



California State Soccer Association – South RULES & REGULATIONS

Reviewed & Amended April 2022

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RULES & REGULATIONS

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1. Players

1.1. Youth Players

A youth player means an individual who has not reached nineteen (19) years of age prior to August 1 immediately before the start of any seasonal year. A player who reaches 19 years of age during a seasonal year is allowed to complete the seasonal year. A player who reaches 19 years of age during August of one seasonal year shall be allowed to complete all the next seasonal year.

1.2 Adult Players

A person who is not a Youth (i.e., a person who has reached the age of nineteen (19) prior to August 1 of the Seasonal Year).

1.3. Proof of Age

1.3.1. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173) issued by the Uniformed Services of the United States, a birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency or board of health records, a passport, an alien registration card issued by the United States Government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, a current driver's license, or a certification of a United States citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted. Players must use their full first name and last name, as shown on the proof of age document, on all registration materials. (USYSA Rule 204)

1.3.2. Reproductions or photocopies of documents that have not been officially certified by the issuing government agency will not be accepted.

1.3.3. Cal South or any League of Cal South may request proof of age to be established. Copies of the written request to be directed to the appropriate League or other Administrative Authority. Proof of age shall be presented within forty-eight (48) hours of the presentation of such a written request. Failure to respond to such request shall result in the immediate suspension of the player and Affiliate involved, with forfeiture of all league games in which that player participated.

1.4. Registration Procedures

1.4.1. Youth players are registered for a seasonal year from the moment the player or the player's representative executes the registration and pays the appropriate fees. (USYSA Rule 201 Section 3)

1.4.1.1. Leagues with a Fall playing season must enter and accept players into Cal South's current registration system for the new seasonal year by September 1 of the same year.

1.4.2. Registration Fees

1.4.2.1. The Cal South Board of Directors shall annually establish the player registration fees for affiliated members and shall give notice to all members of any change in the fees not later than December 15th of the preceding seasonal year.

1.4.2.2. Leagues with a Fall playing, Spring and/or other season must submit player registration fees to the Cal South Corporate Office on receipt of billing invoice and/or statement. A late fee shall apply to all youth recreational players entered and accepted into the Cal South current registration system for the new seasonal year after August 31st of the same year.

1.4.2.3. Failure to submit required registration fees may result in sanctions, suspension, or fines.

1.4.2.4. A Youth Player may play up in age. If players are four (4) years or more beyond the player's proper birth date age division, the parent/legal guardian of the player will be required to execute an additional Waiver and Release of Liability prior to approval. Players 12 and under must follow USYSA Heading Rule 305, Section 3:

Section 3. All players age 10 years of age and under shall not head the ball directly from the air in any match or competition, nor shall these players practice heading the ball in any organized team setting. If a player age 10 or younger deliberately heads the ball in a match, the referee shall award an indirect free kick to the opposing team at the spot of the infraction. If the heading occurs within the penalty area, the referee shall move the ball outside the penalty area and award an indirect free kick to the opposing team.

Players age 11 and age 12 shall be permitted to head the ball in any match or competition. These players may practice heading the ball in an organized team practice or skill session, but coaches shall monitor this practice so that no single player heads the ball more than 25 times per week, regardless of setting.

Players age 13 and older shall be permitted to head the ball in any match or competition and these players may practice heading the ball in an organized team practice or skill session.

1.4.2.5. A Recreational Youth Player may play down in age by one year if approved pursuant to the established requirements of the Cal South Youth Medical Play Down Policy.

1.4.2.6. Every team shall have a team roster and will present a game roster for every match or competition.

1.4.2.7. Refer to the PDI (Player Development Initiative) Matrix posted on the Cal South website.

1.5. Roster Size Limits.

Each competition can set roster size limits.

USYSA Rule 101. Section 2, Definitions

(3) “game roster” means the list of players who will participate in a particular competition.

(9) “team roster” means a list of registered players eligible to play for a team.

1.5.1. Use of Ineligible Players (USYSA Rule 209) and Falsification of records, documents, player identification passes, or in any other matters or manner, shall be grounds for immediate suspension from further participation and membership in Cal South or any League, team, or club pending a hearing.

USYSA Rule 209. Use of ineligible players.

A team shall forfeit each game of the team in which - (1) an unregistered player was with the team at the game in a (team) uniform; or (2) a player was improperly entered on the team’s roster.

1.5.2. Each Affiliate Member shall be responsible for ensuring the proper registration of players as designated by the Cal South Rules and Regulations.

1.5.3. Current year administrator passes are valid with any team within the club or league that the administrator has registered through, at any competition sanctioned by Cal South.

1.6. Player Release and Transfer

1.6.1. Player Rostering: Any player registered and rostered to a team activated on the Cal South Online Registration System (“Online Registration System”) is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless the player requests a release or is released involuntarily in accordance with these rules.

1.6.2. A player may be released from a team involuntarily only if the player is unable to play for one of the following reasons: 1) the player has violated rules of USSF, USYSA or Cal South; 2) the player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance (Determination of what constitutes reasonable travel distance is subject to definition by Cal South); or 3) the player is injured in such a manner that the player will not be able to participate for the remainder of the playing season.

1.6.2.1. A player request for those players under the age of 18 requires a parent/guardian initiating the release on behalf of his or her minor child.

1.6.2.2. A "release" may include a release from the team into the district drop pool, with no intent to continue playing or a release associated with a transfer to another team ("release with transfer"). A release without any corresponding transfer is governed by rule 1.6.3.4. A release with transfer is governed by rule 1.6.4.

1.6.3. Player Movement and Fall Roster Freeze: Players may be released from a team and/or may transfer to a new team in accordance with competition rules.

1.6.3.1. Competition Leagues, (Recreational, Competitive etc.) may have more restrictive Rules and/or policies regarding a Release and Transfer.

1.6.3.2. Registrars processing Releases and/or Transfers must respect the Competitive Leagues' Release and Transfer Policies.

1.6.3.3. All dates and times for player registrations, releases, and transfers will be determined, managed, and tracked through Cal South's Online Registration System.

1.6.3.4. Player Release without an Accompanying Transfer: A player requesting a straight release or a release from an activated team into the drop pool shall be responsible for initiating an electronic release through the Online Registration System. A completed electronic release shall have approvals of the parent/guardian, releasing League Registrar and Cal South. The procedures for initiating a release are set forth on the Cal South website at www.calsouth.com.

1.6.4. Release with Transfer Procedure: A player requesting a release with a transfer to a team shall be responsible for initiating an electronic release with transfer through the Online Registration System. The release with transfer must be initiated by the player through their parent/guardian or may be initiated by another person only upon the expressed written consent of the player through their parent/guardian. The written consent must be evidenced by an email or written document authorizing the initiation of a release with transfer.

1.6.4.1. A release request may be classified as pending, approved, or contested. The competition authority will make the determination on the release and transfer timeline.

1.6.4.2. If marked "Contested" by the Registrar, the release will be considered "inactive" and may be reinitiated by the player's parent or guardian.

1.6.4.3. Drop Pool: Players who are released from a team without an accompanying electronic transfer may enter the "drop pool" of the district in which the player was last registered. Cal South shall have the authority to provide players in the district 'drop pool' a "tournament pool" card valid for ninety (90) days to be used for loaning the players to registered teams without the need for a transfer. Players requesting to leave the "drop pool" shall complete an electronic transfer.

1.6.5. The Player Pass is the expressed property of Cal South.

1.7. Loan/Guest Player

A loan/guest player is defined as a registered player participating in a competition for a team to which the player is not rostered.

1.7.1. Every Cal South player has the right to participate as a loan/guest player for other affiliated teams during non-league play, i.e., tournament, Spring leagues.

1.7.2. Each Cal South Competitive or Recreational League shall establish their own rules governing loan/guest players during their league play.

1.8. Team Release During Seasonal Year

A team is allowed to move within Cal South only when that team has completed all obligations to the first league i.e., all scheduled competition and financial liabilities. Reregistration of the players will be provided by Cal South staff.

1.9. Adult Games (USYSA Rule 208)

1.9.1. A youth player with a minimum of age 14 or older may play an unlimited number of adult games without losing his or her youth eligibility.

1.9.2. Cal South youth insurance will not cover a youth player involved in adult play. A youth player must register as an adult player to be covered by the adult insurance coverage.

1.9.3. A youth team comprised of players with the written permission and mutual consent of Cal South may play in an adult-approved league and not lose its youth eligibility to compete in the U.S. Youth Soccer National Championships competitions. If the youth team's players are required to sign an adult form, the team shall retain its youth eligibility.

1.9.4. A U17 youth team or older comprised of players playing in an adult approved league will be required to play under the rules of Cal South concerning registration, roster rules, transfer rules, and other rules as Cal South may apply. Whether participation in any adult league shall qualify a youth team for the U.S. Youth Soccer National Championships competitions shall be determined by Cal South.

1.10. Playing with Professional Players

Any player signing a "letter of intent," a professional contract or plays with a professional team without the permission of Cal South shall be declared a professional player and shall lose all privileges of youth amateur status. Cal South may grant a youth player permission to play in benefit or exhibition games only, where professional players are involved. Permission must be requested in writing.

2. The Game

2.1. Rules of Play

2.1.1. Except as provided by USSF or its affiliates, the FIFA “Laws of the Game” shall apply to any and all competition sponsored by Cal South.

2.1.2. All games shall be played under the Rules and Regulations of Cal South. No League Rule may be adopted which is in violation of these Cal South Rules or in violation of the spirit and intent of the Cal South youth soccer program.

2.2. Gaming Competitive League

A Gaming Competitive League is defined as an entity that conducts a gaming season, schedules games, or otherwise maintains a competition where standings are maintained. A tournament approved by Cal South shall not be considered a gaming Competitive League.

2.2.1. All players on teams playing within a Competitive League shall be registered with Cal South.

2.3. Age Grouping

2.3.1. Refer to the PDI Matrix posted on the Cal South Website.

2.3.2. Expand rule to allow recreational leagues to use school year and field dimensions that works best for them.

2.4. Player Safety

2.4.1. Endorse FIFA Law IV and current USSF Guidelines

2.4.2. Shin guards are mandatory for all players in practices, games, and tournaments within Cal South.

2.4.3. Fields & Equipment

The home team shall be responsible for the condition of the field of play, the proper field marking, and proper equipment i.e., goal posts, nets, and corner flags. It shall be the responsibility of each team to have a game ball.

2.5. Condition of Playing Field

The referee’s opinion with regard to the physical condition of the field and its acceptance for play, and as published by FIFA, shall not be challenged.

2.6. Games Played Under Protest

2.6.1. Game can be protested but will need to follow the competitive rules and regulations set forth by the competition.

2.6.2. The game must be played even under protest.

2.6.3. The appropriate competition authority shall determine the outcome of games played under protest.

2.7. Forfeiture

2.7.1. The outcome of the game will be determined by the appropriate Competition Authority.

2.8. Permission to Travel (USYSA, Travel & Tournament Policy, Section 204 & 205)

Teams wishing to travel out of Region IV or out of the country to play games must request and obtain permission from Cal South. (Permission To Travel USYSA Section 204)

2.9. Permission to Host a Tournament

Teams, clubs, or leagues wishing to host a tournament must request and obtain permission from Cal South in accordance with the procedures detailed in the Travel and Tournament Manual.

3. Violations

3.1. One hundred percent (100%) affiliation, per USSF 213.3.

3.1.1. No league may have as a member, any team that contains youth players that are not registered with the United States Soccer Federation.

3.1.2. Violation of this rule shall result in such a team or League being subject to disciplinary action by Cal South.

3.2. Unaffiliated Play - Teams, Clubs, Leagues

Affiliated Teams, Clubs, and Leagues shall not participate in tournaments or inter-league play or inter-club or inter-team exchange games or single inter-team games with teams not affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation. Cal South may sanction any Team, Club or League found to have violated this regulation.

3.3. Accountability - Conduct - Ejection

3.3.1. Each League, Sanctioned Tournament Authority, coach, administrator, or player shall be primarily and solely accountable for the conduct of themselves, persons associated with the League, or Sanctioned Tournament Authority, coach, player, or administrator in any manner whatsoever any affiliated league may charge a violation of this rule should they find any conduct, in any affiliated function, of any member, unacceptable to the best interests of youth soccer.

3.3.1.1. Coaches, players, and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained herein, including caution, ejections, and standard suspensions.

3.3.1.2. Any coach or team official shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual(s) at any match that, in the opinion of the referee, is a supporter of that team.

3.4. Cal South Hearings Protocol

3.4.1. The Cal South CEO shall establish a Cal South Protest, Appeals and Disciplinary Committee and Risk Management Committee.

3.4.1.1 The Risk Management Program shall require the use of an employment/volunteer disclosure statement for all volunteers, employees, coaches, and program administrators who are involved with any sanctioned or sponsored program of Cal South.

3.4.2. Cal South shall establish hearing procedures, which are consistent with USSF Bylaw 701 and shall be published in the Cal South Manual of Operations. USSF Bylaw 701 provides in pertinent part as follows:

3.4.3. A copy of the Cal South copy of rules and regulations defining hearing procedures shall be supplied to any affiliated player or administrator upon written request to the Cal South Corporate Office.

3.4.4. No Cal South League, club, coach, administrator, team, referee, player, member, or their representative may invoke the aid of the Courts of State of California, or of the United States, without first exhausting all available remedies as set forth in USSF Rule.

3.4.4.1. If any person described in Section 3.4.4. invokes the aid of the courts as specified above, then such persons are subject to the penalties cited below.

3.4.4.2. For violation of this rule, the offending party shall be subject to the sanctions of suspension and fines and may be liable to USSF and Cal South for all expenses incurred by USSF and its officers, and Cal South and its officers, as appropriate, in defending each court action, including but not limited to the following:

3.4.4.2.1. Court costs.

3.4.4.2.2. Attorney fees.

3.4.4.2.3. Reasonable compensation for the time spent by USSF and Cal South Officers and employees in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery court appearance.

3.4.4.2.4. Travel expenses.

3.4.4.2.5. Expenses for holding special National Youth Council and Cal South Board of Directors meetings necessitated by Court action.

4. The Referee

4.1. Registered Officials List

Referees and assignors must be registered in the current year of officiating. Referee Registered Approved list can be found on our website. All approved referees have completed SafeSport, Concussion, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training Certificates, Signed Waivers and have been risk managed. They can referee and participate in any League or tournament affiliated with Cal South and U.S. Soccer.

4.2. Match Procedures

No team will play a game without the presence of a Program Administrator holding a coaching license.

4.3. Referee Duties & Responsibilities

During any game sanctioned by Cal South, or regularly scheduled by any League or team, a referee may stop the game and eject any coach, player, or spectator from the grounds (the field of play and areas surrounding the field and fields near the field upon which the game is being played) if, in the opinion of the referee, the offender is guilty of violent conduct, serious foul play, or the use of foul or abusive language, or if the conduct is deemed to be interference by the offender as designated in subdivision (d) of Law V - FIFA, "Laws of the Game". At no time will foul or abusive language be permitted in any field. Alcohol or illegal drug use, possession, or transportation of a weapon without a valid permit shall not be permitted at any tournament, game, practice sanctioned by or regularly scheduled by Cal South or any league or team.

4.3.1. Referee fee will be determined prior to each seasonal year.

4.4. Misconduct Toward Match Official Referee or Assistant

Misconduct against referees may occur before, during and after the match, including travel to and from the match. Misconduct may occur also at later times when directly related to duties of a game official as a referee.

4.4.1 When an allegation of assault is verified by Cal South, the accused is automatically suspended until the alleged assault is adjudicated.

4.4.2. Cal South must hold a hearing within thirty (30) days of the assault or, if applicable the thirty (30) day period provided by subsection 5.1.2.1. of this section. If Cal South does not adjudicate the matter within that period of time, the original jurisdiction shall immediately vest in the National Appeals Committee to adjudicate the matter, to which the same provisions as to the term of suspension shall apply.

4.4.2.3. Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind the automatic suspension.

4.4.2.4. In cases of referee abuse, the hearing is held in accordance with Cal South procedures as outlined in the Cal South Manual of Operations for Protests, Appeals, and Discipline.

5.1. Misconduct Toward Match Official Outside the Vicinity of Play

In the event an assault on or abuse of a referee perpetrated by a member of Cal South in an event outside of the vicinity of play, the referee shall (A) immediately notify the PAD/ Cal South Staff and (B) forward a copy of the game report and his/her comments on the incident to the Event/Tournament Chairman and Cal South Corporate Office.

5.1.2. The PAD/Cal South Staff shall have the right to immediately convene a hearing at the site of the Event/Tournament, at which the player, her/his coach, and the game officials should be present. Information presented at this hearing shall promptly be relayed to Cal South by the Event/Tournament/Cal South Staff verbally and in writing; however, failure to provide written information shall not restrict Cal South from taking action with regard to any assault.

5.2. Final Jurisdiction Regarding Misconduct Toward Match Official

Final jurisdiction shall rest with Cal South and a hearing shall be held within thirty (30) days of the initial report of the assault on a referee.

6. Appeals

6.1. A player, coach, manager, or official who is found to have committed the assault may appeal the decision by following the procedures defined in Cal South Protest, Appeal & Disciplinary Procedures Manual, Section IX.6.

7. Disclaimer of Financial Responsibility

California State Soccer Association-South (Cal South) specifically disclaims financial responsibility for, and shall not assume nor be held liable for, the debts or financial obligations, either expressed or implied of any league, or club, or team, or any of the coaches, managers, officers, officials, or members of any affiliated league, or club, or team.

8. Governance of Leagues, Clubs, & Tournaments with Players & Teams Not Registered to Cal South

8.1. Competition Authority

A league, playing circuit or tournament, hereafter called the Competition Authority, shall not discriminate against the participation of players or teams on the basis of that player or team's membership in, or affiliation with, another organization. (USSF Bylaw 603.2)

8.2. USSF Member Organization Participation

A Competition Authority shall allow participation of a USSF Member Organization (defined per USSF Bylaw 202) team or player based upon acceptance criteria established by the Competition Authority notwithstanding rule 5.1.

8.3. Member Organization Program Participation

All Member Organization players, Program Administrators, and teams once accepted for play by a league or playing circuit, shall have equal opportunity to participate in Cal South programs, i.e., State Select Team selection processes, State Open Cup Competitions, Coaching License programs, etc. There are fees associated with each program. Access to USYSA programs, such as the US National Youth Championships, requires the registration of Member Organization teams through Cal South and USYSA.

9. Risk Management

9.1. Cal South Risk Management Policy Statement

It is the intent of Cal South to provide an environment that fosters the well-being and safety of its players, participants, and members. Cal South cannot guarantee that no harm or offense may be suffered by its players, participants, and members. However, with the observance of the rules, policies, and the vigilance of all players, participants, and members, the best environment to preserve the well-being and safety of its players, participants, and members may be attained.

10. Cal South Athlete & Participant Protection Policy (APPP)

Cal South's Athlete and Participant Protection Policy establishes Cal South's rules and minimum standards to ensure youth and participant protection for any amateur youth programs operated by Cal South or its Affiliate Member, Special Member, and when warranted Partner Member. Specifically, this Policy addresses the minimum prohibited conduct, screening, training, reporting, preventive child abuse measures, and enforcement of such. In-order to serve and support our players, participants and members, Cal South makes the Athlete and Participant Protection Policy available on its website and continues to work to increase awareness among their players, participants, and members regarding their obligations under applicable state and federal law, U.S. Soccer, and Cal South rules and policies.

Appendix: Terms & References

- 1) "Referee" includes the following:
 - a) All currently registered USSF referees, assistant referees, 4th official, or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match.
 - b) Any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee.
 - c) Any club assistant referee.
- 2) "Hearing" means a meeting as described in the Cal South Manual of Operations.
- 3) "Referee Assault" is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee.
"Intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. The unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.
 - a) Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing, or bodily running into a referee; head butting, the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e., car, equipment, etc.
- 4) "Referee Abuse" is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.

- a) Abuse includes but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusing language towards a referee; spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; spitting at (but not on) the referee; or verbally threatening a referee. Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as "I'll get you after the game" or "You won't get out of here in one piece" shall be deemed referee abuse.
- 5) "Touchline Misconduct" is a verbal statement or physical actions that impedes, distracts, interferes, or delays, in any manner, a referee from the duties of game management. (Added May 1, 2004)