



2011

Information, Procedures and Playing Rules

Last updated August 2011

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

The Cal South Signature League is an advanced recreational soccer league for youth and families designed to promote skilled soccer, good sportsmanship, fair play and a safe environment. The objective of the Cal South Signature League is to provide our recreational based Leagues/Clubs with an intermediary playing level that better prepares players, parents and coaches in the transition from recreational play to competitive club play.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The Cal South Signature League is a playing circuit for boys and girls teams in the U9 – U15 age brackets. Playing Circuits provide for a skill and commitment level of soccer above the recreational level, yet below the club level. Individual Circuits may consider additional or alternate age brackets based on individual Circuit or geographic needs.
2. Playing Circuits are being established throughout the Southern California area. These playing circuits are set in smaller geographic areas in an effort to limit team travel distance and will be facilitated by Cal South. All Playing Circuit activities will be conducted and communicated therein via Individual Circuit Websites accessible through the Cal South home page. Each coach must provide an Internet e-mail address. A web site will provide general Circuit information, schedules, bracket standings and periodic season updates.
3. Players will be registered as Cal South recreational players under the Signature League “Play Type” level within their own local sponsoring league or Club.
4. Circuit Formation:
 - a. Circuits will be formed with a primary focus on limiting travel distance for all teams within an individual circuit.
 - b. A Signature League Circuit will encompass a 20 – 30 mile radius within an area. Individual Circuit mileage restraints may be expanded as deemed appropriate.
 - c. Any Cal South League/Club in good standing, with a minimum of 300 recreational players registered for the current year, may apply for and sponsor Signature League teams in the playing circuit. Cal South Online Registration System roster confirmation may include Fall, Winter, Spring and/or Summer recreational programs.
 - d. Teams that participated in Signature Competition in 2008, from Leagues/Clubs that do not meet the 2010 requirements of rule 3c., may be grandfathered into Signature if they meet the following criteria:
 - i. The team must have a minimum of five (5) returning players from the 2008 season on the new roster, and
 - ii. At least one coach or assistant coach from the 2008 season must be on the new roster

5. All regular season Signature players will receive participation medals. The finalists in all post-season tournaments will receive award/medals.

B. ADMINISTRATION

1. An Individual Circuit Board may consist of the following members:

- a. Circuit Director: General Coordinator for Circuit activities and schedules.
- b. Circuit Committee Members: Monitors game cards, game violations, game scores, standings, rules and assists the Director in the overall operations of the Circuit.
- c. Local League/Club Signature League Representative: Works with their individual League/Club sponsor teams, to secure playing fields and facilitate League/Club referees for all games on their home fields.

2. Each League/Club sponsoring a team or teams in the Playing Circuit should provide assistance to those teams by:

- a. Designating a local board member as a Signature League Representative to the Playing Circuit. This person should assist participating teams from the league and serve as a communications link between the Circuit, sponsoring league and team coaches/managers.
- b. Selecting team head coaches and team managers for each team participating in the Circuit
- c. Publish dates and assist teams in their evaluation of players, selecting team rosters and general team formation
- d. Assisting with online team registration
- e. Assisting teams in purchasing their 2 team uniforms
- f. Assisting in designating available playing fields for circuit games
- g. Assisting with Referee assignments for Home games
- h. Provide one \$250.00 Bond Payable to Cal South to the Circuit for guaranteeing playing fields and team referees by July 1. The Bond will be carried over each year to serve as that League's / Club's Bond for the next seasonal year. Bond deductions must be replenished within 2 weeks of being notified of the deduction.

3. All Players, Coaches and other Team Administrators MUST have a Cal South picture ID card printed from the Cal South Online Registration System stamped, embossed or signed by the league registrar and laminated. (Temporary ID cards will not be accepted)

4. All players must have a Cal South registration/medical release form with parent / guardians' signature at all team functions. These forms shall be provided to any referee upon request.

5. Players or teams without Cal South ID cards and/or Registration/Medical Release forms will not be allowed to play.

6. The Head Coach and one Assistant Coach must each hold the appropriate Cal South required coaching license. An E or D level license is recommended and desired. A Youth Module 3 (YM-3) license may be used until an E license is obtained. The head coach and assistant coach must each have passed Cal South "KidSafe" Risk Management LiveScan fingerprint process. Each coach must have a CAL SOUTH picture ID card specific to the team they are coaching indicating Risk Management and Coaching license level. Each team must have a carded coach or assistant coach at each game or the team will forfeit the game and be subject to Disciplinary Action from Cal South.

7. The Playing Circuits shall provide bracket scheduling, referee scheduling, tournament scheduling, posting of bracket scores and standings and handle general activities as outlined in these regulations and playing rules.

8. The Cal South Signature League and Playing Circuits shall provide information, regulations, rules, application and forms, game cards and instructions for League/Clubs and teams desiring to participate in a Playing Circuit.

9. Cal South and the Signature League Circuits will review all procedures and rules each year and make modifications as deemed appropriate.

C. CONDUCT

1. The safety of all participants and the maintenance of an atmosphere of good sportsmanship are the responsibility of all players, coaches, administrators, parents and spectators.
2. The Signature League strongly suggests that team administrators welcome visiting players and parents to their home field and take an active role in urging parents from one team to introduce themselves to the parents of the other team before the game. This is a positive gesture of sportsmanship and role modeling in addition to showing support and encouragement to all youth soccer players.
3. Coaches are responsible for all conduct on their sidelines. This includes players, parents, friends, visitors and spectators.
- d. Any player, coach, administrator, parent or spectator promoting violence, enticing team dissent, or generally in violation of sub-paragraph a (above) should be brought before the local hosting League/Club for possible disciplinary action (including suspension or removal of that player, coach, administrator, parent and spectators). Any appeals of local League/Club actions may be brought before the Signature League Circuit Director. Individuals may be subject to the Cal South and USYS Disciplinary Guidelines and Procedures.
4. Any member, who instigates violence that leads to harming an opponent, spectator, official, or teammate, in addition to any action defined above, may be subject to criminal prosecution. This type of conduct cannot and will not be tolerated and should be aggressively pursued by the local hosting League/Club. Serious incidents will be immediately turned over to the Cal South Protests, Appeals and Disciplinary (PAD) Committee.
5. Player Safety (from Cal South Rules and Regulations 2.4 Player Safety)
 - a. No player should be allowed to play in any regularly scheduled league or tournament game with an injury which can be aggravated by playing or which constitutes a danger to others.

D. FEES

1. Playing Circuit Entry fee will be \$200 per team for the fall playing season (Fall season being separate from Spring season – Spring fees determined each year). This fee will handle administration costs, web costs, patches and awards for the season and the post-season tournament. This is a non-refundable fee payable to Cal South.
2. Any player participating on a team sponsored into a Signature League Playing Circuit shall be capped fee at \$350.00 for the playing season (Fall season being separate from Spring season). This capped fee includes all player registration and League/Club fees as well as any fees associated with the sponsored team. Any league/team/coach found violating the fee cap per player could be dropped from the Signature League Playing Circuit. Teams may be asked to provide the Circuit Director with a team Income and Expense Statement for the year. The statement should provide the number of team players, total income, itemized expenses to date and anticipated expenses for the remainder of the year. A typical example breakdown of costs per player could be: Sponsoring League /Club Registration Fee/ Pictures /Other Fees: \$50, Uniforms: \$80, Tournaments: \$80, Referee Fees (league and playoffs): \$60, Miscellaneous Expenses (Playing Circuit Fee, Team Parties, etc.): \$50.
3. A written explanation of Player fees and the cap shall be provided to each parent of each team player. Teams are not expected to purchase balls, player bags, water bottles or extra equipment for players.

4. Player fees should be used to pay for part-time trainers like Club Teams. Fees may be used to pay for short term or part time training, not to exceed four (4) hours per week. Sponsorships and donated services may be used for full time trainers.

E. FALL SEASON/DEADLINES

1. The fall playing season shall be designated from June 1st until January 31st. This includes pre-season and post-season tournaments. Season games will normally be played on Saturdays on permitted fields. If games are played on Sundays, it is recommended that no game will begin before 10:00 p.m.
2. League/Club will provide their participating Team Count list by June 1.
3. Team Registration online applications and team registration fees are due by July 1. No team fee refunds after July 1.
4. The Circuit Board will notify each team and league of acceptance of each team into the Playing Circuit by July 15.
5. Team Rosters are to be completed in the Cal South Online Registration Program by August 31. No players may be added to the fall team season roster after September 30 "Roster Freeze" Deadline.
6. Schedules for at least 8 to 10 regular season games should be published and distributed about August 25. No games may be rescheduled by the individual league or team once the final schedule is published. Only games cancelled due to official city/school district field closures or rainouts may be rescheduled upon approval from the Circuit committee.
7. The first regular season game will be the first Saturday after Labor Day in September. The regular season will conclude before Thanksgiving. Post season tournament (play-offs) will be scheduled after Thanksgiving weekend and conclude before Christmas.

F. REFEREES

1. The assignment of Referees for regular season games will be determined by the League/Club or League Representative of the Home Team.
2. All League and Referee Association Assignors must be USSF Certified. Referee Assignors shall use best efforts to assign unbiased and neutral referees throughout the season.
3. All Referees must be USSF registered and certified (displaying current year badge). The three (3) man referee system shall be used at all games. Referees should be at least 3 years older than the age of the players they are officiating.
4. The Home team or Home Team League/Club is responsible for payment of all Referee fees BEFORE all regular season matches. Referees are to be paid in cash. Each League/Club is responsible for determining the home field referee payment fees for League/Club Referees or Referee Associations. For post-season tournament games, the Referee fee will be established by the hosting League/Club. Each Team shall each pay 50% of that Referee fee.
5. If there is no assigned referee is present at the start of the game, the coaches shall jointly select an assistant referee or other agreeable party to fulfill the center referee responsibilities. The replacement Center Referee shall receive due payment. (Every effort shall be made to complete the scheduled game). In the event that a replacement Center Referee cannot be obtained for a regular season game, the Home team shall forfeit the game.
6. Minimum recommended Referee payment for 3 Referees per game is \$1 per minute of game time. Referee payments should be pro-rated when there are less than 3 Referees officiating any game. Assistant referees not in proper uniform are considered to be Club Linesman and should not to be paid for their services.

G. UNIFORM

1. Each team shall have uniforms consisting of one white jersey with white socks to match, one colored jersey and colored socks to match and one pair of shorts.
2. The Home Team shall wear their COLORED uniform. The Visiting Team shall wear their WHITE uniform.
3. Knit caps, sweatshirts under the jersey, bicycle or sliding shorts of any color, or similar items may be worn. Socks shall cover the each shin guard. Goalies may wear gloves, leg coverings, elbow, and kneepads.
4. Shin guards are mandatory for all players in practices, games, and tournaments within Cal South.
5. No player wearing an orthopedic cast, temporary cast, non-oral brace (such as knees or other areas of the body) with hard, hinged or rigid supports, or splint shall be permitted to play in any Cal South sanctioned play.
6. Each league participant will receive two Signature League patches per registered player. The official Signature League patch and/or logo is strongly recommended on the player uniform sleeve. In the event that the placement conflicts with a current league sponsor patch/logo, the patch may place on the opposite sleeve of the jersey or even on the player's shorts. Teams may utilize Cal South approved uniform suppliers to screen print the official Signature League patch artwork directly on uniforms in lieu of the Signature League patch.

H. ROSTER

1. The U-9 and U-10 teams are limited to 12 players on the roster (recommend 11 players). The U-11 through U-15 teams are limited to 16 players on the roster (recommend 15 players).
2. No players may be added to the fall season team roster after September 30 "Roster Freeze" deadline. Players may be added to team rosters for the spring playing season following the conclusion of the fall regular season and post season play-off games.
3. Borrowed players are not allowed during the regular season or during post season play-off games.
4. A newly formed team may bring 5 players to their roster. Each League/Club should assist teams in establishing a published player evaluation date(s). It is in the sponsoring League/Clubs best interest to establish and publish player evaluation criteria prior to holding player evaluations and whether the coach or the League/Club will select players for the final team roster. Established teams will use the same criteria as a newly formed team in establishing their final roster.
5. It is highly recommended that U-14 and U15 players in High School play on a U-15 or U-16 team in another playing circuit. Per CIF rules, High School players are not allowed to play in non-High School games after Nov 30th.

I. PLAYING RULES

1. The game length for U-9 and U-10 games is 50 minutes. The game length for U-11 and U-12 games is 60 minutes. The game length for U-13 and U-14 games is 70 minutes. The game length for U-15 game is 80 minutes.
2. Any game played at least to half time shall be considered an official game.
3. Post-Season Games with ties at the end of regulation time will have two extra 7 min. halves without another halftime - immediately switch sides at half. If the game is still tied after these extra halves, teams will go straight to penalty kicks.

4. Each team will be given a 10-minute grace period for the minimum number to arrive for the game. Failure to field a team of 6 players for U-9 and U-10 teams and to field a team of 8 players for U-11 through U-15 teams will result in a forfeit.
5. Unless previously notified of a postponement, both teams must show up at the field, be ready to play and be certified as ready to play by the referee.
6. In the event of a rain out, smog out, unplayable conditions, etc., the Circuit will reschedule the game within 2 weeks. Individual teams or leagues cannot reschedule games. Unplayed games that are not rescheduled or played for any reason will not count toward the standings. It is the individual team's responsibility to check the Mudline Message Board on the Circuit website and with the home team to stay apprised of current field conditions.
7. In the age bracket standings, each team will be awarded 3 points for a victory, 1 point for a tied game and zero points for a loss. All forfeit games shall be considered a score of 1-0. Should a team drop from a Circuit bracket during the season, all games for that team, including completed games, shall be considered forfeit games.
8. All Age brackets will have free substitution. It is the direct responsibility of the Coach to ensure that a player's 50% minimum playing requirement is never breached. (It is strongly urged that most players receive 75% playing time). Playing Time infractions will be dealt with by the local hosting League/Club and/or the Signature League Circuit Director. Infractions could result in a game forfeiture. Injured players may be substituted for during the game and the injury documented on the game card.
9. All substitutes shall be at the discretion of the Center Referee. Substituted player infractions are not protestable.
10. A size 4 soccer ball shall be used for all U-9 through U-12 Circuit games. A size 5 soccer ball shall be used for all U-13 and U-15 Circuit games.
11. The recommended field size for U-9 and U-10 teams is 50 yards by 80 yards. The recommended goal size is 7 feet by 21 feet. The field length may vary from 70-80 yards and width from 44-50 yards. An alternate goal size 6 feet by 18 feet may be used. The goal area will be 6 yards by 18 yards, the penalty area should be 14 yards by 34 yards and the center circle 8 yards in radius. Any penalty kick will be taken from the 10-yard mark.
12. For U-9 and U-10 games, all opponents must position themselves at least 8 yards away whenever a free kick, goal kick, corner kick or penalty kick is taken by a player.
13. The recommended field size for U-11 through U-15 teams is 60 yards by 100 yards. The field length may vary from 96-110 yards and width from 56-70 yards. The goal shall be a standard 8 feet by 24 feet and all standard field markings.
14. Any coach or team that abandons a game prior to its normal conclusion may be subject to disciplinary action by the local hosting League/Club or Signature League Circuit Director.
15. The U-9 and U-10 teams shall field a team of 8 players, one of which must be the goalie.
16. Each coach shall complete and sign the Official Match Report /Game Card prior to the game and present it to the referee along with the team's CAL SOUTH ID cards at player check-in. After player check-in and before the game starts, it is highly recommended that player cards be returned to the coach/team. (Coaches sign their own game card before the game verifying all information on the card is correct. Coaches sign the opponent's game card after the game to verify the final score). The Official Match Report /Game Cards are the official records of the Playing Circuit and the Cal South Signature League.
17. Each team, coaches, administrators, and spectators shall be on opposite sides of the field, wherever possible. Coaching and encouraging players shall occur from that team's side of the field only.
18. The use of English by a Head Coach or Assistant Coach during competition or team activities is preferred.

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

20. Any player/team found responsible for promoting violence, instigating, or enticing a team disturbance, causing the referee to suspend play prior to the completion of regulation time, will have forfeited that game (even if they are winning at the time of the incident).

21. If a coach deems it necessary to PROTEST a game because of misapplication of FIFA LAW, not a judgment call, the coach must notify the referees of the intent to protest, write a very brief statement on the card and sign the game card. The head coach should send an Internet e-mail explanation of the protest to the Circuit Director, including citation of the Circuit/FIFA rule the protesting team feels was misapplied. A \$50.00 cash protest fee payable to Cal South must be turned in within 48 hours to the Circuit Director. The Circuit Director may gather additional information and determine whether a FIFA, Cal South or Signature League rule violation has occurred or whether it was a referee judgment call. The Circuit Director shall make a ruling on the protest. If the Circuit Director upholds the protest, the protest fee will be returned to the team and the game shall be treated as a non-played game. An appeal of Circuit Director's ruling can be made to the entire Circuit Board. The appeal of any Circuit Board ruling can be made to the entire Signature League Board. The Circuit Director shall determine whether if and when an upheld protested game shall be replayed. **PROTESTS ON REFEREE JUDGMENT CALLS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.**

22. Home Team Responsibilities (Visiting Teams courtesies) include:

a. The Home Team shall complete field set up (nets, flags, field markings, trash cans, etc.).

This should occur at least 30 minutes prior to game time. (As a common courtesy, the Visiting Team should assist with field set up and take down).

c. The Home Team shall provide a game ball.

d. The Home Team is responsible for collecting the completed game cards after the match and delivering the game cards to their League/Club Coordinator. Failure to deliver the game cards to the League Coordinator/Club within a week may result in a forfeit game for the Home Team.

e. The Home Team and Visiting Team shall both be responsible for bringing a trash bag to the game and cleaning up the field and sideline area after the game. Trash bags should be taken with the team when they leave the area.

f. The Home Team has the choice of sidelines.

23. The Home Team will deliver the completed game cards, along with any additional information about sideline conduct, cautions or ejections, to their League/Club Coordinator. Individual player cards or coach cards shall not be taken from the coach/team should a red card be issued. The League/Club Coordinator will review the game cards and forward to the Cal South office only those game cards that have yellow card, red card or sideline conduct problem information.

24. A league or team coach that cancels a game via email or voicemail message on Wednesday or later of the same week is responsible for full payment of the referee and assignor fees. These fees and or additional penalties will also apply to teams that fail to notify their opponent and the Circuit Director. These fees will be deducted from their league bond. The league must replenish their league bond within in 2 weeks.

J. DISCIPLINE

1. Conduct on the field offenses shall be subject to suspension (These guidelines will be inclusive and apply to all circuit activities including seasonal play and post-season play):
 - a. Any player, coach or administrator receiving three (3) yellow cards (warning / caution) may be brought before a committee of the Circuit Board. An individual receiving a fourth yellow card (warning/caution) shall be suspended for the next scheduled game. After a suspension of this type, the count of yellow cards is set to one (1).
 - b. Any player, coach or administrator receiving a red card (ejection/send off – whether by a straight red card or 2 yellow cards) from the referee shall be suspended for that game and their team's next scheduled game. (An ejection caused by two yellow cards shall not be counted as yellow cards described in sub-paragraph a above).
 - c. Any player, coach or administrator receiving two (2) red cards (ejection / sendoff) in one season will be suspended from playing, coaching or attending games until that person has been brought before a committee of the Circuit Board for a review of the ejections. The Committee shall determine the eligibility of the player, coach, spectator or administrator in question.
2. The local hosting League/Club has the authority to place any team, player or coach on probation or suspension for unsportsmanlike conduct on or off the field. The local hosting League/Club may place a team, player or coach on probation for a period of time and closely monitor the team or coach's conduct and activities. The local hosting League/Club may also suspend a team, player or coach from league play for a period of 1-2 games or for the remainder of the season. Any team under league suspension will forfeit all scheduled games with a score of (0-1) until suspension is complete. If it is found that multiple teams or players are equally at fault in the suspending of play in a game, then both teams will receive a forfeit (0-1, 0 points). Any disciplinary actions will be placed in writing and given to all offending parties. Any team, player, spectator or coach found responsible for promoting violence, instigating, or enticing a team disturbance, causing the referee to suspend play prior to the completion of regulation time, will have forfeited that game (even if they are winning at the time of the incident). The Circuit Director will review all such incidents and actions by the local hosting League/Club. The Circuit Director may place any team, player or coach on probation or suspension for unsportsmanlike conduct as deemed appropriate when the local hosting League/Club fails or refuses to take action.
3. The Circuit Director may render decisions or discipline upon any team, coach, player or League/Club for not adhering to Signature League Procedures and Rules.
4. Appeals:
 - a. The Signature League Circuit Director shall be the first point of appeal for actions taken by the local hosting League/Club.
 - b. The Cal South District Commission or representative shall be the next point of appeal after the Circuit Director.
 - c. The Cal South Protest, Appeals and Disciplinary (PAD) Committee shall be the next and final point of appeal.