

RCYSL Recreational RULES and POLICIES

The following Rules and Policies apply to all Recreational games played within RCYSL. They should be reviewed by all RCYSL coaches and Referees. Questions may be directed to a League board member, to your Club Manager, or to your club Referee or Coach Coordinators.

Section 1: Authority and Responsibilities

1:01 RCYSL shall operate under the General Procedures and Specific Rules of the California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA), and any additional Rules and Regulations adopted by RCYSL Board.

1:02 Rules and Regulations adopted by the Board shall not conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA), the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), and the Federation International de Football Association (FIFA).

Section 2: Team and Club Responsibilities

2:01 The hosting club is responsible for providing a correctly sized, safe, and properly equipped field at the scheduled time. The field shall have distinctive lines, approved flags at each corner, and appropriate sized nets and goals. The hosting club shall also provide the Referees as described in Section 4.

2:02 It is the responsibility of the hosting club to ensure that the field is playable prior to the start of games scheduled that day. Coaches may **not** cancel games without prior consent of the Club Manager. The center Referee may cancel the game if he/she determines that the field is not playable. Once the game has started it is the sole responsibility of the center Referee to determine if the field continues to be in playable condition.

2:03 The coaches of both teams (home and visitor) are to report the results of their match in a timely manner. Standings are kept in order to appropriately seed the teams into playing divisions.

2:04 Coaches are responsible for the control of their players, parents and spectators during the game. A coach may be sent off by the Referee as a result of inappropriate behavior by any of these individuals.

2:05 Any individual attending a match may submit a Match Report concerning the game, the participants, the officials, or others in attendance. The completed form should be forwarded to the individual's Club Manager, or to a League official for appropriate action. The Match Report form may be downloaded from the RCYSL website.

2:06 Any team that fails to appear for a scheduled game without a 48 hour notification will be responsible for paying all Referee fees for the rescheduled game; no matter where the rescheduled game is to be played.

2:07 Any hosting club that fails to provide the required Referees in proper attire at the scheduled time should be reported on a Match Report form. The Match Report should be sent to the League Referee Coordinator within 24 hours. The League may impose a fine of up to \$50.00 upon the host club for each offense, unless the offense was due to circumstances completely beyond the control of the club.

Section 3: Coaches and Players

3:01 All players on a team's roster who are present for a game are to play a **minimum** of **one-half** of that match unless there are medical reasons why they should not. Only those players who are ill or injured, or have a documented physical limitation may play less than one-half of the game. Both the Referee and opposing coach are to be notified prior to the start of the game of any player(s) who will not be participating in at least one-half of the match.

3:02 In order to participate in any matches, including seeding tournaments, **all** players and coaches must be currently registered with CYSA. Being listed on a team roster is sufficient proof for Under 6 players. All coaches and all older (Under 8 through Under 19) players must have current, valid USYSA passes. Referees may **not** accept a team roster in lieu of the required passes (Under 6 excepted). Players who participate without the specified proof of registration shall be sent-off. Any coach who allows a player to participate without proof of registration shall be sent-off.

3:03 During the Fall Recreational season of play: 1) The participation of 'Guest' players (those registered to a team other than those scheduled to play the match) is **not** allowed, and 2) Players rostered on a Recreational team may **not** be registered to, nor be listed on the roster of any other soccer team (other than their school team).

3:04 At least one coach with a valid coach's pass must be present for each team throughout the scheduled match. If there is no coach with a currently valid pass present for each team, the game shall be immediately terminated.

3:05 In an extraordinary situation and with pre-game (24 hour) approval from the team's club Manager, another coach from the same club may use their pass to coach another team in their club.

3:06 The coach and player passes shall be given to, and retained by the Referee prior to the start of a game. The Referee shall verify that each pass (1) has not been altered, (2) is valid for the current season, (3) the picture is appropriate as mandated by registration policy, (4) the team name is correct, and (5) each player's jersey has an identifying number that is noted on the game card. Signatures are not required on passes, but the coach must sign the game card.

3:07 Unless a coach or player has committed a violation requiring a 24-hour report to be sent to the League PAD or the concussion protocol is invoked; coach and player passes should be returned to each of the teams after the game. The game card should be delivered to the home team's club Manager by the Referee or by the coach of the home team.

3:08 In order to be issued a coach's pass, **all** coaches and assistant coaches must: (1) complete the CYSA "F" course or equivalent and submit a copy of their coaching license (license is not required for U06 or first year coaches), (2) complete the coaches' application, (3) submit an appropriate picture, and (4) pass the CYSA required LiveScan (fingerprinting) process.

3:09 Subsequent to issuance of the CYSA coach's pass, all coaches will be issued a field badge by RCYSL. This field badge is to be displayed visibly whenever the coach accompanies the players (at matches, practices, or other team events).

Section 4: Referees

All matches shall have at least one Referee currently certified by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF). Referees who are not in full uniform shall serve ONLY as volunteers, and will not be paid.

4:01 All **Under 6** games shall be played with a single center Referee currently USSF certified at Grade 9 or a higher level. Assistant Referees may be non-certified volunteers supplied by the teams to indicate when the ball is out of play.

4:02 All **Under 8** games shall be played with **at least one** Referee currently USSF certified at Grade 9 or a higher level.

4:03 All **Under 10, Under 12 & Under 14** games shall be played using the **three** Referee system. All Referees must be currently USSF certified at Grade 9 or a higher level, and at least one Referee **must** be USSF Grade 8 or higher.

4:04 Coaches who are also currently USSF certified Referees may serve as Referees, but should not be the center Referee in matches within their own playing division. A player's relative may serve as a Referee, but should not do so when their relative's team is playing. The center Referee should be at least four years older than the players (or be an adult). Both coaches must agree before the game to any exceptions to these specifications. Once both coaches have agreed, they may **not** use the exceptions to protest the game.

4:05 Center and assistant Referees in full Referee uniform shall receive the following compensation from the home team (or from the hosting club) for **regular season** Recreational games:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Center Referee</u>	<u>Each Asst Referee</u>
Under 06	\$20.00	Volunteer
Under 08	\$20.00	\$12.00
Under 10	\$20.00	\$15.00
Under 12	\$25.00	\$20.00
Under 14	\$30.00	\$25.00
Under 16	\$35.00	\$30.00
Under 19	\$40.00	\$30.00

4:06 For **seeding** games, only the center Referee will be assigned. The Referee shall be paid the amount listed in the table below by each of the teams playing in each half length game. The Referee is to be paid **prior to** the start of play:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Center Referee</u>	<u>Each Asst Referee</u>
Under 08	\$10.00 (\$5.00 from each team)	Volunteer
Under 10	\$10.00 (\$5.00 from each team)	Volunteer
Under 12	\$12.00 (\$6.00 from each team)	Volunteer
Under 14	\$12.00 (\$6.00 from each team)	Volunteer

4:07 Decisions of the Referee that are purely judgmental (i.e. the ball in or out of play, determination of intent if the ball is handled, etc.) shall **not** be challenged, and shall **not** be grounds for protest.

4:08 The Referee shall permit the coaches of both teams to add written comments on the game card after the conclusion of the match. The Referee should include the identity of the coach(es) making written comments.

4:09 When a player or a coach has been sent-off, the Referee **must** send the the coach and/or player pass and Send-Off Report (24-hour report) to the RCYSL PAD Chairperson. The Send-Off Report form may be downloaded from the RCYSL or District VI website. For CPL games, the 24-hour report and pass is to be sent to the District VI PAD Chairperson.

Section 5: Rules of Play

5:01 The Rules of Play for all Recreational games in RCYSL shall be the most recent edition of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) Laws of the Game, as modified by the California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA) and River City Youth Soccer League (RCYSL), and for Under 16 and Under 19 games, the Community Playing League (CPL) Rules of Play.

5:02 Game length and ball size specifications are as follows (CYSA PIM 10-2 abridged):

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Length of Half</u>	<u>Ball</u>	<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Length of Half</u>	<u>Ball</u>
U06 & U08	20 minutes	#3	Under 10	25 minutes	#4
Under 12	30 minutes	#4	Under 14	35 minutes	#5
Under 16	40 minutes	#5	Under 19	45 minutes	#5

5:03 The following CYSA modifications shall apply to all games in RCYSL (CYSA PIM 10-3 abridged):

- A. Charging the goalkeeper shall not be permitted at any time when he/she is within his/her own goal area.
- B. Coaching from the sidelines, giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy and position, is permitted provided that:
 1. No mechanical devices are used,
 2. The tone of voice is informative and not a harangue.
 3. No coach, substitute, player or spectator is to be anywhere but at his/her bench area during the game.
 4. No coach, substitute, player or spectator is to make derogatory remarks or gestures to the Referees, other players, substitutes or spectators.
 5. No coach, substitute or player is to use profanity.
 6. No coach, substitute, player or spectator is to incite in any manner, disruptive behavior of any kind.

The penalty for the above shall be ejection from the game and disciplinary action which will be taken by the CYSA Board of Directors, and/or the appropriate RCYSL committee (PAD or Sportsmanship).
- C. Where colors of uniforms are similar, the home team must effect a change to colors which are distinct from those of the opponent. In RCYSL, bibs (pennies) may be used if appropriate.
- D. The host club is responsible for the condition of the playing field (see 2:01). Both teams are to have a game ball (usually provided by the home team), and ensure that their spectators behave in a proper and respectful manner.
- E. The number of substitutes shall be unlimited. A substitute shall not enter the field of play until he/she has been given a signal to do so by the referee. Players may be substituted at the following times:
 1. Prior to a throw-in, by the team in possession of the ball. The opposing team may also substitute player(s) only if the possessing team substitutes player(s).
 2. Prior to a goal kick, by **either** team.
 3. After a goal is scored, by **either** team.
 4. After an injury, when play is stopped by Referee, by **either** team.
 5. At half time, by **either** team. At quarter breaks, by **either** team (U06 and U08 matches).
 6. When the Referee has stopped play to caution a player. Only the cautioned player may be substituted, and only prior to the re-start of play.
- F. The Referee shall require that both teams enter all appropriate information on a CYSA Referee Report form (the game card) prior to the start of the game. Refer to Sections 3 and 4 for additional game card related requirements.

5:04 Players wearing orthopedic casts, air-splints or metal splints may **not** participate in any match. Players may be allowed to wear or to use certain orthopedic supports, medical devices and prosthetic devices, provided that they conform to the device definitions and the requirement for appropriate documentation as specified in CYSA PIM 12-1.

5:05 RCYSL modified rules for Under 6 and Under 8 play shall be as follows:

- A. The field of play and goals shall be as follows:
Field size - minimum 35 yards wide x 40 yards long; maximum 50 yards wide x 70 yards long.
Goal size - 6 feet high x 15 feet wide
Goal area - 6 yards from each goal post and 6 yards out.
Penalty area - None
Center circle - 12 yards diameter
- B. The number of players on the field shall be as follows:
Under 6: Maximum of **five** players, one player **may** be a goalkeeper. Minimum of **three** players.
Under 8: Maximum of **seven** players, one player shall be a goalkeeper. Minimum of **four** players.
- C. Breaks of one minute shall be given mid-way through the first and second half. The game will be restarted with a kick-off by the same team that started the that half.
- D. The Referee shall make decisions on points of fact connected with the game; his/her decision is final. The Referee is encouraged to explain the infraction to the offending player.
- E. All free kicks shall be taken as **indirect** free kicks. A goal may **not** be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a another player of either team. All opposing players must be outside the goal area and at least **six** yards from the ball.
- F. **Penalty kicks shall NOT be taken.** An indirect free kick shall be taken instead.
- G. Goal kicks shall be taken from any point inside the goal area. All opposing players must be outside the goal area and at least **six** yards from the ball.
- H. A repeat throw-in may be granted by the Referee to a player after an explanation.
- I. **Offside** is generally not called unless in the opinion of the Referee a player is being coached to be in the offside position, or is remaining in the offside position in order to gain the advantage of a scoring opportunity. A restart shall be awarded to the opponent with an indirect free kick.
- J. Slide tackling is **not** allowed. The penalty is an indirect free kick from the point of the infraction. The player shall be cautioned.

5:06 RCYSL modified rules for Recreational **Under 10** play shall be as follows:

- A. The field of play and goals shall be as follows:
Field size - minimum 35 yards wide x 50 yards long; maximum 60 yards wide x 90 yards long.
Goal size - 6 to 7 feet high x 18 to 21 feet wide.
Goal area - 6 yards from each goal post and 6 yards out.
Penalty area - 14 yards from each goal post and 14 yards out.
Penalty mark - 10 yards from goal.
Center circle - 16 yards diameter.
- B. The number of players on the field shall be as follows:
Recreational: Maximum of **nine** players, one player is a goalkeeper. Minimum of **five** players. Note: Competitive (RCU / CCSL) plays with a maximum of eight players in U9, U10 and U11 ages.
- C. Goal kicks shall be taken from any point inside the goal area as per the Laws of the Game (all of the opposing players must be outside the **penalty area**).
- D. Direct and indirect free kicks shall be awarded and taken as per the Laws of the Game; all of the opposing players must be outside the goal area and at least **eight** yards from the ball.
- E. Penalty kicks shall be awarded and taken as per the Laws of the Game. When a Penalty kick is awarded, all opposing players must be outside of the penalty area and at least **eight** yards from the Penalty mark.

5:07 The maximum number of players rostered to a team shall be ten (10) in Under 6, twelve (12) in Under 8, fourteen (14) in Under 10, eighteen (18) in Under 12 & Under 14, and twenty-two (22) in Under 16 & Under 19 age groups.

5:08 During all matches played in RCYSL, both teams and their coaches shall occupy one side of the field (each team on either side of the midfield line), and all spectators shall be located on the opposite side of the field. The only exception to this policy is if only one side of the field may be safely occupied due to field layout.

5:09 Referees and coaches are not allowed to modify or ignore any of the Rules of Play. Coaches who attempt to violate or ignore the Rules of Play shall be appropriately dealt with by the Referee. Any Referee who modifies or ignores the Rules of Play should be reported to the League by noting the incident on the game card (if possible), and by filing a Match Report with the RCYSL Referee Coordinator describing the specifics of the incident.