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SOCAL STATE CUP HANDBOOK



SOCAL Mission

SOCAL was created to allow Clubs to do what is in the best interest of their players. With a focus on developing players and providing multi-faceted programming, SOCAL has grown to be the leading youth sports soccer program in Southern California

SOCAL Core Values

Guided by our Founding Philosophy and Core Values, SOCAL's purpose is to set the highest standards for soccer Clubs to develop players to their fullest potential – physically, emotionally, and ethically through:

Collaboration

We collaborate with our soccer community to make wise decisions.

Joy

We celebrate soccer and take fun seriously!

Impact

We make a meaningful difference.

Integrity

We strive to do the right thing.

Agility

We move quickly.

Competition

We believe that healthy competition is essential to progress.

Education

We are committed to learning and development.

For All Participants

- A. Know, respect, and follow the letter and spirit of 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 SOCAL.
- 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

| | | |
|---------------------|--|--|
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State Cup Registration Information

State Cup YOUNGERS event will be for birth years 2010 – 2017

YOUNGERS Registration (2010 - 2017) will close at midnight, November 15, 2023

State Cup OLDERS event will be for birth years 2005 – 2009

OLDERS Registration (2005 - 2009) will close at midnight, February 15, 2024

State Cup Registration Fees:

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

Division Descriptions:

Youngers (2017-2010)

- 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 (2009-2005)

- 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 2023/24 birth year and will play on the same size field as the fall 2023 season (unless you choose to play up in another age group where the field size is different. Ex: 2012 team playing 9v9 registers to play 2011 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.

Zero Tolerance Abuse Policy - [See Zero Tolerance Abuse Policy Here](#)

- ❖ All PARENTS/SPECTATORS must follow the SOCAL League Parent Code of Conduct.
- ❖ All COACHES must follow the SOCAL League Code of Conduct.

SOCAL Soccer League Parent Code of Conduct

FOLLOW THE GOLDEN RULE: Always treat others (coaches, parents, officials, and players) the same way that you would want you and your child to be treated. Set the example by showing respect, dignity, and sportsmanship at all times. Avoid profanity, especially when players or younger family members of players are present on the sidelines or at designated team events.

ACT YOUR AGE: Youth soccer is for the kids. If you find yourself becoming too emotionally involved in what's happening on the field, take a step back, walk away and relax. Remember, your childhood is over. Give the players the freedom to enjoy themselves without pressure.

BE SEEN, NOT HEARD: Nothing is better for a player than having their parents on hand to watch them play. And nothing is worse for a player than hearing a parent booing, taunting, screaming or making comments at, or about, players, coaches, fans or officials (that includes your own team as well as your opponent). Offer applause and cheers of encouragement for both teams following a good play or a great effort, otherwise keep quiet.

MOTIVATE THROUGH CONFIDENCE: Try and identify a positive from every game or practice to help build confidence. A player's sense of achievement is the greatest motivator.

DON'T QUESTION AN OFFICIAL'S CALL: You may not agree with a call, but it's not your job (or the players or coaches either) to officiate the game. Never should an official's call be argued by a spectator. Accept the call and move on, while staying positive. **PUT WINNING AND LOSING IN**

PERSPECTIVE: Games have winners and losers. Keep reminding your player about this reality and the need to deal with both outcomes. Players should avoid getting too cocky when they win and too upset when they lose. Overcoming adversity is required in life and in sports, so focus on how your player can respond to adversity instead of complaining. Attempt to relieve the pressure of competition, not increase it.

BE A ROLE MODEL FOR YOUR PLAYER AND FOR THOSE AROUND YOU: Lead by setting a positive example in a challenging situation. Players need more positive examples than criticism or negative behavior.

CHAIN OF COMMUNICATION: Parents shall not email the League. All communication shall go through Club Administration. Any communication from a parent directly to the League will go unanswered.

WE ARE NOT REFEREES: We recognize many of the referees are young and learning to referee. We agree to support their learning efforts as we do youth players. We also agree not to address any referee, no matter age, gender or level of experience, in any way. We understand that should we want to become a referee there is a pathway of education to explore in order to become certified.

SOCIAL MEDIA: We agree to not criticize or make any negative comment on or through social media or online regarding an opposing team, player, referee, staff member or the soccer community in general. We understand there are channels for feedback and communication with SOCAL and will use these channels to communicate.

ALCOHOL IS NOT FOR YOUTH SOCCER GAMES: We understand that there is no alcohol allowed at the soccer fields. Nor will drunk and disorderly behavior be tolerated. Anyone caught with alcohol will be banned from SOCAL.

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, 2023**.
 - Requests will be reviewed, all appeals with the State Cup Committee and will provide decisions to your appeals by November 15, 2023.
 - The DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR YOUNGERS STATE CUP IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023. **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, 2024**.
 - Requests will be reviewed, all appeals with the State Cup Committee and will provide decisions to your appeals by February 15, 2024.
 - The DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR OLDERS STATE CUP IS WEDNESDAY, February 15, 2024. **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 (2017-2010) Petition Deadline: November 15, 2023**
- **Olders (2009-2005) Petition Deadline: February 15, 2024**

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.

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 (2010 - 2017)

- **Registration (2010 - 2017) will close at midnight, November 15, 2023**
- **Transfer Deadline (CUP-TIE DATE) (2010 - 2017) - December 1, 2023**
- **Roster Freeze** - Rosters will be frozen and players may not be added to State Cup rosters after this date.
 - **7v7 - January 17, 2024**
 - **9v9 - January 24, 2024**
 - **11v11 - January 31, 2024**

OLDERS (2005 - 2009)

- **Registration (2005 - 2009) will close at midnight, February 15, 2024**
- **Transfer Deadline (CUP-TIE DATE) (2005 - 2009) - February 15, 2024**
- **Roster Freeze (2005 - 2009 BOYS) - March 13, 2024** - Rosters will be frozen and players may not be added to State Cup rosters after this date.
- **Roster Freeze (2005 - 2009 GIRLS) - March 20, 2024** - 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 2023 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 2023 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.

SOCAL Soccer Guideline Matrix

| | U7-U10 2017-2014 | U11-U12 2013/ 2012 | U13-U14 2011/ 2010 | U15-U16 2009/2008 | U17-U19 2007/2005 |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Field Size (yds) | 55/65 L 35/45 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 | 11v11 | 11v11 | 11v11 |
| Minimum # of players | 5 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Roster Limits | 12 | 16 | 26 | 26 | 26 |
| # of players allowed to play each game | 12 | 16 | 18 | 18 | 20 |
| Playing Time | 2x30 | 2x30 | 2x35 | 2x40 | 2x45 |
| Half-Time | 5 mins | 5 mins | 5 mins | 10 mins | 10 mins |
| Ball Size | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Goal Size (ft) | 6.5x18.5- 7x21 | 6.5x18.5- 7x21 | 8x24 | 8x24 | 8x24 |
| Offside | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Premier, Classic & Elite Cup and 2010 and younger all levels of State Cup Substitutions | At Any Stoppage | | | | |
| Super Cup 2010 and older Substitutions | 3 substitution moments each half per team. Half-time substitutions do not count as a moment. | | | | |
| Free Kick clearance | 8 yd | 8 yd | 10 yd | 10 yd | 10 yd |
| Penalty Kick Distance | 10 yds | 10 yds | 12 yds | 12 yds | 12 yds |
| Heading | No Heading 2013-2018 Heading allowed 2012 | | 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 2006 player plays State Cup on their own 2006 team and may also play State Cup for a 2005 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.

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.
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: Premier Bracket with 9 teams

Premier 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 2007/2006/2005):** 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 2007/2006/2005 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

2009 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.

2010 and older - SUPER CUP ONLY

- ❖ 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 2010 and older Super Cup 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

2010 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.

SOCAL State Cup Game Day Procedures

Team Check In

Online 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. [Referee Fees 2023-24](#)

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. Home Team wears LIGHT Jersey. Away team wears DARK jersey. Away teams must change jerseys if the referee deems a color conflict.

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

Equipment

Player Uniforms

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.
- ❖ Players must be in official uniform 15 minutes prior to the start of the game.

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.

Heading Policy

Heading Rule

For U11 (2013) 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 (2013) 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 given to the On-Site Field Marshall and must also be sent to 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

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

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 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.

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 Soccer League are final.**

Illegal Player/Falsification of Documents

A team shall forfeit each and every game of the team 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 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.

All decisions made by SOCAL State Cup Discipline Committee or State Cup Officials are final.

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.

Contents

- 1.1 Objective and Scope
- 1.2 Players- Class of Infraction
- 1.3 Players – Penalties for Infractions
- 1.4 Coaches etc. – Class of Infraction
- 1.5 Coaches etc. – Penalties for Infractions

1.1 Objective and Scope

1.1.1 To establish a recommended, but not mandatory, set of guidelines for SOCAL Soccer League Trial Boards for uniform enforcement of Reported Infractions by use of corrective penalties.

Infraction – defined as:

- Caution – yellow card
- Ejection – red card or send off from the field.

Referee Supplemental Report

Properly submitted and documented letter of information or charge made against any player, coach, administrator or other person by a member or members parent/spectator of SOCAL Soccer League.

1.1.2 To eliminate or greatly reduce, the intolerable action, attitudes and activities of some soccer players, coaches, administrators, spectators and others.

1.1.3 To place on notice - The SOCAL Soccer League Membership (i.e. players, coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, team managers, administrators, spectators and all other interested parties) that the infractions outlined in this guideline will no longer be tolerated without corrective action in the form of standardized penalties.

1.1.4 The objective of this guideline will not be realized unless reports of infractions and/or other improper activities from referees, coaches, players, administrators and spectators reach the SOCAL Soccer League.

1.1.5 All red card infractions shall be reported to the On Site Field Marshall after the match. Any charge of abuse or assault by a player, coach, parent or spectator against any other player, coach, referee, parent or spectator shall be reported to the SOCAL Soccer League staff, through its President, where it will be forwarded to US Club Soccer for further investigation.

Referee Properly Reported matters shall include the following:

- Supplemental Report must be submitted at the field to the Field Marshall immediately after the match.

1.2 Players – Class of Infraction:

1.2.1 Technical – Class I

- Swearing (profanity on the field)
- Arguing (beyond dissent) with the Referee or Linesman
- Harassing or criticizing Referees or Linesmen
- Yelling at players, coaches or fans

1.2.2 Physical – Intentional – Class II

- Continued tripping
- Continued jumping
- Continued kicking
- Continued handballs
- Continued pushing
- Retaliation for the above
- Other

1.2.3 Physical – Violent (Intentional) – Class III Violent conduct, includes violent trip, violent push, attempting to strike a player during play.

- Spitting at an opponent, coach, administrator, or spectator.
- Verbal threats not considered as assault.
- Throwing or kicking the ball at an opponent during a stoppage of play or in retaliation.
- Tackles from behind which endanger the safety of an opponent.
- Retaliation "Beyond Defense" of his/her person.
- Assault on any player, coach, referee, administrator or spectator. (To be referred to US Club Soccer). SOCAL Soccer League penalties will apply if US Club Soccer refers the case back to the SOCAL Soccer League for adjudication.

1.2.4 Assault or Abuse – All Assaults and all abuse – Class IV

- Assault or abuse on a player
- Assault or abuse on a coach
- Assault or abuse on a referee
- Assault or abuse on any other persons present

1.3 Players – Penalties for Infractions:

1.3.1 Class I

- Yellow card: Referee may caution the player.
- Red card: (1st Report) – Referee's removal of player during the reported game – plus Player to sit out the next (1) SOCAL Soccer League game.
- Red card: (2nd Report) Player to sit out the next two (2) SOCAL games.
- Red Card: (3rd Report) Player to sit out the next five (5) SOCAL Soccer League games and Trial Board Hearing to be held. Recommendation to the Trial Board Hearing Committee is a ONE (1) YEAR suspension from date of incident.

Exception for any red card report received after second report: Unusual circumstances may dictate a stronger or lighter penalty to be determined by trial board hearing.

1.3.2 Class II

- Yellow Card: Referee may caution player.
- Red card: (1st Report) – Referee’s removal of player during reported game – plus Player to sit out the next (1) SOCAL Soccer League game.
- Red card: (2nd Report) player to sit out the next three (3) SOCAL Soccer League games*.
- Red card: (3rd Report) Player to sit out the next five (5) SOCAL Soccer League games and Trial Board Hearing to be held. Recommendation to the Trial Board Hearing Committee is a ONE (1) YEAR suspension from date of incident.

Exception for any red card report received after second report: Unusual circumstances may dictate a stronger or lighter penalty to be determined by trial board hearing.

1.3.3 Class III

- Red card: (1st Report) – Referee’s removal of player during reported game – plus Player to sit out the next three (3) SOCAL Soccer League games.
- Red Card: (2nd Report) Player to sit out the next five (5) SOCAL games.
- Red Card: (3rd Report) Player to sit out the remaining League games and will not be eligible for State Cup. Recommendations to the Trial Board Hearing Committee is a ONE (1) YEAR suspension from the date of the most recent incident.

1.4 Coaches – Class Infraction (includes Assistant Coaches, Trainers, Team Managers, ect.).

1.4.1 Technical – Class I

- Swearing (profanity on or at the field).
- Verbal insults or disparaging remarks directed at the Referee or Assistant Referees.
- Verbal insults or disparaging remarks directed at Coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, referees, players, Club officials, spectators, or other persons.
- Allowing ineligible players to participate in SOCAL Soccer League games.
- Entering the field of play without the Referee's permission.
- Removing team from field prior to conclusion of game.
- Inciting or encouraging others to commit or engage in Items 1 through 6 above.
- Other

1.4.2 Physical – Class II

- Coach assault on player (his team or opposing team).
- Coach assault on other coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, referees, club officials, spectators, or any other persons.

1.5 Coaches – Penalties for infractions (includes Assistant Coach, trainers, Team manager etc.)

1.5.1 Technical – Class I

- Yellow Card: Referee may caution coach.
- Red Card: (1st Report) removal by Referee from reported game – plus coach may not coach in 3 next consecutive SOCAL Soccer League games.

Exception – IF the Referee report indicates that the coach’s actions caused the players or spectators to become negatively involved, the coach may be referred to a Trial Board Hearing.

- Red Card: (2nd Report) Coach to sit out the next three (3) SOCAL Soccer League games and depending upon the circumstances may be referred to a Trial Board Hearing. Recommendation to the Trial Board Hearing Committee is suspension from the balance of the SOCAL Soccer League Season.
- Red Card: (3rd Report) Coach to sit out the next five (5) SOCAL Soccer League games and Trial Board Hearing to be held. Recommendations to the Trial Board Hearing Committee is a ONE (1) YEAR suspension from the date of incident.
- Red Card: (After 2nd Report) Coach to sit out the next five (5) SOCAL Soccer League games and Trial Board Hearing to be held. Recommendation to the Trial Board Hearing Committee is a ONE (1) YEAR suspension from date of incident.

Exception: Unusual circumstances may dictate a stronger or lighter penalty to be determined by Trial Board Hearing.

1.5.2 Physical – Class II

- Red Card: Referee removal of Coach from the reported game, Coach to sit out the next five (5) SOCAL Soccer League games and Coaches actions to be reported to US Club for disposition.
- Full cooperation with police agencies and Courts with respect to any criminal actions brought as a result of infraction(s).

Games – In the case of a coach receiving a red card, the term games shall be considered as a game day. A coach shall not participate in any other SOCAL Soccer League games during the game day or days noted in the class penalties described above.

Note: If no League games remain for persons assessed red card penalties, the penalty assessed shall apply to games in the following season. Failure to comply may result in further Trial Board action.

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](#)

US Club SOCCER BYLAWS AND POLICIES:

- Bylaws (updated and effective Apr 13, 2022)
 - [Clean version](#)
 - [With redlines showing revisions made Apr 13, 2022](#)
- 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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