



2026 Cal South Winter Classic Tournament Rules

Each team will play a minimum of 3 games.

The tournament divisions, match duration, maximum roster size are displayed in the table below:

Age Group	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
Format	7v7	7v7	7v7	9v9	9v9	11v11	11v11
Roster Max	14	14	14	18	18	22	22
Heading	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Build Out Line	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Match Duration	2x20	2x20	2x20	2x25	2x25	2x30	2x30
Half-Time	5 Min	5 Min	5 Min	5 Min	5 Min	10 Min	10 Min
Ball Size	3	4	4	4	4	5	5
Offside	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The number of brackets for each division will depend on the numbers of teams that register for the tournament.

Team/Player Eligibility:

Teams must be comprised of properly registered players in any U.S. Soccer National Member Organization including USYS, US Club, AYSO, etc. The Sports Connect and Got Soccer Registration platforms will be used to register teams. Rosters can be submitted within the platform or digital form provided by the tournament director prior to the event.

Players must have valid player ID cards with any U.S. Soccer National Member Organization and coaches must be in full compliance with Risk Management policies in California. Players may only be rostered with one team participating in the Tournament.

Laminated current year State Player/Coach passes from US Club Soccer, US Youth Soccer, USSSA, and AYSO are accepted. Any player who fails to provide a player pass before the game will be unable to play. Player passes will be cross checked against the roster before each game during team check-in by the field marshal. (Digital ID cards/passes will be allowed.)

Tournament Schedule: Tournament Schedule will be released two weeks prior to the start of the event. Coaching conflicts will be avoided during schedule distribution and any other change requests are not recommended and/or guaranteed.

Team Check-In:

It is the responsibility of team administrator(s) to add and verify all active players in the Cal South Registration System Sports Connect, Got Soccer, or Digital Roster Form by Dec 19, 2025 by 6:00 p.m. PST. Login to calsouth.com/WinterClassic to see the "Managers Checklist".

Teams must check-in with the Field Marshal at the Field Marshal tent next to your assigned field thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled game time. The Field Marshal will inspect player equipment, check players against the player passes and game cards, and issue any other necessary instructions. Teams are not permitted to participate in the game without conducting game check-in.

The Field Marshals are at the games to assist you with anything you might need and to handle the administrative concerns of the games. They do not have authority over any decision made by a referee. The Field Marshals will hold the player, coach, and team official passes for both teams in their possession during the game.

At the conclusion of the match please head to the field Marshall Tent to pick up player cards and verify the score.

Cheating:

Any team caught cheating will result in the forfeit of ALL games, whether played or not, in the tournament. A refund will NOT be issued in any circumstance. Letter of cheating will be sent to Club Directors and State Association.

Entry Fees:

Entry fees per team are determined by the age group in which the team is playing.

Early Bird Entry Fee- Sep 24 – Oct 29:

U8-10 (\$695), U11-12 (\$795), U13-14 (\$895)

Regular Entry Fee- Oct 30 – Dec 3:

U8-10 (\$795), U11-U12 (\$895), U13-14 (\$995)

Special Entry fee for Participation in 2025 Cal South Tournaments (Labor Day Cup 2025):

Note: Registration ends on Dec 3, 2025. Teams placed on the waiting list will be communicated to by December 12, 2025, as to whether they will be accepted to the event or if no open spots are available.

Referee Fees:

Referee fees are determined by the age group the team is playing in and the number of referees officiating the game. Referee fees are to be paid directly to the referees before the start of the game by each team in cash (no coins allowed).

Age Group	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
Format	7v7	7v7	7v7	9v9	9v9	11v11	11v11
# Referees	1	1	1	1	1	3	3
Fee	\$54	\$54	\$54	\$64	\$64	\$120	\$120
Cost Per Team	\$27	\$27	\$27	\$32	\$32	\$60	\$60
Total Minutes	40	40	40	50	50	60	60

Point System:

- Win – 3 Points Tie – 1 Point Loss – 0 PointsForfeits – Winning team is awarded a 1-0 win.

Terminated Game: Team/spectators responsible for termination will be awarded loss 1-0 if winning or score during the match will stand as result if losing the match.

Game results will be updated in the Tournament Standings link provided before the event.

Tiebreaker for Pool Play:

Ties in points in the preliminary rounds shall use the following tiebreaker rules in order:

1. Head-to-head competition
2. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals allowed)
3. Least goals allowed.
4. Most goals scored.
5. Kicks from the mark

If more than two (2) teams are tied at the end of the preliminary round, the tie breaker criteria listed shall be used in the order shown until one team is advanced or one team is eliminated, or both. If remaining teams are still tied at this point in the tie-breaking process, the Tournament Director will provide further instructions.

Match Rules:

The Cal South Winter Classic follows the FIFA/IFAB current laws of the game except adjusted rules stated in this document. The spirit of the game and safe environments for the players, coaches, referees, and staff is our priority.

- Unlimited substitutions will be allowed at any stoppage of play at the discretion of the referee.
- Home team will need to have alternate uniforms if both teams are the same color. (Pinnies will be available if needed.)
- Home team will need to provide 3 game balls to start the match.
- Referees will be instructed to not add time for injuries to a game except in the most extenuating of circumstances.
- In 7v7 and 9v9 matches, goalkeepers can punt freely; however, a goal can't be scored directly from a punt. Offside is called from halfway line to goal line and all other FIFA Laws of the Game apply.
- A player receiving a red card will be suspended for the remainder of the match and for the following team's game (1 game). The Tournament Directors have the right to extend the player's suspension depending on the reason for the red card.
- Send offs for Violent Conducts or Referee Abuse may result in the player/manager being banned for the remainder of the tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.
- Pool play games may end in ties and elimination games will go directly to FIFA penalty kicks to decide a winner.
- The referee can terminate a match due to the irresponsible action(s) of players, coaches, managers, or team spectators.

Protests:

Protests can be submitted before your next match and will incur a fee of \$100 with no refunds. Any situation that arises and is not covered in the rules will be resolved by the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee's decision will be final and there will not be an appeal process. Protests regarding referee judgment calls and subjective decisions will not be accepted.

Equipment:

The Cal South Winter Classic follows FIFA/IFAB Law 4 – The Players Equipment, which states, "A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous." Therefore...

- All items of jewelry are forbidden and must be removed at the discretion of the referee.
- All players must wear shin-guards (no exceptions).
- No metal cleats or screw-in studs will be allowed.
- Same jersey and short colors must be worn.
- All jerseys must have numbers.
- Goalies must wear different color jerseys from both teams.

Code of Conduct:

It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. The coach, manager, and team shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of the spectators from their respective teams. At no time shall offensive, insulting, or abusive language be permitted.

Harassment towards assigned referees will not be tolerated and coaches, managers, and players are subject to ejections/suspensions. Spectators are subject to being removed from the field for inappropriate conduct.

To receive a full refund, withdrawal and refund requests must be made before or on the tournament deadline of December 3, 2025, by 11:59 p.m. PST. A partial refund will be provided from December 4, 2025 through December 12th, 2025 in the amount paid minus \$150 for administrative cost. Any withdrawal or refund request made after December 12, 2025 will not be refunded for any reason. No refunds will be given for any reason after January 2, 2026 including weather, travel cancellations, "acts of God," and any other reason prior to, during, and after the event.

Cal South reserves the right to amend the Tournament Rules as conditions may warrant.



*California State Soccer Association - SOUTH
2166 W. Broadway #1034, Anaheim, Calif. 92804*

714.778.2972

Fax: 714.441.0715

Service Hours: M-F 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM

info@calsouth.com