

INTERCITY LEAGUE RULES



September 2026

Intercity League Rules of Play

Last updated September 2026

(Cal South/USYS/USSF/FIFA Laws & Rules Apply EXCEPT as Modified Below)

League play shall begin in September and end prior to Thanksgiving. The 14U-12U age bracket may end by the first weekend of December. The primary day for play is Saturday. Friday night and Sunday games will be scheduled as needed. Each team will play between 8-10 games throughout the season, depending on the total number of teams entered into each age bracket.

A. PLAYING RULES

1. All Intercity games shall be played under the current “Laws of the Game” published by USYS, USSF, FIFA and Cal South except as modified by the Intercity League Director and Intercity League Representatives (**Intercity League Rules of Play**).
2. It is the responsibility of the participating clubs, leagues and teams to acquire information regarding these rules.
3. Cal South/Intercity League Director shall post all Intercity League rules on the Cal South Intercity League message board. It is the responsibility of all league administrators, referees, coaches, players and parents to be familiar with the Intercity League Rules of Play/Rules and Regulations and Intercity League Information and Procedures.
4. The game length for 2014/2015 (12U) games is 60 minutes (30 minute halves) 10-minute half time break, 2012/2013 (14U) games is 70 minutes (35 minute halves) with a 10-minute half time break. The game length for 2010/2011 (16U) games is 80 minutes (40 minute halves) with a 10-minute half time break.
5. Each team will be given a 15-minute grace period for the minimum number of players to arrive for the game. Failure to field a minimum of 5 players prior to the start of the schedule game for 2014/2015 (12U). Failure to field a team of a minimum of 7 players prior to the start of a scheduled game for 2012/2013 (14U) through 2010/2011 (16U) teams will result in a forfeit.
6. Any game played at least to half time shall be considered an official game.
7. Unless previously notified of a postponement both teams must show up at the field, ready to play and certified as ready to play by the referee.
8. In the event of a rain out, smog out, unplayable conditions, etc., the Circuit will attempt to reschedule the game within 2 weeks. Individual teams, coaches or leagues cannot reschedule games without the Circuit Committee’s consent. It is the individual team’s responsibility to check the Mudline Message Board on the Official Intercity League website and with the home team to stay apprised of current field conditions.
9. All age brackets will have unlimited free substitution. A coach may substitute at any stoppage of play at the discretion of the referee. It is the direct responsibility of the Coach to ensure that a player’s 50% minimum playing requirement is never breached. The 50% rule applies to an entire game, including games that go into extra time. It is strongly urged that most players receive 75% playing time. Playing Time infractions will be dealt with by the local

hosting League/Club and/or the Cal South Intercity League Circuit Director. Infractions could result in a game forfeiture. Injured players may be substituted for during the game and the injury must be documented on the game roster and USSF Referee Supplemental Report.

10. All substitutes shall be at the discretion of the Center Referee. Substituted player infractions are not protestable.

11. Size 5 soccer ball shall be used for all 2012/2013 (14U) and above Intercity League games.

12. The recommended field size for 2012/2013 (14U) through 2010/2011 (16U) teams is the FIFA Standard. The field length may vary from 96-110 yards and width from 56-70 yards. The goal shall be a standard 8 feet by 24 feet and all standard field markings.

13. Any coach or team that abandons a game prior to its normal conclusion may be subject to disciplinary action by the local hosting League/Club or Intercity League Circuit Director.

14. The 2012/2013 (14U) through 2010/2011 (16U) teams shall field a team of 11 players, one of which must be the goalie.

15. Every team shall have a maximum Team roster and Game roster

	Team Roster Max	Game Roster Max	Game Roster Min.	Ball Size
2014-2015 / 12U	16	16	7	4
2012-2013 / 14U	18	18	11	5
2010-2011 / 16U	22	22	11	5

16. Coaches MUST remove yellow-carded players from the game at the time the referee shows the yellow card to the player and before restarting the game. Players may re-enter the game at the next stoppage in play and when allowed by the referee. A player receiving a second yellow card may not reenter the game.

B. REFEREES AND FEES

1. The assignment of Referees for regular season games will be determined by the home League/Club Referee Coordinator or official Referee Assignor of the Home Team.

2. All League and Referee Association Assignors must be USSF Certified. Referee Assignors shall use best efforts to assign unbiased and neutral referees throughout the season.

3. All Referees must be USSF registered and certified (displaying current year badge).

4. The three (3) man referee system is preferred. Use of a Club person as assistant referee/linesman is at the discretion of the center referee.

5. ALL referees, including AR, shall be at least 2 years older than the age of the players they are officiating.

6. Both teams are responsible for referee fees. Each team is responsible for half the referee fees.

7. Referees are to be paid in cash before the match.

8. Referee payment for 3 Referees per game is \$1.40 per minute of game time. Referee payments should be pro-rated when there are less than 3 referees officiating any game. Assistant referees not in proper uniform are considered to be Club Linesman and should not to be paid for their services. (See breakdown below).

Game Length - 80 min (Half) / 70 min (Half) / 60 min (Half)

3 Referees - \$180 (\$90) / \$158.00 (\$79) / \$136 (\$68)

2 Referees - \$140 / \$116 / \$100

1 Referee - \$110 / \$88 / \$78

9. If there is no assigned referee present at the start of the game, the coaches shall jointly select an assistant referee or other agreeable party to fulfill the center referee responsibilities. The replacement Center Referee shall receive due payment. (Every effort shall be made to complete the scheduled game). In the event that a replacement Center Referee cannot be obtained for a regular season game the Home team shall forfeit the game or a rescheduled game may occur.

10. Teams forfeiting league scheduled games will pay the full cost of referee fees if the forfeit is after Wednesday 5:00 PM of the week's league scheduled game. A forfeit can be, but not limited to:

- A team that doesn't show up for a league-scheduled game
- A team having less than 5 players 2014/2015 (12U), 7 players for 2012/2013 (14U) through 2007/2008 (19U) on the field at game time, with the grace period
- A team that does not have ID cards or a printed photo roster showing a minimum number of eligible players
- A team that uses ineligible players in league games. Using ineligible players may be subject to forfeiting the entire season

C. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

1. Each team shall have uniforms consisting of one light color jersey with light color socks to match, one dark color jersey and dark colored socks to match and one pair of shorts.

2. The Home Team shall wear their dark-colored uniform. The Visiting Team shall wear their light-colored uniform. Every team should have a set of colored pennies different than their jersey color at each game.

3. In the event of a color conflict of team uniforms the Home Team shall change to an alternate color jersey or wear different colored pennies.

4. Knit caps, sweatshirts under the jersey, bicycle or sliding shorts of any color, or similar items may be worn. Socks shall cover the shin guard. Goalies may wear gloves, leg coverings, elbow and kneepads.

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

6. No player wearing an orthopedic cast, temporary cast, non-oral brace (such as knees or other areas of the body) with hard, hinged or rigid supports, or splint shall be permitted to play in any sanctioned play. Metal knee braces must have a soft cover. Unsafe knee braces are prohibited.

7. Female teams may wear sleeveless jerseys or roll up their sleeves and tied with a soft cloth or string material.

8. All colors of tape or material may be used on shin guards and socks.
9. Under shirts are allowed but must match jersey color or be black or white in color.
10. Cloth headbands are allowed.
11. All goals must be anchored prior to the start of a game.
(NOTE: Rules must be followed; failure to do so may result in a red card and/or suspension from Intercity League play.

D. STANDINGS AND TIE BREAKER RULES

1. In the age bracket standings, each team will be awarded 3 points for a victory, 1 point for a tied game and zero points for a loss. All forfeit games shall be considered a score of 1-0. Should a team drop from the Circuit bracket during the season, all remaining games for that team shall be considered forfeit games (1-0F).
2. The tie-breakers listed below in this order shall determine the outcome of a tie:
 1. Head-to-Head
 2. Least Amount of Goals Allowed
 3. Most Shutouts
 4. Goal Differential
 5. Goals Scored
 6. Coin Flip
3. Each league will be responsible for their team's regular season trophies or awards.
4. League Playoff team ranking/seeding will be based on the league standings at the end of regular league play or the predetermined season cutoff date.

E. ID CARDS AND GAME ROSTERS/MATCH REPORTS

1. Each coach shall complete, present and sign the Official Game Roster/Match Report (Photo Roster) prior to the game and present it to the referee along with the team's CAL SOUTH player and team administrator cards at check-in. After the conclusion of the game the player and administrator cards are to be returned to the coach/team. Head coach or team administrator of each team sign both Official Match/Roster Game Report sheet verifying that all game information and final score is correct. The Official Match Report /Game Roster are official records of the Cal South Intercity League. The Match Reports are the official record of the Intercity League. Each team is responsible for entering/posting their scores online. Any red and/or yellow cards must also be entered online by the respective coach/team manager. ONLY the head coach or team manager is allowed to enter scores or cards online.
2. The Home Team will deliver the completed game rosters, along with any additional information about sideline conduct, cautions, injuries or ejections, to their Intercity League Coordinator. Individual player cards or coach cards shall not be taken from the coach/team should a red card be issued. The home Intercity League Coordinator or the Referee Coordinator will review the game reports and forward to the Cal South office those game rosters that have reported red card, player injury, misconduct problems or referee assault reports.

3. Per US Soccer/Cal South Concussion Initiative Policy if a player is suspected to have a head injury the referee* is instructed to stop play to allow for treatment/evaluation as needed. If the player leaves the field of play for additional evaluation, a substitution can be made in that moment. The player with the suspected head injury may not return to the game unless a Health Care Professional (HCP) or Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) has cleared the player. Any coach or parent insisting on returning the player to the game without approved clearance will result in the referee* ending the game.

F. CONDUCT/SUSPENSIONS

1. The safety of all participants and maintaining an atmosphere of good sportsmanship is the responsibility of all members.

2. Each team, coaches, administrators and spectators shall be on opposite sides of the field, wherever possible. Coaching and encouraging players shall occur from that team's side of the field only.

3. Coaches must remain in the technical area of 10 yards from mid-field.

4. Coaches are responsible to insure parents are not sitting or standing beyond the 18 yard line and behind the goal lines.

5. Any player/team or team member found responsible for promoting violence, instigating, or enticing a team disturbance, causing the referee to suspend play prior to the completion of regulation time, will have forfeited that game (even if they are winning at the time of the incident). Any player, coach, administrator, other team member or team found in such behavior may be brought before the Intercity League Committee for disciplinary action, including, but limited to, suspension or removal from the league subject to Cal South and USYSA Disciplinary Guidelines and Procedures.

6. Coaches are responsible for all conduct on their sidelines. This includes themselves, team administrators, players, parents, friends, visitors and spectators. Any player, coach, administrator, parent or spectator promoting violence, enticing team dissent or generally in violation of sub-paragraph a (above) may be issued a red card for failure to control their sideline and may be brought before the local hosting League/Club for possible disciplinary action (including suspension or removal of that player, coach, administrator, parent and spectators). Any appeals of local League/Club actions may be brought before the Intercity League Circuit Director. Individuals may be subject to additional Cal South Protest, Appeal and Disciplinary (PAD) Committee disciplinary action.

7. Any member who instigates violence that leads to harming an opponent, spectator, official, or teammate, in addition to any action defined above, may be subject to criminal prosecution. This type of conduct will not be tolerated and will be aggressively pursued by the INTERCITY LEAGUE.

8. Any player, coach or team member using foul and/or abusive language or conduct may be issued a red card (ejection/send-off).

9. Conduct for on the field offenses shall be subject to suspension (These guidelines will be inclusive and apply to all circuit activities including seasonal play and post-season play):

a. Any player, coach or administrator receiving a red card (ejection/send off – whether by a straight red card or 2 yellow cards) from the referee shall be suspended for the remainder of that game and their team's next scheduled (played) game. Forfeited games do not count.

- b. Any player, coach or administrator receiving two (2) red cards (ejection / sendoff) in one season may be suspended from playing, coaching or attending games until that person has been brought before a committee of the Circuit Board for a review of the ejections. The Committee shall determine the eligibility of the player, coach, spectator or administrator in question.
10. If a team official (coach/manager) is directed to leave the field by the referee it is the same as receiving a red card. As a professional courtesy, the referee does not have to show/display a red card to the team official. A report will be submitted by the referee to the Intercity League Director, along with the coaches administrative card.
11. A caution (red or yellow card) may be issued by a referee to a coach, player, administrator, etc., even after the game has concluded.
12. The Head Coach is 100% responsible and accountable for enforcing player suspensions. Any coach failing to enforce any suspension will be suspended themselves and said game will be forfeited. Coach may be brought before the Intercity League Committee and subject to further disciplinary action.
13. Accumulated disciplinary actions (yellow/red cards or suspensions) may affect a team's continued participation in league or post-season play.
14. The Intercity League Director has the authority to suspend or place any player, administrator, team or league on probation for unsporting conduct on or off the field.
15. No player shall be allowed to play in any regularly scheduled league or tournament game with an injury which can be aggravated by playing or which constitutes a danger to others.

G. FORFEITS

1. Any player/team found responsible for promoting violence, instigating, or enticing a team disturbance, causing the referee to suspend play prior to the completion of regulation time, will have forfeited that game (even if they are winning at the time of the incident).
2. The Intercity League Director will review all such incidents. Upon review the team may also be subject to league suspension. Any team under league suspension will forfeit all scheduled games with a score of (0-1) until suspension is complete. If it is found that both teams/players are equally at fault in the suspension of a game, then both teams will receive a forfeit (0-1, 0 points).
3. Any team/club needing to forfeit a game for any reason must notify the Intercity Director, Home Club representative or Intercity League Director within 72 hours of scheduled game. If the team/club who is forfeiting said game fails to notify proper personnel, the team/club forfeiting will be responsible for the entire referee fees for the scheduled game. The team who forfeits the game will receive a forfeit (0-1, 0 points), with the opposing team receiving a win (1-0, 3 points).
4. The team that forfeits must have the Referee fees to the Intercity Director no later than the first Wednesday after the game. Failing to do so will result in forfeiting the upcoming game.
5. Teams forfeiting league-scheduled games will pay full cost of referees if the forfeit is after Wednesday 5:00 PM of the week's scheduled game.

H. RED CRADS

1. Referees must return all ID cards to the respective coaches following the match except when there is Referee Assault or Violent Conduct on the field. In these cases, the ID card(s) must be retained by the Referee and turned in, with a written report in 24 hours to the Intercity League Director.
2. If a player receives a Violent Conduct (Fighting / Striking other player or Official) red card, they will not be able to participate in their team's next FOUR (4) scheduled games.
3. All other red card violations regarding a player or ejected official will not be able to participate in their teams next scheduled game.
4. If a team official (Coach/Manager) is directed to leave the field by the referee it is the same as receiving a red card. As a professional courtesy the referee does not have to show/display a red card to the team official. A report will be submitted by the Referee and sent to the INTERCITY LEAGUE Director, along with the coach's administration card. The Team administrator will then miss the next game for the team which he was participating with.
5. If it is the last game of the season, the suspension carries over to INTERCITY LEAGUE post-season play.
6. If a player or official receives a second red card during the season, they may be suspended for the remainder of the season, or until reinstated by the INTERCITY LEAGUE Director.

I. RESCHEDULED GAMES

1. Games will not be rescheduled by the Intercity League Director once the game schedule is published. Any game(s) that need(s) to be rescheduled must be agreed upon between both teams and league representatives.
2. All team scheduling concerns should be directed to your Intercity League representative and the Cal South Intercity League game scheduler prior to September 1st.

J. HOME AND VISITING TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Home Team shall complete field set up (nets, flags, field markings, trash cans, etc.). This should occur at least 30 minutes prior to game time. As a common courtesy, the Visiting Team should assist with field set up and take down. Each team is responsible for picking up their own trash.
2. The Home Team has the choice of sidelines.
3. It is recommended that the Home Team provide three (3) game balls (one behind each goal and the match ball).
4. The Home Team is responsible for collecting the completed game rosters after the match and delivering the game roster to their Intercity League Coordinator. Failure to deliver the game cards to the League Coordinator/Club within a week may result in a forfeit game for the Home Team.
5. The Home Team and Visiting Team shall both be responsible for cleaning up the field, team bench and sideline areas after the game.

K. PROTESTS

1. If a coach deems it necessary to protest a game because of a misapplication of a Cal South/Intercity League/USYS/ USSF/FIFA Law(s) or Rule(s), not a judgment call, the coach must notify the referees of the intent to protest, write a very brief statement citing the misapplied rule on the game roster and sign the match report/game roster.
2. A \$100.00 non-refundable protest fee must be paid within 48 hours to the Cal South Intercity League Director along with a one page explanation of the protest, including citation of the Cal South/Intercity League/USYS/ USSF/FIFA Law(s) & Rule(s) the protesting team feels was misapplied.
3. The Intercity League Director may gather additional information and determine whether a **Cal South/Intercity League/USYS/ USSF/FIFA Law(s) & Rule(s)** violation has occurred or whether it was a referee judgment call. The Intercity League Director shall make a ruling on the protest.
4. If it is determined that there may have been a misapplication of the rules the Intercity League Director may reschedule the game.
5. The decision of the Intercity League Director is FINAL. PROTESTS ON REFEREE JUDGMENT CALLS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.