



Information, Procedures and Playing Rules

Updated Feb. 15, 2005

(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 members with an intermediary playing level that better prepares players, parents and coaches in the transition from recreational play to competitive club play.

INFORMATION and PROCEDURES

1. The Cal South Signature League will provide soccer playing circuits for boys and girls teams in the U9 – U14 age brackets. These Circuits provide for a skill and commitment level of soccer above the recreational level, yet below the club level. * Additional consideration in regard to age brackets will be addressed per Individual Circuit 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. Circuit Formation:
 - a. Circuits will be formed with a primary focus on limiting travel distance for all teams and players within an individual circuit.
 - b. A Signature League Circuit will encompass a 10 – 15 mile radius within an area. * Individual Circuit mileage restraints may be expanded as deemed appropriate.
4. 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 and awards for the season and the post-season tournament. This is a non-refundable fee payable to Cal South.
5. Each player shall be guaranteed a minimum 50% playing time in each game.

6. Participating League's Player Fees must be capped at \$300.00 per player per playing season (Fall season being separate from Spring season). Each team may be asked to provide the Circuit Director with a team Income and Expense Statement by each year. The statement should provide the number of team players, total income, itemized expenses and anticipated expenses for the remainder of the year.

7. Players will be registered as Cal South recreational players within their own local sponsoring league affiliation.

8. A typical example breakdown of costs per player could be: Sponsoring League Registration/Pictures/Other fees: \$25, Uniforms: \$60, Tournaments: \$50, Referee fees (league and playoffs): \$60, Miscellaneous Expenses (Circuit fee, team parties, etc.): \$40.

9. 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. Each team will receive 2 Signature League patches per player from Cal South. **It is mandatory that the patch be sewed onto the left sleeve of both jerseys for all Signature League play. In the event that this placement conflicts with a current league sponsor patch/logo, the participating teams from that league may place the patches on the opposite sleeve of both jerseys.**

10. 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.

11. Player fees should not be used to pay for full time trainers like Club Teams. Fees may be used to pay for short term or part time training. Sponsorships and donated services may be used for full time trainers.

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

- a. Designating a local board member as a Representative to the Playing Circuit. This person should assist participating teams from the league and serve as a communications link between the Circuit and sponsoring league.
- b. Selecting team head coaches for teams 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 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. Submitting an anticipated team participation list to the Circuit by May 1st.
- i. Provide one \$250.00 Bond Payable to Cal South to the Circuit for guaranteeing playing fields and team referees by May 15th . Once the season is completed and both fields and team referee requirements have been satisfied, the Bond can be refunded at the league's discretion by December 15th or the Bond may be carried over to serve as that league's Bond for the next seasonal year.

13. Team applications are due to the Circuit Board by June 1st. The Circuit Board will notify each team and league of acceptance of each team into the Playing Circuit by June 15th. Team Rosters (printed out from the Cal South Online Registration Program) are due to the Playing Circuit Board by July 15th.

14. Schedules for at least 10 regular season games should be published and distributed by August 15th. The first regular season game will be the first Saturday after Labor Day in September.

15. The fall playing season shall be designated from July 15th until January 31st. This includes pre-season and post-season tournaments. Games will normally be played on Saturdays as fields permit. If games are played on Sundays, it is recommended that no game will begin before 1:00 p.m.

16. All Players, Coaches and other 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)

17. 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.

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

19. The Head Coach and one Assistant Coach must each hold the appropriate Cal South required coaching license. A Youth Module 3 (YM-3) license is the minimum license level, an E level license is recommended. The head coach and assistant coach must each have passed Cal South "KidSafe" Risk Management 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.

20. All other team administrators must have a CAL SOUTH picture ID card and must have passed Cal South "KidSafe" Risk Management fingerprint process.

21. The assignment of Referees for regular season games will be determined by the League or League Representative of the Home Team.

22. 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.

23. The U-9 and U-10 teams are limited to 12 players on the roster (recommend 11 players). The U-11 thru U-14 teams are limited to 16 players on the roster (recommend 15 players).

24. It is highly recommended that U-14 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.

25. A newly formed team may bring 5 players to their roster. Each league should assist teams in establishing a published player evaluation date(s). It is in the sponsoring leagues best interest to establish and publish player evaluation criteria prior to holding player evaluations and whether the coach or the league 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.

26. Each team will supply a game card (provided by Cal South) to the referee prior to the game. The referee will return the game cards to the Home Team. The Home Team will deliver the completed game cards, along with any additional information about sideline conduct, cautions or ejections, to their League Coordinator. Individual player cards or coach cards shall not be taken from the coach/team should a red card be issued. The League 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. The game cards are the official records of the Playing Circuit and the Cal South Signature League.

27. 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 or forfeit game. Should a team drop from a Circuit bracket during the season, all games for that team shall be considered forfeit games by a score of 1-0.

28. A team will have 1 point deducted in the standings for each Red Card that may be issued to any player, coach, administrator or parent.

29. A team will have 2 points deducted in the standings for each incident of unruly sideline conduct as reported by the game Referee and reviewed / approved by the Circuit Administrators. Coaches are responsible for all conduct on their sidelines. This includes players, parents, friends, visitors and spectators.

30. All regular season Signature players will receive participation medals. The first place team in each regular season bracket will receive a participation medal indicating the first place award. The finalists in all post-season tournaments will receive awards/medals.

31. 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. 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 an upheld protested game shall be replayed. **PROTESTS ON REFEREE JUDGMENT CALLS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.**

32. General Conduct

- a. 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.
- b. 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 and at half time of each game. This is a positive gesture of sportsmanship and role modeling in addition to showing support and encouragement to all youth soccer players.
- c. 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 item A (above) will be brought before a committee of the Circuit Board for possible disciplinary action (including suspension or removal of that player, coach, administrator, parent and spectators). They may be subject to the Cal South and USYS Disciplinary Guidelines and Procedures.
- e. 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 will be aggressively pursued by the Individual Circuit Board. Serious incidents will be immediately turned over to the Cal South Protests, Appeals and Disciplinary (PAD) Committee.

33. 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.

d. Any player, coach or administrator receiving five (5) disciplinary points is considered to be on probation by the Circuit Board. Disciplinary points shall be counted as:

Yellow Card (Warning/Caution) = 1 point

Red Card (Ejection/Send Off) = 2 points

e. Upon a single team receiving ten (10) disciplinary points, the coach may be directed to appear before a committee of the Circuit Board for review and possible disciplinary action. Upon a single team receiving fifteen (15) or more points in a single season (including post-season play) the team is suspended from play and the head coach must appear before a committee of the Circuit Board for a disciplinary hearing.

34. The Circuit Director has the authority to place any team on probation for unsportsmanlike conduct on and off the field. A committee of the Circuit Board will determine other suspensions. 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). The Circuit Board will review all such incidents. Upon review the team may also be subject to league suspension. Any team under league suspension will forfeit all scheduled games with a score of (0-1) until suspension is complete. If it is found that both teams/players are equally at fault in the suspension of a game, then both teams will receive a forfeit (0-1, 0 points). Any disciplinary actions will be placed in writing to all offending parties.

35. The Individual Circuit Board should consist of the following members:

a. Circuit Director: General Coordinator for Circuit activities, schedules circuit league games, and sits as a Circuit Representative on the Cal South Signature League Board.

b. Assistant Circuit Director: Receives game cards, monitors game scores, standings and assists the Director in the overall operations of the Signature Circuit.

c. League Coordinator: Works with their individual League to secure playing fields and facilitate League referee assignments on their home fields.

36. 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.

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

PLAYING RULES

1. 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 thru U-14 teams will result in a forfeit.

2. The Home team or Home Team League is responsible for payment of all Referee fees BEFORE all regular season matches. Referees are to be paid in cash. Each League is responsible for determining the home field referee payment fees for League Referees or Referee Associations. For post-season tournament games, each Team shall each pay 50% of the Referee fee.

3. Minimum recommended Referee payment for 3 Referees per game: U-9/U-10 games: \$40, U-11/U-12 games: \$52, U-13/U-14 games: \$60. Center Referee receives 50% of the payment and each Assistant Referee 25% of payment. Assistant referees not in proper uniform are considered to be Club Linesman and should not to be paid for their services. Referee payments should be pro-rated with less than 3 Referees officiating any game.

4. If there is no assigned referee present at the start of the game, the coaches shall jointly select an assistant referee or other agreeable party to fulfill the center referee responsibilities. The replacement Center Referee shall receive due payment. (Every effort shall be made to complete the scheduled game).

5. Each coach shall complete and sign the 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).

6. Each player shall be guaranteed a minimum 50% playing time in each game. (It is strongly urged that most players receive 75% playing time)

7. 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.

8. 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 an player.

9. The recommended field size for U-11 thru U-14 teams is 60 yards by 100 yards. The goal shall be a standard 8 feet by 24 feet and all standard field markings.

10. 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. Playing Time

infractions will be dealt with by the Circuit Board directly and could result in a game forfeiture. Injured players may be substituted for during the game and the injury documented on the game card. Substituted player infractions cannot be protested.

11. 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.

12. Any game played at least to half time shall be considered an official game.

13. Any coach or team that abandons a game prior to its normal conclusion may be subject to disciplinary action by the Signature League board.

14. The U-9 and U-10 teams shall field a team of 8 players, one of which must be the goalie.

15. 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-14 Circuit games.

16. Player Safety (from Cal South Rules and Regulations 2.4 Player Safety)

- a. 2.4.1 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.
- b. 2.4.2 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.
- c. 2.4.3 Shin guards are mandatory for all players in practices, games, and tournaments within Cal South.

17. 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.

18. In the event of a rain out, smog out, unplayable conditions, etc., the Circuit will reschedule the game at the original field, if possible. It is the individual team's responsibility to check the Mudline Message Board on the Circuit website to stay apprised of current field conditions.

19. 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.

20. Home Team Responsibilities include:

- a. The Home Team shall complete field set up (nets, flags, field markings, trash cans, etc.) should occur twenty minutes prior to game time. (As a common courtesy, the Visiting Team shall assist with field set up and take down).
- b. The Home Team shall wear their COLORED uniform. The Visiting Team shall wear their WHITE uniform.

- 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 Coordinator. Failure to deliver the game cards to the League Coordinator 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.

21. No games may be rescheduled without the permission of the Circuit Board. A minimum of two (2) weeks notice shall be required to reschedule a game.

22. 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.

23. The use of English by a Head Coach or Assistant Coach during competition or team activities is preferred.

24. Cal South Player, Coach and Administrator Cards

a. All Players, Coaches and other Administrators MUST have a CAL SOUTH picture ID card stamped, embossed or signed by the league registrar and laminated. (Temporary ID cards will not be accepted).

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

c. Players or teams without a CAL SOUTH ID cards and/or Registration/Medical Release forms will not be allowed to play.

d. The coach and assistance coach must have a coaching license and passed Cal South "KidSafe" Risk Management fingerprint process. A Coach may not coach a Signature League team without passing the Cal South "KidSafe" Risk Management fingerprint process.

25. Any player or coach receiving a red card must leave the immediate playing area. A red carded player or ejected team official will not be able to participate in their team's next scheduled game. If it is the last game of the season, the suspension carries over to post season play. If a player or official receives a second red card during the season, they will be suspended from play or coaching until reinstated by the committee of the Circuit Board on the person's conduct.

26. 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.

27. 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).

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