type.

Violation of field rules may result in team or spectator suspensions.

Parking Fee may apply at Silverlakes, SoCal Sports Complex, Galway Downs, Surf Cup Sports Park and Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park.

Game Scoring & Reporting

Point System

All SOCAL League games shall operate under the following point system.

- 3 points for a win
- 1 point for a tie
- 0 points for a loss

League Standings

ALL Scores must be entered in GotSport

- 7v7 **SCORES** will be posted
 - 7v7 standings will NOT be posted
 - A Goal Differential of 8-goals is the limit for score posting in all 7v7 birth years. Ex: a score of 14-3 must be posted as 11-3, a score of 10-1 must be posted as 9-1, etc.
 - Any score posted in excess of the 8-goal differential will be adjusted by the league.
- Scores and standings will be posted for all 9v9 and 11v11 divisions.
- SOCAL has promotion and relegation ONLY between SOCAL NPL and Flight 1.
- Medals are awarded to 1st place winners in all 9v9 and 11v11 birth years only.

All Game Scoring (Including NPL)

All Game Scores must be entered in [GotSport](#) by **BOTH TEAMS** within 48 hours after the game. However, for teams that play back to back games on Saturday and Sunday, scores must be posted on Saturday.

[Link to GOTSPORT SCORING](#)

Ties

If a League game is tied after regulation, the tie stands and will be posted as a tie.

Tie Breakers for League Standings

In case of a tie on points in the standings, the following will be used as tiebreakers:

1. "Head to Head" points (win/lose/draw) between teams
2. Overall Goal Differential
3. Goals for
4. Goals against
5. Most shutouts
6. Lowest Misconduct points

If more than two teams are tied, the tie-breaking process (1. Head to Head tiebreakers not used if more than two teams are tied) will be used until a winner is determined. The tie-breaking procedure does not revert to previous criteria if one team is eliminated.

All standings divisions are based on an average of Points Per Game (PPG) to decide standings.

Forfeits

Any game schedule changed after Tuesday at midnight the week of a scheduled game will be subject to a forfeit fine.

- ❖ Forfeits will be scored 0-1 against the forfeiting team. (For more details see Section 10, League Fines)

Spectator Seating

- ALL SPECTATORS FROM A TEAM will sit on the same side of the field as their team.
- Spectators will NOT sit on opposite sides of the field from their team for League play.
- Coaches are responsible for the spectators on their team.
- Spectators may not sit behind goals or next to the corner flags.
- Spectators must sit on the sideline with their team OPPOSITE the sideline the Asst Ref is running. Spectators may NOT sit behind Asst Referees.
- Spectators are not to commingle with spectators from the opposing team. Spectators should sit on the opposite side of the half to the Assistant Referee.

Personnel on the Bench

- A maximum of 3 team officials are allowed in each team's technical area. Team officials must have a current US Club passcard from the Club in which they are coaching in order to sit in the technical area.
- A coach must have a minimum Grassroots license to coach a game in SOCAL.
- A manager with a current US Club passcard from the Club in which they are may cover for a coach in an emergency situation.

Protests

Protests regarding the match conditions (i.e. Field condition, etc.) must be made prior to the start of the match and be clearly written on the official with the center referee. Protests regarding the use of illegal players may be made prior to or following the match and be clearly written on the match report.

- Referee decisions cannot be protested. This includes send-offs for players, coaches or spectators.
- Videos of games will not be reviewed to support protests or objections.

Incomplete Games/Abandoned Games

In the event that a game cannot be completed, the game will stand if at least half of the game was played; provided, however, that if any team is directly responsible for the termination of the game, no matter how much of the match remains, due to poor sportsmanship towards a Referee, opposing fans, or opposing players, the team will be required to forfeit the match. This could also lead to other sanctions set forth by SOCAL and/or US Club SOCCER. If there is no result, and the match is suspended prior to the expiration of one half the game, SOCAL will make a determination on the results of the game based on a USSF Supplemental Report submitted by the referee of the game.

The referee may abandon a match if:

1. There are not enough players to meet the requirements of the Law of the competition;*
2. A team is a no-show after the 15 minute grace period;*
3. The field or any of its equipment does not meet the requirement of the Laws and/or is otherwise deemed unsafe by the referee.

*If an away team causes the match to be abandoned, the referee must notify his/her assignor and the referee association will invoice SOCAL for payment. SOCAL will invoice the Club of the forfeiting team.

The referee may terminate a match for:

1. Reasons of safety such as bad weather or darkness;
2. Any serious infringement of the Laws;
3. Interference by spectators.

Terminated games before the commencement of the second half may be replayed in their entirety. Terminated games terminated during the second half may be considered complete. Only the SOCAL League, not the referee, has the authority to declare a winner, a forfeit, or a replay of the match in its entirety. SOCAL Soccer reserves the right to be flexible in decisions regarding terminated matches. The referee must report fully on the events.

Abandoned or terminated games may be ruled a forfeit when the actions of that team's players, coaches or spectators is the cause for the abandonment or termination of the game. If a coach abandons a match, the game is subject to a forfeit score 0-1 against their team. Issues involving parents from opposite teams that results in the game being terminated will result in the game being a double forfeit and the next scheduled game will also be forfeited for each team and a \$500 fine.

Heading

Heading Game Rule

For U11 and below, when a Player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a Player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.

This rule shall apply to the age groups of U11 and below. Players who are playing up will play according to the rules of the age group in which they are playing. It is the Club's responsibility to understand the effects of this rule on players playing up.

No Re-Entry Protocol (for Head Injury and SCA)

In accordance with the US Club Soccer return to play guidelines, any Player removed from the Field for a suspected head injury or SCA (sudden cardiac arrest) will not be allowed to return to the Field of play unless cleared by a Licensed Healthcare Provider, defined by CA law AB-379 as an individual who is trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and is acting within the scope of the provider's practice for evaluation and management of concussions or other head injuries and/or an individual who is trained in the evaluation and management of cardiac conditions and is acting within the scope of that provider's practice for evaluation and management of sudden cardiac arrest, fainting, and shortness of breath.

Assembly Bill No. 2007

California passed Assembly Bill No. 2007 which requires a school district, charter school, private school, or youth sports organizations if it offers an athletic program, to immediately remove an athlete from an athletic activity for the remainder of the day if the athlete is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury, and prohibits the athlete from returning to the athletic activity until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider, trained in the management of concussions, and acting within the scope of his or her practice, and the athlete receives written clearance from the licensed health care provider to return to the athletic activity. The law also requires, on a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet to be signed and returned by the athlete and athlete's parent or guardian before the athlete's initiating practice or competition.

Reporting Head Injuries

All suspected head injuries must be reported within 24 hours in the GotSport Scoring and SOCAL Soccer League must be notified within 24 hours of injury.

The Match Report must be sent to headinjuryreports@socalsoccerleague.org

Clearing Head Injuries

For a player to return to match play, the Club shall provide SOCAL Soccer League the medical clearance from the Licensed Health Care Provider on their letterhead or note stamped with the Licensed Health Care Provider's name, address and phone number. The Medical Clearance MUST state clearly that the player may return to FULL and Unconditional Return to Play. Report must be sent to headinjuryreports@socalsoccerleague.org

Equipment

Player Uniforms

Teams MUST wear uniforms for the club they are registered with. Opponents must wear colors that distinguish them from each other, and also the Referee and the Assistant Referees. **The home team wears light uniforms while the away team wears dark uniforms.** Each goalkeeper must wear colors that distinguish them from the other players, the Referee, and the assistant Referees. All players on a team except the goalkeeper shall wear identical uniforms (shirts, shorts, and socks).

- ❖ If there is a conflict in the uniform color, the away team shall change uniforms.
- ❖ Player numbers must be affixed to the back of the uniform shirt. Each Player on a team shall wear a unique number.

Game Ball

The home team is the team listed first on the official schedule. The home team will furnish three game balls.

Safety

A Player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to themselves or another Player.

Casts

No orthopedic (hard) casts, air splints, or metal splints may be worn. Players will be allowed to play in a soft cast at the discretion of the Referee.

Long Finger Nails

Exceptionally long fingernails may be considered dangerous and whether or not a player may play with them is at the discretion of the referee.

Jewelry

Absolutely no jewelry, including rings, chains, watches, jewelry, hair clips, bobby pins, earrings, bracelets, rubber bracelets, or excessively long fingernails may be worn while participating in any SOCAL games. Only Medical Alert Warning Bracelets may be worn and shall be taped to secure them to the Player's body.

Shin Guards

All players are required to use shin guards at all times. They must be worn properly and be professionally manufactured and unaltered. Socks must completely cover shin guards.

Braces

Elastic-type supports without any metal, carbon fiber, hard plastic, or like devices are permitted provided the Referee does not deem the support to be potentially harmful to other players.

Eyeglasses

Players who must wear eyeglasses are encouraged to wear sports goggles. Lenses must be unbreakable and frames must be unbreakable plastic or sturdy metal at referee discretion.

League Discipline & Reporting

Violation of League Rules

The SOCAL Discipline Committee and the SOCAL League Administration shall have the authority to suspend, fine, disqualify or otherwise impose sanctions on players, team officials, or competing Clubs for violating SOCAL Rules, Policies and Code of Conduct, or for any action or conduct not in the best interest of soccer or the SOCAL Soccer League. Any breach of SOCAL soccer league Rules outlined in this Handbook should be reported to redcardreports@socalsoccerleague.org All reports of violations may only be reported by a Club's Director of Coaching or President. All decisions made by SOCAL Discipline Committee and SOCAL League Administration are final.

Administrator Red Cards

If there is not a properly licensed coach affiliated with the Club present during the entire game, the manager may step in as the licensed administrator and coach the game AS LONG AS the manager has a proper US Club SOCCER staff passcard. If the manager does NOT have a US Club SOCCER staff passcard then the game will be considered a forfeit.

- **Emergency Coach:** In emergency situations, anyone associated with the Club and has the appropriate license may coach the game as long as the staff has a current US Club passcard with the same Club.

Penalty For Coach's Expulsion (Send Off) and/or Falsifying Documents

If a coach is sent off for any reason, they are suspended from coaching any team in their Club for 3 games after the send-off. **The game in which the coach is sent-off is not included in the suspension.**

- Any coach send-off is 3-games, Club wide, meaning:
 - No coaching of any team for 3 games including any other team they coach until the 3rd game has been served for the team in which the card was issued.
 - No other team can be coached by the coach during the suspension period.
- Coaches may be suspended for playing an illegal player.
 - Playing Illegal players: \$500 per instance

Illegal Player/Falsification of Documents

A team shall forfeit each and every game in which and a possible fine may be imposed:

1. An unregistered player/coach/manager participated in the game.
2. A player was improperly entered on the team's roster.
3. Any infraction of Club Pass rules.
4. A player or coach currently serving a suspension or injury game/s that participates in a game and has not been released by the League.
5. Any team using, or attempting to use, an illegal Player shall forfeit the game, the Coach of the team using the illegal Player will be suspended from all SOCAL competitions for a minimum of 3-games.
6. Falsification of records, documents, player identification passes, or in any other matters or manner, shall be grounds for immediate suspension from further participation in the SOCAL Soccer League with any team or Club and in addition can be subject to a Trial Board hearing.

Playing Illegal players - \$500 per instance

Red Card/Double Yellow Reporting Process for Referees

In any game where a Red Card, Double Yellow or Send Off is issued, the Referee must complete a USSF Supplemental Report and the Match Report within 24 hours and submit it via email to redcardreports@socalsoccerleague.org

Red Card/Double Yellow/Send Off Reporting Instructions (Including NPL)

- Failure to Report by Team Issued the Red Card/Double Yellow or Send Off Fine: **\$200 per instance**
- All Red Cards/Double Yellow/Send Offs must be entered in [GotSport](#) by BOTH TEAMS within 48 hours after the game.
 - ◆ However, for teams that play back to back games on Saturday and Sunday, Red Cards/Double Yellow/Send Offs must be posted on Saturday.
- **Send Offs** include any spectator, player, coach or manager told to leave the game by the referee regardless of being shown a card or not.

Spectator Send Off Reporting Instructions

Spectator Send Offs must be reported in GotSport under Red Cards, at the bottom of the players/coaches list for each team is "OTHER". Select "OTHER", in the field that appears, type in the name of the spectator and their relation to the player at the game and click save. Email the match report to redcardreports@socalsoccerleague.org

Red Card/Double Yellow/Send Off Reporting Instructions

1. Both Teams collect Match Report at the end of the game from the referee.
2. Both Teams enter the Score and Red Card/Double Yellow/Send Offs/Head Injury immediately into GotSport.
3. If a Red Card/Double Yellow is issued, both teams must send a copy of the Match Report to redcardreports@socalsoccerleague.org with the MATCH # in the subject line.
4. A Player that receives a Red Card/Double Yellow on Saturday will automatically be suspended for the next match regardless of receiving a suspension notification.

How to Ensure a player is cleared after receiving a Red Card/Double Yellow/Send Off

1. Send a copy of the Match Report to redcardreports@socalsoccerleague.org after every game suspension served.
2. Enter the score in GotSport immediately after each game. The system will not clear the player unless the score is entered.

Suspensions

- The game in which a player, coach or parent is sent-off does not count in the suspension.
- Any suspended Player used during a game will be considered an illegal Player and the team, Coach and Club will be penalized accordingly, fines may apply.
- Players can not play for any SOCAL team while serving their suspension.
- Red cards do not carry over between League games and State Cup unless the suspension involves Referee Abuse.
- If a player is issued a suspension and the match is forfeited, rained out, game schedule changed or postponed for any reason the suspension will carry over to the next scheduled

match. If there are no matches remaining on the schedule for the player, the End of Season Carry Over Policy will apply.

- The suspensions will apply to the league game(s) immediately after the game in which the card is received.
- Coaches may not coach any team until his/her suspension is served.
- It is the team's and/or Club's responsibility to ensure their Red Carded Player/Coach/Spectator serves the applied game suspension(s). It is also their responsibility to ensure that their Player/Coach/Spectator serves any additional suspension determined by the Discipline Committee.

Coaches: Any coach send-off is 3-games, Club wide. No coaching of any team for 3 games including any other team they coach until the 3rd game has been served in which the card was issued. No other team can be coached during the suspension period.

Spectators: Any spectator send-off is a minimum 3 Game suspension.

Referee Abuse - By player, coach or spectators will be reviewed for appropriate length of suspension.

Coaches, Team Administrators and Spectators can be shown Yellow or Red Cards. SOCAL Soccer League Disciplinary Committee may increase the penalty as deemed necessary. All decisions made by SOCAL Discipline Committee are final.

End of Year Red Card Carryovers

Players, Coaches, or Spectators that receive a red card at the end of the season and they have NOT served their suspension will be carried over to the following year. If the player, spectator, or coach switches clubs the suspensions will follow them wherever they go. Suspensions MUST be served in the SOCAL Fall Season. State Cup or tournaments do NOT COUNT as serving the suspension. End of Year Carryovers will not prohibit player, coach, or spectator from participating in other tournaments including State Cup unless suspended by US Club as well.

US Club Soccer Discipline Matrix

These are the minimum suspensions that will apply. Additional suspension may be added by the SOCAL discipline committee.

DISCIPLINE MATRIX			
Offense	Player Minimum	Coach Minimum	Spectator Minimum
<p>Physical Assault (Major)</p> <p>Any intentional or attempted act or threat of physical violence, including but not limited to the following: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a person; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object that could inflict injury; damaging personal property, i.e., car, equipment, etc., putting hands on a referee, player, coach, spectator.</p> <p>Spectator: All of the above in addition to entering the field of play during/after a match.</p> <p>*See policy 531-9 for misconduct towards game officials. All referee assault and abuse must be sent to US Club Soccer.</p>	<p>3 games</p> <p>Any acts committed outside of game play are subject to a minimum suspension of 5 games.</p> <p>Handled at league level unless serious injury occurs.</p> <p>US Club Soccer to be notified of suspensions for physical assault.</p>	<p>3 months</p> <p>Report to US Club Soccer</p> <p>Suspended from all soccer activities pending US Club Soccer hearing.</p>	<p>1 year</p> <p>*Enforced by club and league</p>
<p>Physical Assault (Minor)</p> <p>Includes but is not limited to pushing, physical intimidation (i.e. nose to nose), instigating mass confrontation, spewing any beverage on personal property, spitting at (but not on) another player, coach, referee, or spectator.</p>	<p>1 game</p> <p>Any acts committed outside of game play are subject to a minimum suspension of 2 games.</p>	<p>6 games (first infraction)</p> <p>Report to US Club Soccer</p> <p>Suspended from all soccer activities pending US Club Soccer hearing.</p>	<p>1 year</p> <p>*Enforced by club and league</p>
<p>Verbal Abuse (Major)</p> <p>Using foul, abusive, profane, derogatory, or insulting language including but not limited to language based on age, religion, marital status, sex, ancestry, national origin, citizenship, veteran's status, pregnancy, disability, or sexual orientation.</p>	<p>2 games</p>	<p>6 games</p>	<p>6 games</p> <p>*Enforced by club and league</p>
<p>Verbal Abuse (Minor)</p> <p>Using foul, abusive, profane, derogatory, or insulting language towards opposition (player, coach, spectator).</p> <p>*See policy 531-9 for misconduct towards game officials</p>	<p>1 game</p>	<p>2 games</p>	<p>6 games</p> <p>*Enforced by club and league</p>
<p>Verbal Dissent</p> <p>Excessive arguing with opposition (player, coach, spectator).</p>	<p>1 game</p>	<p>2 games</p>	<p>1 game</p> <p>*Enforced by club and league</p>
<p>Racial Abuse</p> <p>Abusive and/or bigoted language or physical gestures based on race.</p>	<p>3 months</p> <p>Report to US Club Soccer</p> <p>Suspended from all soccer activities pending US Club Soccer hearing.</p>	<p>6 months</p> <p>Report to US Club Soccer</p> <p>Suspended from all soccer activities pending US Club Soccer hearing.</p>	<p>6 months</p> <p>*Enforced by club and league</p>



Red Card/Double Yellow Offenses

Card Codes for Reporting Purposes

Cautionable Offenses or Yellow Cards

- UB – Unsporting Behavior
- DT – Dissent
- PI – Persistent Infringement of Laws
- DR – Delay Restart
- FRD – Fails to Respect Distance
- E – Enter Field Improperly
- L – Leave Field Improperly

Send Off or Red Cards Offenses

- SFP – Serious Foul Play
 - VC – Violent Conduct
 - S – Spitting
 - DGH – Denies Goal Opportunity Handling
 - DGF -Denies Goal Opportunity Foul
 - AL – Abusive/Offensive Language
 - 2CT – Second Caution
 - IRB – Irresponsible Behavior - Coaches/Managers/Spectators
-

League Fines

The SOCAL League Office may impose the following fines:

- Fall League Team Drop Fee \$500 Plus Registration Fee
- Fall League Team Drop Fee \$1000 Plus Registration Fee
- Fall League Team Drop Fee \$2,000 Plus Registration Fee. (Not including Referee/Forfeit Fees)
- Fall League Drop Fine After Season starts - \$2000 plus Referee Fees 2 weeks

Additional Fines:

- Playing Illegal players: \$500 per instance
- Any game schedule changed after Tuesday at 12:00pm the week of a scheduled game will be subject to a forfeit fine. Forfeit Fines below.
- Failure to Report by Team Issued the Red Card/Double Yellow or Send Off Fine: \$200 per instance
- Issues involving parents from opposite teams that results in the game being terminated will result in the game being a double forfeit and the next scheduled game will also be forfeited for each team and a \$500 fine.
- Any club that does not complete any payment within 60 days will be subject to a late fee of 15%. Late fees will apply on Aug 8th for initial team registration.

Forfeits are charged to the club, not the team.

1st Club Offense: \$250

Clubs must notify the league before 12:00 pm the Tuesday before the game to avoid also paying the entire referees fee for the forfeited game.

2nd Club Offense: \$500 plus full referees fees. Club will pay the referee fee regardless of notification date.

No Show:

1st Club Offense: \$250 plus Club will pay referee fee.

2nd Club Offense: \$500 plus full referees fees. Club will pay the referee fee regardless of notification date. SOCAL will determine if the team needs to be removed from the league.

Fines Collected

- All fines and fees due to SOCAL Soccer League will be invoiced in GotSport and the credit card on file will be processed net 30 days. [How to Pay Invoice- GotSport](#)
- Fines collected by SOCAL will be added to the travel fund for teams qualifying for national events via SOCAL competitions, after the deduction of Referee fees or Field Rental Costs.

Links to FIFA and US Club Soccer

FIFA AND U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION:

- [FIFA Laws of the Game](#)
- [U.S. Soccer Federation Bylaws and Policies](#)

US CLUB SOCCER BYLAWS AND POLICIES:

- Bylaws (updated and effective Feb 7, 2024)
 - [Clean version](#)
 - [With redlines showing revisions made Feb 7, 2024](#)
- Policy Manual (updated Dec 15, 2021; effective Jan 1, 2022)
 - [Clean version](#)
 - [With redlines showing revisions made Dec 15, 2021](#)
 - [Participant Safety/Risk Management Policies](#) (consolidated document pulled from the overall Policy Manual)

Conclusion

This handbook serves as a comprehensive guide to the policies, procedures, and expectations for all participants within our organization. It is designed to promote a safe, fair, and respectful environment in alignment with our commitment to the highest standards of youth sportsmanship and conduct.

However, the SOCAL League Office reserves the right to make final determinations on any matter, including those not explicitly covered within this handbook. In cases of conflict, ambiguity, or situations that require discretion, the decision of the SOCAL League Office will supersede all guidelines set forth herein. This authority ensures that the league can adapt to unique circumstances while maintaining the integrity and objectives of the program.

The SOCAL League Office's decisions are final and binding, reflecting our dedication to upholding the core values and principles of youth soccer.

Last Revised: September 17, 2024