



SOCAL SPRING LEAGUE HANDBOOK 2025

A US CLUB SOCCER SANCTIONED LEAGUE



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SOCAL Code of Conduct

The SOCAL Soccer League is committed to fostering a positive, respectful, and safe environment for all participants, including players, coaches, referees, parents, and spectators. This General Code of Conduct outlines the expectations for behavior and conduct for everyone involved in our league.

1. Respect for All Participants

- Treat all players, coaches, referees, parents, and spectators with respect, regardless of race, gender, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic.
- Avoid engaging in any form of discrimination, intimidation, harassment, or bullying.
- Use positive language and avoid derogatory, offensive, or abusive remarks.

2. Sportsmanship and Fair Play

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times, both on and off the field.
- Play and coach with integrity, respecting the rules of the game and the decisions of referees.
- Encourage fair play and respect for opponents, win or lose.

3. Commitment to Safety

- Prioritize the safety and well-being of all participants.
- Refrain from any form of physical violence, aggression, or intimidation.
- Report any unsafe conditions or behavior to league officials immediately.

4. Positive Support and Encouragement

- Support all participants, particularly young athletes, with positive encouragement.
- Focus on effort and personal improvement rather than just results.
- Avoid placing undue pressure on players to perform.

5. Responsibility and Accountability

- Take responsibility for your actions and understand the impact they have on others.
- Abide by the league's rules, guidelines, and policies.
- Be accountable for any misconduct, and cooperate fully with any disciplinary proceedings.

6. Substance-Free Environment

- Refrain from using or being under the influence of illegal substances, alcohol, or tobacco during any league-related activities.
- Promote a healthy, substance-free environment for all participants.

7. Respect for Property

- Treat all facilities, equipment, and property with care and respect.
- Avoid vandalism, destruction, or misuse of property.
- Clean up after yourself and help maintain the cleanliness of the facilities.

8. Positive Representation of the League

- Represent the SOCAL Soccer League positively at all times, both within and outside of league activities.
- Uphold the values and mission of the league in all interactions.
- Support the league's efforts to create a welcoming and inclusive community for all participants.

9. Adherence to Decisions

- Respect the decisions made by referees, coaches, and league officials.
- Avoid confronting or challenging referees or officials during or after games.
- Address any concerns through appropriate channels and processes as outlined by the league.

10. Commitment to Continuous Improvement

- Strive to continually improve your conduct, understanding, and enjoyment of the game.
- Participate in league meetings, training, and educational opportunities when available.
- Encourage a culture of learning and growth within the league.

Consequences for Violations

Violations of this General Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, including warnings, suspension, or expulsion from the league. All participants are expected to adhere to this code to maintain the integrity and positive environment of the SOCAL Soccer League.

Acknowledgment

By participating in the SOCAL Soccer League, you agree to uphold this General Code of Conduct and contribute to a positive, respectful, and safe environment for all.

Zero Tolerance Abuse Policy

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

All COACHES must follow the SOCAL League Code of Conduct.

If a PARENT/SPECTATOR is sent-off from a game, the parent will serve a minimum 3-game suspension to be enforced by the Club, team manager and team coach. A suspended parent that comes to a game during their suspension will result in the game being forfeited and the coach and manager being suspended from the next 3-games.

If there is a second incident of a PARENT/SPECTATOR send-off from the same team, the team will be placed on probation for the remainder of the season (including State Cup). A third incident will result in the team being dropped from the League.

If a COACH is sent-off from a game, the coach will serve a minimum 3-game suspension from coaching ANY TEAM IN THE Club that participates in the SOCAL League. A second coach send-off for the same coach will result in a 1-month suspension from coaching ANY team in the Club.

Referee abuse by a PARENT/SPECTATOR will result in the player of the offending parent/spectator being listed as ineligible for the remainder of the season from all games in SOCAL.

Issues involving parents from opposite teams that results in the game being stopped before it's completed will result in the game being a double forfeit and the next scheduled game will also be forfeited for each team, a **\$500 fine charged to each Club** and both teams will be placed on probation for the remainder of the season. Any further issues and the team will be dropped from the League.

PARENTS/SPECTATORS that verbally or physically assault any venue staff or SOCAL league staff at any SOCAL event will have their player banned from participating in the League for the remainder of the season (including State Cup).

ANY PERSON who touches, confronts, chases, bullies, follows, cusses at, threatens, waits for, tries to fight, attacks or assaults a referee will be banned FOR LIFE from the SOCAL Soccer League and will be turned over to US Club Soccer for further disciplinary actions.



One and Done Policy

The **One and Done Policy** is designed to promote a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all players, coaches, referees, and spectators involved in the SOCAL Soccer League.

This policy ensures that any instances of serious misconduct are dealt with swiftly and effectively to maintain the integrity of the sport.

Policy Overview

This **One and Done Policy** applies to all players, coaches, parents, and spectators associated with any team participating in the SOCAL Soccer League. Any violation of this policy, as described below, will result in immediate and significant consequences, including potential removal from the league.

Behavior Covered by the Policy

The following behaviors are considered serious violations under this policy and will result in review for immediate action:

1. Physical Violence:

Any act of physical aggression or violence toward another player, coach, referee, or spectator.

2. Verbal Abuse:

Use of derogatory, offensive, racial or abusive language toward others, including players, coaches, referees, or spectators.

3. Bullying or Harassment:

Any form of bullying, harassment, or discrimination based on race, gender, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other protected and private characteristic. Threatening or intimidating behavior, either in person or online.

4. Unsportsmanlike Conduct:

Deliberate actions that demonstrate a lack of sportsmanship, including cheating, purposeful harm to others, or disrespecting the rules of the game.

5. Substance Abuse:

Possession, use, or distribution of illegal substances, including alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, during any team-related activities.

6. Destruction of Property:

Vandalism or intentional damage to property, including fields, equipment, or facilities.

Consequences

If a player, coach, parent, or spectator commits any of the above violations, the following actions will be taken:

1. Immediate Removal:

The individual involved will be immediately removed from the game, event and venue.

2. Suspension or Expulsion:

Depending on the severity of the incident, the individual may face suspension or permanent expulsion from the team and/or league.

Depending on the severity of the incident, the **TEAM** may face suspension or permanent expulsion from the team and/or league.

For **PLAYERS**, suspension may range from one game to the entire season.

Expulsion will result in removal from the team for the remainder of the season, with no refund of fees.

3. Review by the League:

The incident will be reviewed by the league's disciplinary committee, and may be forwarded to US Club Soccer for further disciplinary actions. A final decision will be made regarding further consequences.

The individual and club representative will have an opportunity to present their side of the incident during the review process.

4. Reporting to Authorities:

In cases involving illegal activities (e.g., physical violence, substance abuse), the incident may be reported to local law enforcement or appropriate authorities.

Club Status in SOCAL

Any SOCAL member club with a team that is expelled from the league will be placed on immediate probation for the remainder of the seasonal year, which will include State Cup.

Clubs are responsible for the behavior of their teams which includes; parents, coaches, and players. Any violation by a parent or spectator will result in immediate removal from the event and possible suspension from attending future games or practices.

Commitment to Positive Behavior

By participating in the team, all players, coaches, parents, and spectators agree to uphold this One and Done Policy and commit to maintaining a positive and respectful environment for youth soccer.

SOCAL Competition Rules

League-to-Club Communication

Communication will come from 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 to designated Club Officials for review and, if necessary, the Club Official may reach out to a SOCAL staff member for assistance.

Team Management

In order to compete in SOCAL events, each team must have at least one team manager or coach whose duties may include, but are not limited to: printing Match Report and providing them to the referees, referee payments, travel arrangements, reporting of scores, and communication with appropriate Club officials, retain all match reports for each game until the end of each season. All team managers/coaches must have access to a current email address that is checked on a daily basis and a cell phone number.

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. A Player may ONLY be rostered to one team as a Primary Player. Players may club pass within the same club per club pass rules.

US Club Soccer Player Passcards

All teams must have their US Club Player passcards on hand at every match. 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 Spring matches.

US Club Soccer Player Passcards & Match Reports

- All players and Coaches must present their US Club Soccer player passcards to the Referee prior to the match. Photos of player or coach cards are acceptable. GotSport Virtual ID's are permitted.
- If the individual picture is not on the ID card and the card is not laminated, the individual will not be eligible for the match.
- Players MUST have a current US Club Player Passcard with the club they are playing with.
- Only players who are listed on the official GotSport/US Club Match Report will be eligible to play in SOCAL matches.
- Club passed players must be entered in GotSport as a Club Pass Player on the Match Report.
- Players may be handwritten on match reports.
- A player's PRIMARY team MUST be a SOCAL team.
- All players must be registered with the club they are playing with.
- Players MAY ONLY be rostered to one SOCAL team within a club.
- NO GUEST PLAYERS are allowed in SOCAL.
- Players may only be registered with one SOCAL Club and one one team.
- Players may not be registered with two SOCAL Clubs on two SOCAL teams.

Match Reports

All Match Reports for the current season MUST be collected after every match and retained for the duration of the season. Photos of Match Reports are adequate. Match reports are requested for numerous reasons including but not limited to, scoring, red cards, and match issues. Managers and Coaches must retain all match reports for each game until the end of each season.

Forgotten US Club Soccer Player Passcards

If a team forgets their US Club Player passes for a SOCAL game the game can begin and can continue play if the player passcards are at the game by half-time. Photos of player passcards are accepted. GotSport Virtual ID's cards will be accepted. All managers and coaches are able to access [Virtual ID's in GotSport](#).

Guest players

No guest players (players with a Player Pass from another Club or League) are allowed to play in SOCAL competitions. Guest players are not the same as Club Passed players.

Play-Up Guidelines

The Spring season allows teams to play up in age.

Spring Club Pass Rule

Players may play in 2 games per day during the spring season. Even in the same age group/division. There is no limit on the number of club pass players in each game, during the spring season. Players may play up in age if the club deems it appropriate for their development.

Field Requirements

Fields shall conform to FIFA (Law 1) and be adjusted to an age group. The home Club is responsible for marking and setup of the field. All fields must be properly marked, GOALS MUST be properly anchored down, and have corner flags. The suitability of corner flags, goals safely anchored and playability of the field are the sole and final discretion of the Referee under the laws of the game. Be sure to discuss any concerns you may have about the field prior to the start of the game. Once the game begins it will be considered a played game. Field Closures must be reported to fieldclosures@socalsoccerleague.org

Fines

The SOCAL League Office may impose the following fines:

1. Playing Illegal players and Game Termination Fee - \$500 per instance
2. Any game schedule changed after Tuesday at 12:00pm the week of a scheduled game may be subject to a forfeit fine.
3. **No-show/Forfeit:**
 - 1st Offense: \$250
 - 1st Club offense: Clubs must notify the league before 12:00 pm the Tuesday before the game to avoid also paying the entire referees fee for the forfeited game.
 - 2nd Club Offense: \$500 plus full referees fees.
 - 2nd Club Offense: Club will pay referee fee regardless of notification date.
4. Any club that does not complete payment within 60 days will be subject to a late fee of 15%
5. Unreported Red Cards - \$200 fine

Fines collected by SOCAL will be added to the travel fund for teams qualifying for national events via SOCAL competitions, after the deduction of Referee fees or Field Rental Costs.

All fines and fees due to SOCAL Soccer League will be invoiced in GotSport and the credit card on file will be processed net 30 days. [How to Pay Invoice - GotSport](#)

Competition Matrix

	U7-U10 (2019-2016)	U11 (2015)	U12 (2014)	U13-U14 (2013/2012)
Field Size (yds)	55/65 L 35/45 W	70/80 L 45/55 W	70/80 L 45/55 W	100/120 L 55/80 W
# of players	7v7	9v9	9v9	11v11
Minimum # of players	5	6	6	7
Primary Player Roster Limits	12	16	16	26
# of players allowed to play each game	12	16	16	18
Goalkeeper	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Playing Time	2x30	2x30	2x30	2x35
Half-Time	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins
Ball Size	4	4	4	5
Goal Size (ft)	6.5x18.5- 7x21	6.5x18.5- 7x21	6.5x18.5- 7x21	8x24
Offside	Yes - after build out line	Yes	Yes	Yes
Substitutions	Unlimited			
Fouls (free kicks)	Indirect & Direct Free Kicks			
Free-Kick clearance	8 yd	8 yd	8 yd	10 yd
Throw-in	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Penalty Kicks	Yes (mark at 10 yds)	Yes (mark at 10 yds)	Yes (mark at 10 yds)	Yes (mark at 12 yds)
Penalty Area (yds)	12x24	14x36	14x36	18 x 44
Goal Area (yards)	4x8	5x16	5x16	6 x 20
Heading	NO As per the Laws of the Game			YES As per the Laws of the Game
Build-Out Line	Yes	None		

Playing 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 the SOCAL Discipline Committee and SOCAL League Administration are final.

[How to Set Match Day Roster and Club Pass](#)

For 11v11 games: Only 18 players may be dressed for a match. The 18 players must be on the official Match Report given to the 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 set as inactive players.

For 9v9 games: Only 16 players may be dressed for the match.

For 7v7 games: Only 12 players may be dressed for the match.

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 Club pass 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 for a minimum of 3-games.
6. **Playing illegal players - \$500 per instance (non-US Club Soccer registered players)**

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 Soccer League with any team or Club and in addition can be subject to a Trial Board hearing.

Match Officials

Match officials must have a current year USSF licensed Referees. No match officials, other than Club linesmen, may have family members in the game they are working. Club linesmen may only signal when the ball has left the Field of play, they may not call offsides or fouls.

If a referee is not present within a 30- minute grace period for a scheduled game, the game will be rescheduled. The coach or manager must contact their club to notify them and the club administrator will contact their spring league Operator to reschedule the game. 7 v 7 games may be played with a coach facilitating the game.

Incomplete Games/Abandoned 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 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 0-1 against their team. All decisions of SOCAL Soccer are final.

Protests

Protests regarding the match conditions (i.e. Field condition, etc.) must be made prior to the start of the match and be clearly written on the official with the center referee. Protests regarding the use of illegal players may be made prior to or following the match and be clearly written on the match report. Referee decisions cannot be protested. This includes send-offs for players, coaches or spectators. Videos of games will not be reviewed to support protests or objections.

Point System

All SOCAL League games shall operate under the following point system.

- 3 points for a win
- 1 point for a tie
- 0 points for a loss

Game Scoring

Game Scores must be entered in [GotSport](#) by the Both Teams within 24 hours of the game. 7v7 and 9 v 9 teams may not post a score above 8-goal differential (ex.9-1, 10-2, 11-3). Any score posted with more than an 8-goal differential will be changed to SOCAL staff.

Standings

There are no standings kept in the SOCAL Spring League. No medals or trophies will be awarded for spring.

Forfeits

Forfeits will be scored 0-1 against the forfeiting team. Any game schedule changed after Tuesday at 12:00 pm the week of a scheduled game may be subject to a forfeit fine.

Any No-show/Forfeit:

- 1st Offense: \$250
- 1st Offense: Clubs must notify the league before 12:00 pm the Tuesday before the game to avoid also paying the entire referees fee for the forfeited game.
- 2nd Offense: \$500 plus full referees fees.

→ 2nd Offense: Club will pay referee fee regardless of notification date.

Ties

If a League game is tied after regulation, the tie stands and will be posted as a tie.

Substitutions

As per FIFA guidelines, unlimited substitutions are allowed in all age groups, Flights 1, 2, 3 and 4 as follows.

- Unlimited substitutions are allowed during any stoppage.
- 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.

Personnel on the Bench

Any personnel on the bench with the team MUST have a US Club Soccer Staff Card for the 24/25 season. A maximum of 3 team officials are allowed in each team's technical area. Team officials must have a current US Club 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 passcard from the Club in which they are affiliated may cover for a coach in an emergency situation.

Spectator Seating

ALL SPECTATORS FROM A TEAM will sit on the same side of the field as their team.

Coaches are responsible for the spectators on their team.

Spectators are not to interact with spectators from the opposing team. Spectators should sit on the opposite side of the half to the Assistant Referee.

Sideline Behavior

SOCAL will not tolerate inappropriate sideline behavior during ANY SOCAL games or events. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of themselves, their players and their spectators. There is a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY in place for sideline behavior.

Field Rules

- NO animals of any kind are allowed on the sideline at any SOCAL game. Check the venue you are playing at to confirm if pets are allowed at the venue. Regardless, THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE ON THE SIDELINES or BEHIND THE GOALS or in close proximity to the field of play to protect the players safety as well as the spectators safety.
- 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 events

Equipment

Player Uniforms

Opponents must wear colors that distinguish them from each other, and also the Referee and the Assistant Referees. It is recommended that 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.
- The uniform policy for SOCAL Spring is more relaxed and as long as the players on a team are wearing the same color that is approved for spring as not every player will have their new uniform yet.

Game Ball

The home team is the team listed first on the official schedule. The home team will furnish the game ball.

Safety

A Player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to themselves or another Player.

Casts

Allowance of casts will be at the discretion of the Referee.

Long Finger Nails

Exceptionally long finger nails 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 - NOT mouth)

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 (2014) 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 (2014) 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

All suspected head injuries must be reported within 24 hours in the GotSport Scoring and SOCAL Soccer League must be notified within 24 hours of injury. The Match Report must be sent to headinjuryreports@socalsoccerleague.org

Clearing Head Injuries

For a player to return to match play, 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. Report must be sent to headinjuryreports@socalsoccerleague.org

Red Cards, Suspensions and Discipline

Violation of League 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 soccer or the SOCAL Soccer League. Any breach of SOCAL League Rules outlined in this Handbook should be reported to redcardreports@socalsoccerleague.org All reports of violations may only be reported by a Club's Director of Coaching or President. All decisions made by SOCAL Discipline Committee and SOCAL League Administration are final.

Administrator Red Cards/Forfeits

If there is not a 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 current 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. If the coach is sent off and no other coach affiliated with the Club is available to continue as coach, the referee will terminate the match (see Emergency Coach below). Any coach sent off must be out of sight and sound prior to, during and after the game.

- **Emergency Coach:** In emergency situations, anyone associated with the Club may coach the game with a current US Club passcard with the same Club.

Red Card/Double Yellow Reporting Process for Referees

In any game where a Red Card or Double Yellow is issued, the Referee must complete a USSF Supplemental Report and the Match Report within 24 hours and submit it via email to redcardreports@socalsoccerleague.org

Referees must also report coach, manager or spectator send offs on the match report and send a supplemental report to redcardreports@socalsoccerleague.org

Red Card/Double Yellow Reporting Instructions for teams

1. Both teams collect a Match Report at the end of the game from the referee.
2. Both Home and Away Coaches or Managers in ALL AGE GROUPS MUST report Red Cards/Double Yellow Cards in GotSport within 24 hours.
3. Coach/Manager/Spectators that are not shown a red card by the referee MUST be reported as well. Anyone asked to leave a field by a referee MUST be reported.
4. 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
5. Both teams must send a copy of the Match Report to redcardreports@socalsoccerleague.org with the MATCH # in the subject line.
6. A Player/Coach/Spectator that receives a Red Card/Double Yellow on Saturday will automatically be suspended for the next match regardless of receiving a suspension notification.

How to Ensure a player is cleared after receiving a Red Card

1. Send a copy of the Match Report to redcardreports@socalsoccerleague.org after every game suspension served.
2. Enter the score in GotSport immediately after each game. The system will not clear the player unless the score is entered.

Suspensions

- The match in which a player, coach or parent is sent-off does not count in the suspension.
- Any Player used during a suspension will be considered an illegal Player and the team, Coach and Club will be punished accordingly.
- Players can not play for any SOCAL team while serving their suspension.
- Red cards do not carry over between League games and State Cup (and vice versa) unless the suspension involves Violent Conduct or Referee Abuse.
- If a player is issued a suspension and the match is forfeited, rained out or postponed for any reason the suspension will carry over to the next scheduled match. If there are no matches remaining on the schedule for the player, the End of Season Carry Policy will apply.
- The suspension applies to the three league games immediately after the game in which the card is received.
- No other teams may be coached until the suspension is served.
- If the suspension is not complete by end of season, it carries over to the next season.
- If your team's game schedule changes, the suspension still applies to the three games immediately after the game in which you receive the card.

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. 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 may not compete for another team in their Club until their suspension is served in full.

Card Codes 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

US Club Soccer Discipline Matrix


These are the minimum suspensions that will apply. Additional suspension may be added by the SOCAL discipline committee.

Coaches - 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.

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.

*Coaches, Team Administrators and Spectators can be shown Yellow or Red Cards.

DISCIPLINE MATRIX				
Offense	Player Minimum	Coach Minimum	Spectator Minimum	
<p>Physical Assault (Major) Any intentional or attempted act or threat of physical violence, including but not limited to the following: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a person; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object that could inflict injury; damaging personal property, i.e., car, equipment, etc., putting hands on a referee, player, coach, spectator. Spectator: All of the above in addition to entering the field of play during/after a match. *See policy 531-9 for misconduct towards game officials. All referee assault and abuse must be sent to US Club Soccer.</p>	<p>3 games Any acts committed outside of game play are subject to a minimum suspension of 5 games. Handled at league level unless serious injury occurs. US Club Soccer to be notified of suspensions for physical assault.</p>	<p>3 months Report to US Club Soccer Suspended from all soccer activities pending US Club Soccer hearing.</p>	<p>1 year *Enforced by club and league</p>	
<p>Physical Assault (Minor) Includes but is not limited to pushing, physical intimidation (i.e. nose to nose), instigating mass confrontation, spewing any beverage on personal property, spitting at (but not on) another player, coach, referee, or spectator.</p>	<p>1 game Any acts committed outside of game play are subject to a minimum suspension of 2 games.</p>	<p>6 games (first infraction) Report to US Club Soccer Suspended from all soccer activities pending US Club Soccer hearing.</p>	<p>1 year *Enforced by club and league</p>	
<p>Verbal Abuse (Major) Using foul, abusive, profane, derogatory, or insulting language including but not limited to language based on age, religion, marital status, sex, ancestry, national origin, citizenship, veteran's status, pregnancy, disability, or sexual orientation.</p>	<p>2 games</p>	<p>6 games</p>	<p>6 games *Enforced by club and league</p>	
<p>Verbal Abuse (Minor) Using foul, abusive, profane, derogatory, or insulting language towards opposition (player, coach, spectator). *See policy 531-9 for misconduct towards game officials</p>	<p>1 game</p>	<p>2 games</p>	<p>6 games *Enforced by club and league</p>	
<p>Verbal Dissent Excessive arguing with opposition (player, coach, spectator).</p>	<p>1 game</p>	<p>2 games</p>	<p>1 game *Enforced by club and league</p>	
<p>Racial Abuse Abusive and/or bigoted language or physical gestures based on race.</p>	<p>3 months Report to US Club Soccer Suspended from all soccer activities pending US Club Soccer hearing.</p>	<p>6 months Report to US Club Soccer Suspended from all soccer activities pending US Club Soccer hearing.</p>	<p>6 months *Enforced by club and league</p>	

US Soccer Referee Abuse Prevention Policy 531-9

This policy supersedes the disciplinary matrix provided by US Club Soccer when applicable.



REFEREE ABUSE PREVENTION

POLICY 531-9 PENALTY OVERVIEW / YOUTH & AMATEUR

The Penalties Matrix defines consequences associated with physical and non-physical offenses against Referees.

NON-PHYSICAL* OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Insulting, Belittling, Insinuating or Taunting Behavior Undermining Referee Authority	2	
Harassment, Intimidation, Retaliation, Abusive, or Threatening (Non Physical) Language	4	
Aggression, Attacking, Derogatory, Cyberbullying, Doxing or Threatening (Physical / Violence) Language	6	6 - 24 Months
Offensive or Discriminatory Act	10	12 - 24 Months

Effective March 2025

For more information, visit: USSOCCER.COM/RAP

PHYSICAL* OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Minor or Slight Deliberate Touching	3	1 - 6 Months
Pushing, Grabbing, Pulling, Squeezing, Pinching, Lightly Slapping, Use of Object in Non Striking Manner, or Physical Property Damage	10	6 - 24 Months
Hitting, Punching, Elbowing, Kicking, Biting, Spiting, Choking, Tackling, Throwing or Use of Object or Any Part of Body (Forearm, Knee, Head) in a Striking Manner		12 Months - Lifetime

(* Disclaimer: These are only a few examples of abuse – other actions or statements may also fall into this category.



LEARN MORE
Get the details and full policy



Effective March 2025

For more information, visit: USSOCCER.COM/RAP

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](#)
- [Referee Abuse Prevention Policy 531-9](#) - Effective March 1, 2025

US CLUB SOCCER BYLAWS AND POLICIES:

- Bylaws (updated and effective Feb 7, 2024)
 - [Clean version](#)
 - [With redlines showing revisions made Feb 7, 2024](#)
 - 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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Conclusion

This handbook serves as a comprehensive guide to the policies, procedures, and expectations for all participants within our organization. It is designed to promote a safe, fair, and respectful environment in alignment with our commitment to the highest standards of youth sportsmanship and conduct.

However, the SOCAL Soccer League reserves the right to make final determinations on any matter, including those not explicitly covered within this handbook. In cases of conflict, ambiguity, or situations that require discretion, the decision of the SOCAL soccer league office will supersede all guidelines set forth herein. This authority ensures that the competition can adapt to unique circumstances while maintaining the integrity and objectives of the event.

The SOCAL soccer league office decisions are final and binding, reflecting our dedication to upholding the core values and principles of youth soccer.

Revised March 2, 2025