

NorCal Premier / SOCAL Soccer

California Cup Event Rules



A US Club Soccer Sanctioned Event



Section 1: Competition Rules

1.1 - Playing Rules

All games at the California Cup shall be played according to the rules and regulations recognized by the NorCal Premier League and 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.

1.2 - Point System

The California Cup shall operate under a point system. The point system shall award three points for a win, one point for a tie, and zero points for a loss.

1.3 - Tie Breakers

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

1. "Head to head" result
2. Overall Goal Differential (up to 6)
3. Goals for (up to 6)
4. Goals against (up to 6)
5. Most points against the highest non-tied team in the group
6. Best goal differential against the highest non-tied team in the group
7. Most shutouts
8. Fewest red cards
9. Coin toss

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

1.4 - Game Details

<u>Details</u>	<u>U9 - U10</u>	<u>U11 - U12</u>
Number of Players	12	16
Minimum # of Players	5	6
Ball Size	4	4
Playing Time	2 x 30 min	2 x 30 min
Half-Time Break	5 mins	5 mins

1.5 - Tournament Format

The California Cup will feature a group stage followed by a Final and a 3rd Place match. Teams will play two group stage matches (with their respective State Cup Final acting as the first group stage match). The top two teams in the group will play in the Final, while the 3rd and 4th place teams in the group will play in the 3rd Place match.

1.6 - Heading

For U11 and below, when a Player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. Exceptions: a) if the deliberate header is committed by a Player within their own 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, b) if the deliberate header is committed by a Player within the opponents' goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken from anywhere in that goal area.

1.7 - Substitutions

As per FIFA guidelines, unlimited substitutions are allowed in all age groups. However, teams may substitute only with the Referee's permission. Substitutes must wait at the halfway line (off of the Field of play) until the Field Player has left the Field of play and/or the Referee has indicated the substitute may enter the Field of play.

Substitutions 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 respect the integrity of the game and do not use the free substitution rules to disrupt the match.

1.8 - Matches Needing a Winner

For matches that need a winner, the team with the most goals after regulation time will be the winner. If games are tied at the end of regulation then the game will advance straight to PK's until a winner is determined.

Section 2: Rosters

2.1 - Player Registration

Players shall be registered through GotSport according to [US Club Soccer](#) rules.

2.2 - California Cup Rosters

Each team must create their official California Cup Roster on their team's GotSport online account. Any player added to the Cal Cup roster that did not play for the team during State Cup must be approved by Dan Chamberlain (NorCal) or Blake George (SOCAL).

2.3 - Game Day Roster Limit

Only 16 Players for U11-U12 and 14 Players for U9-U10 may be used for California Cup matches.

2.4 - Roster Freeze

On Thursday March 21st, at 5pm before the California Cup event weekend (3/21) all rosters will be frozen, after which no changes to rosters will be made.

Section 3: Event Discipline

3.1 - Violation of Event Rules

The California Cup Protest, Appeals, and Discipline Committee (“PAD”) shall have the authority to suspend, fine, disqualify or otherwise impose sanctions on Players, team officials, or competing Clubs for violating Competition Rules, Event Rules, Policies & Code of Ethics, or for any action or conduct not in the best interest of soccer or the California Cup.

Sanctions issued by the California Cup PAD Committee will only apply to the California Cup. However, the California Cup PAD Committee may refer cases to either the NorCal or SOCAL PAD Committee for further sanctions based on the severity of the incident.

3.2 - Red Cards

A red card will result in a minimum of a one (1) game suspension. All red cards will be reviewed by the California Cup PAD Committee and suspensions will be issued immediately following the match in which the red card is issued.

3.3 - Suspension Appeals

There will be no appeals for suspensions issued within the California Cup. All referee decisions are final

Section 4: Game Day Procedures

4.1 - Game Day Procedures

Each manager should have the following at every game

- US Club Medical Release forms
- US Club Soccer passes for its players and team officials
- Referees will check players in prior to the start of each game.
- Event staff will post scores

4.2 – Jersey Conflict

If there is a conflict in jersey colors, the home team must change colors. The California Cup encourages home teams to wear their dark colors, while away teams wear light colors. However, both teams should arrive to all matches with both home and away jerseys.

4.3 - Kick-off

Home team kicks off the first half and the visiting team chooses direction. Visiting team kicks-off the second half.