



# SOCAL STATE CUP HANDBOOK

2025



**A US CLUB SOCCER SANCTIONED EVENT**

## **Introduction**

Welcome to SOCAL State Cup 2025! 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 participant in this event, 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 participation in the SOCAL State Cup. Whether you are a new participant 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 the competition. We are committed to creating a positive atmosphere where players, coaches, referees, and families can be their best. 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 State Cup 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.

## **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**

**S**ervice

**O**ppportunity

**C**ommitment

**A**daptability

**L**eadership

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

## 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 Staff Contacts

Michelle Chesters	Executive Director	<a href="mailto:michelle@socalsoccerleague.org">michelle@socalsoccerleague.org</a>
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Bob Turner	Executive Director, San Diego	<a href="mailto:bob@socalsoccerleague.org">bob@socalsoccerleague.org</a>
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## State Cup Registration Information

State Cup YOUNGERS event will be for birth years 2018-2011

YOUNGERS Registration (2018 - 2011) will close at midnight, November 15, 2024

State Cup OLDERS event will be for birth years 2010 – 2006

OLDERS Registration (2010 - 2006) will close at midnight, February 15, 2025

### State Cup Registration Fees:

- 7 v 7 - \$850
- 9 v 9 - \$950
- 11 v 11 - \$1,150

### Division Descriptions:

#### Youngers (2018-2011)

- Super Cup - NPL, Flight 1, Outside Leagues

All NPL and Flight one teams must apply for Super Cup. Only Flight 1 teams with a PPG 1.0 or below may petition to play down in level.

- Elite Cup – Flight 2 Divisions

All Flight 2 teams must apply to play Elite Cup. Teams with a 2.5 PPG or higher can apply to play up in Super Cup (or may be moved up by the State Cup Committee). Flight 2 teams with a PPG 1.0 or below may petition to play down in level.

- Classic Cup – Flight 3 Divisions

All Flight 3 teams must apply to play Classic Cup. Teams with a 2.5 PPG or higher can apply to play up in Elite Cup (or may be moved up by the State Cup Committee). Flight 3 teams with a PPG 1.0 or below may petition to play down in level.

- Premier Cup – Flight 4 Divisions and Recreational.

All Flight 4 teams must apply to play Premier Cup. Teams with a 2.5 PPG or higher can apply to play up in Classic Cup (or may be moved up by the State Cup Committee).

#### Olders (2010-2006)

- Super Cup - NPL

All NPL and outside league teams must apply for Super Cup. Teams with a PPG 1.0 or below may petition to play down in level.

- Elite Cup – Flight 1 Divisions

All Flight 1 teams must apply to play Elite Cup. Teams with a 2.5 PPG or higher can apply to play up in Super Cup (or may be moved up by the State Cup Committee). Teams with a PPG 1.0 or below may petition to play down in level.

- Classic Cup – Flight 2 Divisions

All Flight 2 teams must apply to play Classic Cup. Teams with a 2.5 PPG or higher can apply to play up in Elite Cup (or may be moved up by the State Cup Committee). Teams with a PPG 1.0 or below may petition to play down in level.

- Premier Cup – Flight 3/4 Divisions and Recreational.

All Flight 3 and 4 teams must apply to play Premier Cup. Teams with a 2.5 PPG or higher can apply to play up in Classic Cup (or may be moved up by the State Cup Committee).

Team applications will be reviewed by the State Cup Committee for correct placement and to eliminate teams from playing down from their correct level of competition. Teams may be moved from the division that they apply to if the division is incorrect and does not match from what the team played in the fall.

All teams will still play based on their 2024/25 birth year and will play on the same size field as the fall 2024 season (unless you choose to play up in another age group where the field size is different. Ex: 2013 team playing 9v9 registers to play 2012 11v11 for State Cup).

Teams may play UP in birth year for State Cup should they wish to do so. However, any team that wishes to play UP in State Cup MUST register for the Super Cup Division of the birth year that they are playing up in.

## **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.

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## 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.



## 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.

## Team Management

In order to compete in SOCAL State Cup events, each team must have at least one team coach or manager whose duties may include, but are not limited to: printing Game Reports and providing them to the referees, referee payments, travel arrangements, reporting of scores, and communication with appropriate club officials. All team coaches or managers must have access to a current email address that is checked on a daily basis and a cell phone with an active voice mail 24 hours per day.

## Appeal Process for playing down in State Cup Level of Competition

ONLY the DOC(s) of a Club may submit ALL appeals for any team that wishes to be reviewed to play down in Level of Competition, **not age group**.

Appeals will not be accepted from coaches, managers or other team contacts.

- ❖ **YOUNGERS APPEAL:** GotSport Link - NO LATER THAN Friday, **November 15, 2024**.
  - Requests will be reviewed, all appeals with the State Cup Committee and will provide decisions to your appeals by November 15, 2024.
  - The DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR YOUNGERS STATE CUP IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2024. **This deadline will NOT be extended.** By providing appeals decisions back to you by November 10, this will allow your teams to get registered in the approved Level of Competition for State Cup.
- ❖ **OLDERS APPEAL: Complete the Petition to Play Down form via the** GotSport Link NO LATER THAN Friday, **February 15, 2025**.
  - Requests will be reviewed, all appeals with the State Cup Committee and will provide decisions to your appeals by February 15, 2025.
  - The DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR OLDERS STATE CUP IS WEDNESDAY, February 15, 2025. **This deadline will NOT be extended.** Appeals decisions will be communicated back to your Club DOC by February 13 which will allow your team to get registered in the approved Level of Competition for State Cup.

## Petition to Play Down

Teams that would like to petition to play down in a State Cup division can do so by completing the Petition to Play Down Form. All Teams should register for State Cup before they complete the Petition to Play Down Form.

Only teams with a PPG of 1.0 and below may petition to be considered to play down in level for State Cup. Not all petitions received from teams with a PPG of 1.0 and below are guaranteed to be accepted by the State Cup committee.

- **Youngers (2018-2011) Petition Deadline: November 15, 2024**
- **Olders (2010-2006) Petition Deadline: February 15, 2025**

## Play Dates

All play dates are posted on the [State Cup website](#). Playdates are subject to change.

## Rescheduling Games

There will be no State Cup rescheduling of games based on club/team requests. SOCAL reserves the right to reschedule games at its discretion.

## League-to-Club Communication

- Communication will come from SOCAL 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.
- **All communication to any SOCAL Staff member regarding a game MUST include the Game # in the subject line of the email.**
- 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 from a designated Club Officials for review and, if necessary, the Club Official may reach out to a SOCAL staff member for assistance.

## State Cup Venues

SOCAL State Cup games will be held at Galway Downs, Silverlakes, SoCal Sports Complex and/or Surf Sports Park. State Cup games are not played in a home/away venue format and will be played at any of the four venues listed.

## Parking Fees

Parking Fees will apply at Galway Downs, Silverlakes, SoCal Sports Complex and Surf Sports Park. **View Venue Parking Fees [HERE](#).**

## Field Rules

- NO animals of any kind are allowed on the sideline or behind goals at any SOCAL State Cup game
- NO artificial noise makers such as drums, air horns, drones etc. are allowed
- NO Alcohol
- NO Illegal Drugs
- NO Firearms or Weapons of any kind are allowed at any SOCAL State Cup Game

## State Cup Deadlines

### YOUNGERS (2018 - 2011)

- **Registration (2018 - 2011) will close at midnight, November 15, 2024**
- **Transfer Deadline (CUP-TIE DATE) (2018 - 2011) - December 1, 2024**
- **Roster Freeze** - Rosters will be frozen and players may not be added to State Cup rosters after this date.
  - **7v7** - January 22, 2025
  - **9v9** - January 29, 2025
  - **11v11** - February 19, 2025

### OLDERS (2010 - 2006)

- **Registration (2010 - 2006) will close at midnight, February 15, 2025**
- **Transfer Deadline (CUP-TIE DATE) (2010 - 2006) - February 15, 2025**
- **Roster Freeze (2010 - 2006 BOYS) - March 12, 2025** - Rosters will be frozen and players may not be added to State Cup rosters after this date.
- **Roster Freeze (2010 - 2006 GIRLS) - March 19, 2025** - Rosters will be frozen and players may not be added to State Cup rosters after this date.

## Player Releases/Transfers/Cup-Tie

The Transfer Deadline (CUP-TIE DATE) applies to existing SOCAL players moving from SOCAL club to SOCAL club.

Players may only play State Cup for one club. Players registered to teams in other leagues may not 'guest play' for a SOCAL team that is in State Cup.

### Cup-tied players

Players that are on a roster prior to the Transfer/Cup-Tie Deadline are cup-tied to that team and may not move between teams, or clubs, after that date

#### **If your 2024 league team is NOT playing State Cup:**

You are considered 'free' to release and transfer to another club/team that is participating in State Cup and the Transfer Deadline/Cup-Tie Dates do not apply but you must be on a team roster by the established Roster Freeze Date.

#### **If your 2024 league team IS participating in State Cup:**

You are cup-tied to that club/team until State Cup is over if the Transfer Deadline/Cup-Tie Date has passed. You can certainly 'release' from your team but you may NOT transfer to another team which means you may not play State Cup for anyone.

Find the complete SOCAL Transfer Policy [HERE](#).

## **SOCAL State Cup Competition 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.

**All decisions made by SOCAL Discipline Committee and SOCAL League Administration are final.**

### **Coach, Manager and Club Staff Registration and Requirements**

All Club staff including Coaches, Managers and Staff must all complete the US Club requirements and SOCAL Requirements in GotSport. All staff must be registered with US Club Soccer each year. All Coaches and Managers must have a current US Club passcard.

### **US Club Soccer Staff Requirements**

US Club Background Check

Annual SafeSport

Submit Disqualification-Suspension Review

### **SOCAL Requirements**

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Heads Up - Concussion Training

SOCAL Coaching License - Coaches Only

### **Player Registration**

All Players MUST be registered through GotSport according to US Club Soccer rules with a current US Club player passcard for the club they are playing State Cup with.

### **US Club Soccer Player Passcards**

All Team's must have their US Club Player passcards on hand during State Cup. Digital ID's or photos of player passcards are allowed. All assigned and approved managers and coaches are able to access Virtual ID's in GotSport.

Only players who are listed on the official SOCAL GotSport/Match Report, by the published Roster Freeze Date for each age group, will be eligible to play in SOCAL State Cup matches.

## 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
Goalkeeper	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Playing Time	2x30	2x30	2x30	2x35	2x40	2x45
Half-Time	5 mins	5 mins	5 mins	5 mins	5 mins	5 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.					
11v11 Super Cup Substitution Rule	N/A			3 moments per half. Re-entry allowed. Half-time does not count as a moment		
Fouls (free kicks)	Indirect & Direct Free Kicks					
Free-Kick clearance	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				



## State Cup Roster Rules

- ❖ Rosters are frozen as of the published roster freeze dates. Any player that is rostered on a State Cup team is **"Cup-Tied"** to that team per the Roster Freeze date and may not play for any other team that they do not appear on the roster.
- ❖ No GUEST players from other clubs than the registered club or players with cards from other sanctioning bodies are allowed to play in State Cup
- ❖ A player can only be rostered to a team in their birth year OR an older birth year. A player CANNOT be rostered on two teams in the same birth year, no matter the level of cup competition. A player cannot play down in birth year.
- ❖ A player can be rostered on no more than two (2) teams. A player may only play for **ONE TEAM PER DAY**.
- ❖ A player may play UP in birth year on another team in State Cup and still play for their own team.
  - (Ex: A 2007 player plays State Cup on their own 2007 team and may also play State Cup for a 2006 team. OR, a player is a true 2007 birth year player already playing up on a 2006 team. The player may play on a team in their own birth year and their existing 2006 team.)
  - However, a player may only play for **ONE TEAM PER DAY** so if the 2006 and 2007 birth years are playing on the same day, the player can only play for one team and must be crossed off of the Game Report for the other team.

## Match Reports

Match Report will be available for printing after the Roster Freeze Deadline. Home and Away teams will be responsible for providing 3 copies of the match report for referees. Both teams must enter the score for the game immediately after the game. Teams are encouraged to check their Match Reports immediately after the Roster Freeze deadline to ensure all players are displayed on the Match Report.

## Point System

All SOCAL State Cup games shall operate under the following point system:

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

## GotSport Pin# located on Match Report.

## Forfeit Scoring

Forfeits will be scored 0-1 against the forfeiting team. 15-minute Grace Period of late teams before forfeit will be determined.

## Ties

- If a State Cup pool play game is tied after regulation, the tie stands and will be posted as a tie.
- Elimination round games ending in a tie at the end of regulation will go straight to kicks

from the mark.

### **Goal Cap (new for 2025 State Cup)**

**For all birth years and all levels of competition - a Goal Cap of an 8 goal differential between winning and losing teams will apply effective State Cup 2025. Teams may still post the final score as listed on the Game Report but a cap of 8 goal differential will be applied towards standings to eliminate scores being run up to advance from pool play. Ex: Team A beats Team B 15-3 and records the score as 15-3 in GotSport after the game. The system will apply the score as 11-3 and only the 8 goal differential will apply to standings.**

### **Tie Breakers**

In case of a tie on points in the standings within State Cup pool play, the following will be used as tiebreakers:

1. "Head to head" points (win/lose/draw) between teams
2. Overall Goal Differential with 8 goal differential cap per game
3. Goals for
4. Goals against
5. Most shutouts
6. Fewest red cards
7. Coin toss

If more than two teams are tied, tie-breaker #1 does not apply. Start with tie-breaker #2 until a winner is determined. The tie-breaking procedure does not revert to previous criteria if one team is eliminated.

### **Wild Cards**

See your specific schedule for how many, if any, wild cards would advance from your specific birth year/level of cup competition. This will vary depending on the number of teams in each level of competition.

### **Wild Card Exception:**

- Brackets with groups of 4 and 5 will have wildcards determined on PPG and not total points due to the brackets of 5 playing 1 more game than the brackets of 4.

### **State Cup Standings**

- ❖ Scores and standings are posted in all divisions.
- ❖ Trophies and medals are presented to Champions and Finalists in all divisions.

### **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 staff 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 staff passcard from the Club in which they are may cover for a coach in an emergency situation.

## Spectator Seating

- ❖ ALL spectators from a team are to sit on the same side of the field as their players.
- ❖ Coaches are responsible for the spectators on their team.
- ❖ Spectators are not to commingle with spectators from the opposing team.
- ❖ For State Cup games, spectators MUST sit on the OPPOSITE side of mid-field from the AR on their side of the field.
- ❖ Spectators may NOT sit, stand, watch or record on the sideline that the AR is running.
- ❖ Spectators may NOT sit, stand, watch or record behind the goal area.

## Sideline Behavior

SOCAL will not tolerate inappropriate sideline behavior during SOCAL State Cup games. On-site SOCAL staff have the authority to remove individual spectators, multiple spectators, full sidelines or terminate a game if they believe the situation warrants it. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of themselves, their players and their spectators. There is a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY in place for sideline behavior.

## Team Roster Limits - See SOCAL Soccer Guideline Matrix for Roster Details

- ❖ **For 11v11 games (not including 2008/2007/2006):** Only 18 players may be dressed for a match. The 18 players must be on the official Match Report given to the Field Marshall, 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 be set as inactive players in GotSport. Any additional player(s) on the bench may not be in uniform.
- ❖ **For 2008/2007/2006 teams:** 20 players may be dressed for a match and may play in each match. The 20 players must be on the official Match Report given to the Field Marshall, 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 be set as inactive players in GotSport. Any additional player(s) on the bench may not be in uniform.
- ❖ **For 9v9 games:** Only 16 players may be dressed for the match and participate in the match. Any additional players above the limits above may not be in uniform if they are on the bench.
- ❖ **For 7v7 games:** Only 12 players may be dressed for the match and participate in the match. Any additional players above the limits above may not be in uniform if they are on the bench.

## Substitutions

### 2011 and younger: All levels of competition Substitution Rules

- ❖ 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 by either team are allowed at any stoppage of play with the permission of the Referee. Referees will be instructed not to allow substitutions that are deemed

“excessive” or of a “time-wasting” nature. Please be respectful of the integrity of the game and do not use the free substitution rules as a means to disrupt the match.

### **2012 and older - SUPER CUP & SUPER CUP II**

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ **Each team is allowed 3 moments per half to substitute. Half-time substitutions do not count as a moment.**

### **Exceptions for 2012 and older Super Cup & Super Cup II Substitution Rule:**

- ❖ Exception #1 to the above as it applies to Goalkeepers (if there is an injury, sickness, etc. and a GK is unable to continue, teams can substitute that GK with another GK even if they have already substituted their GK, or out of stoppages or both).
- ❖ Exception #2 is for suspected concussions. The player may come off the field to be evaluated by on-site Athletic Trainer and, if deemed ok to return to the game, the player may return to the game and not be counted as a substitute

### **2012 and older - Elite Cup, Premier Cup and Classic Cup Substitution Rules**

- ❖ 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 by either team are allowed at any stoppage of play with the permission of the Referee. Referees will be instructed not to allow substitutions that are deemed “excessive” or of a “time-wasting” nature. Please be respectful of the integrity of the game and do not use the free substitution rules as a means to disrupt the match.

## **GoalKeepers**

**GOALKEEPERS MAY PLAY FOR 2 TEAMS ON THE SAME DAY ONLY IF THEY ARE PLAYING UP IN AGE. THEY MUST PLAY IN THE GOAL (NOT ON THE FIELD) FOR BOTH TEAMS AND THE GK CAN PLAY NO MORE THAN 2 GAMES ON THE SAME DAY.**

Meaning - a GK can play for 2 teams (one being his own birth year and one being an older birth year) however, the GK cannot play in more than 2 games in a day.

Remember, no player, including a GK, can be on more than TWO rosters and both rosters must be in different age groups.

As an example; a 2012 player (including GKs) can NOT play in 2012 Super Cup and 2012 Elite Cup. The player can play 2012 Elite cup and 2011 Super Cup.

Another example; a 2011 GK is on a team that plays 2 games on Saturday but he is also rostered to a 2010 team that plays on Saturday. In order to stay within the limits of the rule, he can play ONE of the two games with the 2011 team and then the ONE game with the 2010 team.

Or, if a player played in GOAL for the first game of their 2 games on the same day and played on the field for their second game, the player has maxed out their two games in one day limit and can NOT play as a field player OR GK for any other team that day.

This communication is being sent out to give those teams struggling with GK situations a chance to add GKs to their roster, from within their own club, to their State Cup roster before the Roster Freeze deadline.

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## SOCAL State Cup Game Day Procedures

### Online Team Check-In Process

All rosters must be completed in GotSport by the Roster Freeze Deadline. At this point, rosters will be locked in GotSport and no more players will be permitted to be added for the event.

All rosters will be verified and checked-in by SOCAL staff in GotSport on Thursday and Friday to ensure that all teams have players present on them, and that players are eligible. In order to appear on the team's match report, players must have current US Club Soccer passcards.

Additional players must be lined out on the match report to decrease the team's roster to the correct maximum Game Day Roster allowed for your age group.

**As we will be verifying rosters prior to the event, there will be no need to check-in at the facility that you play.** Referees will be checking that each team has no more than the max roster amount and that there are **NO WRITE IN players on the game card unless approved and written in by SOCAL Field Marshal.**

Home and Away teams will be responsible for providing 3 copies of the match report for referees. After the game the home team, away team and referee should all keep a copy for their records. Both teams must enter the score for the game immediately after the game.

Should a question regarding the rosters arise at the field, please do not hesitate to come to the SOCAL Headquarters tent at your venue for assistance.

### Referee Fees

Referee Fees are due to the Referee Crew before the start of each game. Each team is responsible for half of the Referee Fees and should come prepared with their portion of the fees in cash in exact denomination on the field according to the referee fees posted on the SOCAL State Cup website. **View the 2024-25 State Cup Referee Fees [HERE](#).**

### Pre-Game Field Check In

**All player jersey numbers must be entered in GotSport by the Roster Freeze Date for your age group. [How To Enter Jersey Numbers](#)**

### Pre-Game

1. SOCAL will provide benches for both teams. Tents will be provided, weather permitting.
2. Both teams must submit player and coach/staff passcards to the referee prior to the start of the match so that players and staff can be checked in against the Match Report.
3. Both teams must provide 3 copies of the Match Report to the referee before the match, the Home team must submit the Match Report to referees prior to the game.
4. Each team will pay 1/2 of the established Referee Fees for each game before the game.
- 5. The Home Team will wear a LIGHT colored Jersey. The Away team will wear their DARK colored jersey. Away teams must change jerseys if the referee deems a color conflict.**

6. Home team kicks off in the 1st half and the away team chooses the direction to defend for the 1st half. Away team kicks off in the second half and the home team defends the opposite end from the 1st half.

### **Post-Game**

1. Both teams sign all 3 copies of the Match Reports. Each team will keep a copy and the referee will retain a copy.
1. Both teams should collect their player and coach cards from the referee after the game.
2. Both teams MUST report the score immediately after each game. GotSport Pin# located on Match Report.
3. A copy of the Match Reports MUST be given to the SOCAL Headquarters after every match if a Red Card is issued by the team that received the Red Card.
4. Reds Cards MUST also be reported in GotSport.

## Heading Policy

### Heading Rule

For U11 (2014) 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 (2014) 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.*

### 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.

### Head Injury and SCA - No Re-Entry Protocol

In accordance with the CDC and 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 or AB 2007 as an individual who is trained in the evaluation and management of concussions or SCA and is acting within the scope of the provider's practice for evaluation and management of concussions, other head injuries or SCA.

### Reporting Head Injuries

On-site athletic trainers will be available and will record any suspected head injuries. Team managers/coaches must report all suspected head injuries within 24 hours in the GotSport Scoring and SOCAL Soccer League must be notified within 24 hours of injury. The Match Report stating the head injury must be given to the On-Site Field Marshall and must also be sent to [headinjuryreports@socalsoccerleague.org](mailto:headinjuryreports@socalsoccerleague.org)

### Clearing Head Injuries

On-Site athletic trainers are able to clear a player to return to play, if they determine the player does not show symptoms of a concussion. If a player is not cleared by an On-Site Athletic Trainer 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. All Medical Clearance letters must be sent to [headinjuryreports@socalsoccerleague.org](mailto: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 unless properly protected according to the referee. Players will be allowed to play in a soft cast at the discretion of the Referee.

### Long Fingernails

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(e.g, knee, elbow)

It is strongly recommended for the safety of the player. Braces are allowed as long as the Referee decides that the brace will not or cannot hurt the player wearing the brace or any other player. All metal, metal-like, or plastic brace supports are to be properly covered for the duration of the match. 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.

## **SOCAL STATE CUP - Discipline Guidelines**

### **Administrator Red Cards/Double Yellow Cards/Forfeits Red Cards**

#### **Coaches, Team Administrators and Spectators can be shown Yellow or Red Cards**

- ❖ Coaches/Managers/Spectators that are sent off a field and are not shown a red card by the referee are still considered a Red Card Send off and MUST be reported to SOCAL Official On Site Field Marshals.
- ❖ 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 click save. Email the match report to [redcardreports@socalsoccerleague.org](mailto:redcardreports@socalsoccerleague.org)

### **Emergency Coach**

- ❖ If there is no properly licensed coach affiliated with the Club present during the entire game, the manager may finish coaching 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 and the referee will terminate the match. Any coach sent off must be out of sight and sound before, during and after the game.
- ❖ In emergency situations, anyone associated with the Club and has the appropriate license may coach the game and a current US Club passcard with the same Club.

### **Reporting Instructions for Managers and Coaches**

1. Collect Match Report at the end of the game from the referee.
2. Enter the Score and Red Card/Double Yellow/Head Injury immediately into GotSport.
3. If a Red Card/Double Yellow is issued, managers or coaches must give the Match Report to the On-Site field Marshall immediately after the match.

### **How to Ensure a player is cleared after receiving a Red Card**

1. Take a photo of the Match Report and email a copy of the Match Report showing the suspension game served with the lined out player to [redcardreports@socalsoccerleague.org](mailto:redcardreports@socalsoccerleague.org) after every game suspension served.
2. Enter the score in GotSport immediately after each suspension game. The system will not clear the player unless the score is entered.

### **Referees Reporting Process for Red Cards/Double Yellows**

In any game where a Red Card, Double Yellow or Coach/Manager/Spectator Send Off is issued, the Referee must complete a USSF Supplemental Report and Match Report. The referee should give the collected player/coach card, USSF Supplemental Report, and Match Report to the SOCAL Representative on-site at the State Cup venue along with the USSF Supplemental Report and submit it via email to [redcardreports@socalsoccerleague.org](mailto:redcardreports@socalsoccerleague.org).

## Incomplete/ Abandoned/ Terminated 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.

### 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 League 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 of 0-1 against their team. **All decisions made by SOCAL are final.**

## Illegal Player/Falsification of Documents

A team shall forfeit each and every game in which:

1. An unregistered player played with the Club in the game.
2. A player was improperly entered on the team's roster.
3. Any infraction of State Cup rules.
4. A player 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.

**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 State Cup with any team or Club and in addition can be subject to a Trial Board hearing.**

### **Violation of State Cup 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 & Code of Ethics, or for any action or conduct not in the best interest of the game or SOCAL Soccer League. Any breach of SOCAL Rules outlined in this Handbook should be reported to the State Cup Commissioner [colin@socalsoccerleague.org](mailto:colin@socalsoccerleague.org) All reports of violations may only be reported by a Club's Director of Coaching or President. All decisions made by the SOCAL Discipline Committee and SOCAL League Administration are final.

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

If a coach is sent off for irresponsible behavior he/she is unable to coach any team in their Club for 3 playdates 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. No coaching of any team for 3 games of the team that the red card occurred with. No other team can be coached during the suspension period.**

### **Suspensions**

- The game in which a player, coach or spectator is sent-off does **NOT** count in the suspension.
- Any player, coach or spectator violating the terms of the suspension during a suspension will be considered an Illegal Player/Coach and the team, Coach and Club will be punished accordingly.
- Players cannot play for **any** SOCAL State Cup team while serving their suspension.
- Red cards do not carry over between League games and State Cup games unless the suspension involves Referee Abuse or US Club Soccer.

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.

The Player/Coach/Spectator shall serve the suspension with the team with whom the violation occurred. Players or coaches may not compete or coach for another team within SOCAL until their suspension is served in full.

### **Protests**

Referee decisions will not be overturned and may not be appealed. Video or images will not be reviewed to support any argument for overturning a referee decision.

- ❖ Protests will only be reviewed when applicable to rule violations.

Any situation not covered in the SOCAL State Cup Handbook will be reviewed by SOCAL Staff for a decision. Any questions regarding the SOCAL State Cup should be directed to [statecup@socalsoccerleague.org](mailto:statecup@socalsoccerleague.org). **All decisions made by SOCAL State Cup Discipline Committee or State Cup Officials are final.**

### State Cup Team Drop Fines

The SOCAL State Cup may impose the following fines:

- State Cup Team Drop Fee \$500 Plus Registration Fee
- State Cup Team Drop Fee \$1,000 Plus Registration Fee
- State Cup Team Drop Fee \$2,000 Plus Registration Fee. (Not including Referee/Forfeit Fees)
- State Cup Team Drop Fine After Competition starts - \$2,000 plus Referee Fees 2 weeks

### Additional Fines:

- Playing Illegal players: \$500 per instance
- 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

For the SOCAL State Cup, the forfeit policy, depending on the situation, may include a forfeit-one-forfeit-all policy. (Ex: team wants to forfeit one game for lack of enough players. This would be a forfeit-one-forfeit-all). (Ex2: A team plays a player in the second game of the day. This would be a forfeit the second game of the day that the player played in. NOT a forfeit-one-forfeit-all). The State Cup Commissioner and staff will make the determination of which situations are forfeit the individual game only OR forfeit-one-forfeit-all. Drop fines and forfeit fees will apply.


### 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.

## US Club Soccer Discipline Matrix

These are the minimum suspensions that will apply. Additional suspension may be added by the SOCAL discipline committee. **NEW POLICY EFFECTIVE 3/1/25 - The US Soccer Federation has implemented an UPDATED Referee Abuse Policy (policy 531-9) which supersedes any of the minimum suspensions below in the US Club Soccer Discipline Matrix.**

See page 31 in this Handbook for the US Soccer Federation Policy 531-9

DISCIPLINE MATRIX			
			
Offense	Player Minimum	Coach Minimum	Spectator Minimum
<b>Physical Assault (Major)</b> 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. <b>Spectator:</b> All of the above in addition to entering the field of play during/after a match. *See policy 531-9 for misconduct towards game officials. All referee assault and abuse must be sent to US Club Soccer.	<b>3 games</b> Any acts committed outside of game play are subject to a minimum suspension of <b>5 games</b> . Handled at league level unless serious injury occurs. US Club Soccer to be notified of suspensions for physical assault.	<b>3 months</b> Report to US Club Soccer Suspended from all soccer activities pending US Club Soccer hearing.	<b>1 year</b> *Enforced by club and league
<b>Physical Assault (Minor)</b> 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.	<b>1 game</b> Any acts committed outside of game play are subject to a minimum suspension of <b>2 games</b> .	<b>6 games</b> (first infraction) Report to US Club Soccer Suspended from all soccer activities pending US Club Soccer hearing.	<b>1 year</b> *Enforced by club and league
<b>Verbal Abuse (Major)</b> 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.	<b>2 games</b>	<b>6 games</b>	<b>6 games</b> *Enforced by club and league
<b>Verbal Abuse (Minor)</b> Using foul, abusive, profane, derogatory, or insulting language towards opposition (player, coach, spectator). *See policy 531-9 for misconduct towards game officials	<b>1 game</b>	<b>2 games</b>	<b>6 games</b> *Enforced by club and league
<b>Verbal Dissent</b> Excessive arguing with opposition (player, coach, spectator).	<b>1 game</b>	<b>2 games</b>	<b>1 game</b> *Enforced by club and league
<b>Racial Abuse</b> Abusive and/or bigoted language or physical gestures based on race.	<b>3 months</b> Report to US Club Soccer Suspended from all soccer activities pending US Club Soccer hearing.	<b>6 months</b> Report to US Club Soccer Suspended from all soccer activities pending US Club Soccer hearing.	<b>6 months</b> *Enforced by club and league

## US Soccer Referee Abuse Prevention Policy 531-9

This policy supersedes the disciplinary matrix provided by US Club Soccer when applicable.



### REFEREE ABUSE PREVENTION

#### POLICY 531-9 PENALTY OVERVIEW / YOUTH & AMATEUR

The Penalties Matrix defines consequences associated with physical and non-physical offenses against Referees.

NON-PHYSICAL* OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Insulting, Belittling, Insinuating or Taunting Behavior Undermining Referee Authority	2	
Harassment, Intimidation, Retaliation, Abusive, or Threatening (Non Physical) Language	4	
Aggression, Attacking, Derogatory, Cyberbullying, Doxing or Threatening (Physical / Violence) Language	6	6 - 24 Months
Offensive or Discriminatory Act	10	12 - 24 Months

Effective March 2025

For more information, visit: [USSOCCER.COM/RAP](https://ussoccer.com/RAP)

PHYSICAL* OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Minor or Slight Deliberate Touching	3	1 - 6 Months
Pushing, Grabbing, Pulling, Squeezing, Pinching, Lightly Slapping, Use of Object in Non Striking Manner, or Physical Property Damage	10	6 - 24 Months
Hitting, Punching, Elbowing, Kicking, Biting, Spitting, Choking, Tackling, Throwing or Use of Object or Any Part of Body (Forearm, Knee, Head) in a Striking Manner		12 Months - Lifetime

(\*) **Disclaimer:** These are only a few examples of abuse – other actions or statements may also fall into this category.



**LEARN MORE**  
Get the details and full policy



**RESPECT  
THE CALL**

Effective March 2025

For more information, visit: [USSOCCER.COM/RAP](https://ussoccer.com/RAP)

## Yellow and Red Card/ Double Yellow Offenses

*Card Codes are 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 Suspensions

- **SFP** – Serious Foul Play - 1 Game
- **VC** – Violent Conduct - 3 Games (will be reviewed for additional suspension)
- **S** – Spitting - 3 Games (will be reviewed for additional suspension)
- **DGH** – Denies Goal Opportunity Handling - 1 Game
- **DGF** -Denies Goal Opportunity Foul - 1 Game
- **AL** – Abusive/Offensive Language - 1 Game (will be reviewed based on offense)
- **2CT** – Second Caution - 1 Game
- **IRB** – Irresponsible Behavior - Coaches/Managers/Spectators

**Coaches** - Any coach send-off is a minimum 3 Game Club wide suspension. No coaching of any team until the suspension is served for the team that the red card occurred with.

**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 State Cup Committee may increase the penalty as deemed necessary. All decisions made by the SOCAL State Cup Committee are final.**



## 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](#)
- [Referee Abuse Prevention Policy 531-9](#)

### 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)

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## 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 State Cup Committee 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 State Cup Committee will supersede all guidelines set forth herein. This authority ensures that the competition can adapt to unique circumstances while maintaining the integrity and objectives of the event.

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

Revised - April 3, 2025