South Coast Soccer League

2025-2026 Handbook

11-10-25
Revised 02-01-2026

Southcoastsoccer.org

Prior to all SCSL matches both teams and referees will take part in the pre-game sportsmanship process

Each team, upon being accepted as a member of the SCSL, shall be furnished with a copy of the Constitution and by Laws, Rules of Play and the Policies Manual of the League and this shall be deemed sufficient notice of their responsibilities.

An electronic copy of the SCSL Handbook will be given to every coach. Possession of same indicates the coach's familiarity with the SCSL Rules of Play, the coach's responsibilities regarding sportsmanship and the behavior of their players, spectators, and themselves.

A pdf copy of the SCSL Handbook will be emailed to each referee assignor. Each referee assignor will be responsible for ensuring a pdf copy is also provided to each certified referee.

The Rules of Play, the Policies Manual and the full text of the Constitution and by Laws may also be found on the South Coast Soccer League web site at
southcoastsoccer.org

- The South Coast Soccer League Zero Tolerance Policy may be found on page 5 of the SCSL Handbook.

- As part of the Mass Youth Soccer mandated Safe Soccer training, concussion training and SafeSport training are mandatory for all coaches before being able to participate in any soccer activities. On-line training is available at

  https://mayouthsoccer.org/resources/adult-registration/

In accordance with Section 2 of the SCSL Constitution and By-Laws

SCSL Objectives and Philosophy

- SCSL is organized to develop, promote and administer the game of soccer, among youth through age nineteen within its boundaries for the benefit and development of all youth participants as the higher and greater purpose of youth soccer and not just as players.–In this spirit, all member organizations, teams, coaches, managers, players, and spectators shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and shall cooperate fully with the letter and the spirit of the Rules of Play and By-Laws.
- SCSL shall offer a safe environment for the participation in soccer activities without regard for race, color, gender, religion, age, sex, or national origin
- SCSL will cooperate and collaborate with all members in good standing with MYSA for the betterment of all.

FIFA Non-discrimination and Stance Against Racism

Article IV, FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) Statutes, June 2019: “Discrimination of any kind against a Country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin color, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion”.

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This Handbook includes the full text of the Rules of Play and the Policies Manual both of which have been revised in 2022,2023,2024 and 2025.

2026 Club Survey's (Team contact information) can be found on the South Coast Soccer League website.

Www.southcoastsoccerleague.org

All re-schedule requests MUST include both club directors and coaches on all communications.

Coaches are not permitted to reschedule any SCSL scheduled game without their respective Director's approval.

Zero Tolerance Policy

1001 General

All persons responsible for a team and all the spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for players, the referee and all the other participants and spectators.

1002 Addressing the Referee

No one is to address the referee during the game except as allowed below.

1. Coaches, Managers and Players

   A. During the Game:
      i. May respond to a referee initiating a communication
      ii. May ask for substitutions
      iii. May point out emergencies or safety issues

   B. At halftime or at the end of the game:
      i. May ask a referee to explain a rule(s) in a polite and constructive way
      ii. May give polite and friendly feedback to the referee.
      iii. Absolutely no sarcasm, harassment or intimidation is allowed in any conversation with the referee.

   C. Penalties:
   The following penalties **may be issued** on the field at the sole discretion of the referee:
      i. **A verbal warning**: The referee shall stop the game and remind the coach of the zero-tolerance policy. **Not required prior to ejection**

      ii. **Ejection**: The referee shall instruct the coach to leave the field. The referee shall abandon the game if the coach refuses to leave the field. If the referee abandons the game, the referee shall file a report and the SCSL BOD may impose a forfeit on the offending coach's team.

2. Spectators and Volunteers

A. During the game:

i. May respond to a referee initiating a communication.

ii. May point out emergencies or safety issues.

B. Penalties-

The following penalties **<u>may be issued</u>** on the field at the sole discretion of the referee:

i. A verbal warning: **<u>Not required prior to ejection</u>**

The referee shall stop the game and instruct the coach to quiet the offending spectator(s)

ii. Ejection: The referee shall instruct the coach to direct the spectator(s) to leave the field. The referee shall abandon the game if the coach refuses to follow the instruction of the referee or if the spectator(s) refuses to leave the field. If the referee abandons the game, the referee shall file a report and the SCSL BOD may impose a forfeit on the offending spectator(s) team.

Effective March 1, 2025,

US Soccer has introduced updates to Policy 531-9 applying to misconduct towards officials from registered participants (players, coaches, registered adults). This policy applies to all Mass Youth Soccer sanctioned play including intown and recreational level play.

Minimum penalties for misconduct towards referees have been increased significantly. Of note to the youth soccer community is a minor multiplier, which **triples sanctions** for incidents of misconduct towards minor referees.

Policy 531-9 now includes a category of misconduct named Gross Misconduct which includes insulting, belittling, insinuating or taunting behavior which undermines the authority of the referee.

On March 5, 2025, the Mass Youth Soccer Board approved the **Spectator Misconduct Towards Referees Policy** to extend the same minimum penalties in US Soccer Policy 531-9 to spectators at all Mass Youth Soccer sanctioned events.

Misconduct towards referees that occurs during scheduled league play will follow existing League Rules and Procedures. Incidents of misconduct towards referees that occur during intown or recreational play will initially be under the jurisdiction of the Member Organization.

Disrespectful behavior towards officials is damaging for all involved in Youth Soccer and Mass Youth Soccer fully supports US Soccer's efforts to support referees and improve game environments. Please do not hesitate to contact Mass Youth Soccer's Executive Director – Rob Holliday (rholliday@mayouthsoccer.org) or Director of Safeguarding – Mary Relic (mrelic@mayouthsoccer.org) with questions.

We encourage all member organizations and registered adults to review the Referee Abuse Prevention penalty summary below or visit ussoccer.com/rap for additional resources related to Policy 531-9 updates.

2025-2026 Calendar

The 2024-2025 calendar of events can be found on the South Coast Soccer League website in the following location:

SCSL Calendar of Events August 2025-2026

2025-2026 Officers and Committees

Officers

President	Tom Parker	SCSL.Mass.President@gmail.com
1st VP	Greg Visinho	gregoryvisinho@gmail.com
2nd VP	Denise Secia	denisesecia@yahoo.com
Secretary	Nicole Constantino	southcoast.soccer.secretary@gmail.com
Registrar	Diane Viana-Almeida	scslregistrardianeva@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tom Parker (interim)	SCSL.Mass.President@gmail.com

Sportsmanship Review Committee

Chairperson	Greg Visinho	Mariner
Member	Keith Clark	Oceana
Member	Thomas Crawford	Falmouth
Member	Chrissy Adesso	Freetown- Lakeville
Member	Joseph Saidock	Sandwich
Alternate	Phil Knorr	Taunton

Appeals / Protest Board

Chairperson	Denise Senica	Somerset/ Swansea
Member	Matthew Bates	Westport
Member	Eric Anderson	Nantucket
Member	Bryan Medeiros	Norton
Member	David Reynolds	Dartmouth
Alternate	Phil Knorr	Taunton

Finance Committee

Member	Tom Parker	President
Member	Nicole Constantino	Taunton
Member	Rod Rodrigues	Fall River

Appointed

Webmaster	Dennis Leary	Dartmouth
Scheduler	Phil Knorr	Taunton
Co- Registrar	Emily Webb	Taunton

MYSA-SCSL Code of Conduct

- The Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association Board of Directors approved updated Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Parents, Players and Referees by unanimous consent in September 2025.
- The Mass Youth Soccer Codes of Contact were developed in consultation and collaboration with League and Member Organization leaders, Massachusetts State Referee Committee and other State Associations utilizing best practices from other Leagues, States and US Soccer appropriate for our programs.
- The adoption of the Codes of Conduct and Zero Tolerance Policy linked below is a requirement for all member organizations.
- Codes of Conduct
- **Player's Code of Conduct**
- **Coach's Code of Conduct**
- **Parent's / Guardian's / Spectator's Code of Conduct**
- **Soccer Official's Code of Conduct**
- **Language Incidents & Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines**
- To report incidents of referee abuse or assault, as specified under the Zero Tolerance Policy (USSF Policy 531-9), to Massachusetts Youth Soccer click HERE. After submitting your report to Mass Youth Soccer, you will receive a confirmation email containing a link for you to report the incident to the Massachusetts State Referee Committee (MSRC).

Rules of Play

<u>Section 1.</u> Divisions:

A) The SCSL shall be divided into.

- First Division Teams (D1) and Second Division Teams (D2)
- Balance teams for both Boys/Girls Grade 2 and 3

<u>Section 2.</u> Age Limits:

A) Age Groupings for the 2025 Fall and 2026 Spring Soccer Season

https://mayouthsoccer.org/resources/player-registration/

GRADE AND AGE GROUPINGS FOR 2025/26 SOCCER YEAR			
Program	**Grade Requirements**	**And**	**Born on or After**
Grade 1	1st Grade or Lower	AND	1/1/2018
Grade 2	2nd Grade or Lower	AND	1/1/2017
Grade 3	3rd Grade or Lower	AND	1/1/2016
Grade 4	4th Grade or Lower	AND	1/1/2015
Grade 5	5th Grade or Lower	AND	1/1/2014
Grade 6	6th Grade or Lower	AND	1/1/2013
Grade 7	7th Grade or Lower	AND	1/1/2012
Grade 8	8th Grade or Lower	AND	1/1/2011
Grade 9	9th Grade or Lower	AND	1/1/2010
Grade 10	10th Grade or Lower	AND	1/1/2009
Grade 11	11th Grade or Lower	AND	1/1/2008
Grade 12	12th Grade or Lower	AND	1/1/2007
PG	12th + 1 year or Lower	AND	1/1/2006

ONLY SCSL DIVISION 1 TEAMS ARE Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (MTOC) ELIGIBLE.

Age Group Comparison - SCSL vs. MTOC

SCSL	MTOC
Grade 5 Div. 1	**Grade 6 Div. 2**
Grade 6 Div. 1	**Grade 6 Div. 1**
Grade 7 Div. 1	**Grade 8 Div. 2**
Grade 8 Div. 1	**Grade 8 Div. 1**
Grade 9-10 Div. 1	**Grade 9-10 Div. 1**
Grade 9-10 Div. 2	**Grade 9-10 Div. 2**
Grade 11-PG	**Grade 11-PG .**

Players may play on a team in a higher age group than their age permits.

Section 3. Seasons

A) The main season shall be held in the spring.
B) The groups shall play an eight (8) game schedule.

Section 4. Registration

A) To be properly registered, each club must ensure that all coaches and players have completed and submitted to their Club Registrar an approved United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) registration form and each player and coach must be fully affiliated with the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (MYSA).

B) Upon registration, MTOC eligible teams shall pledge to represent the SCSL at the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (MTOC) should they win their division championship. A team refusing to do so shall forfeit the championship. The second-place finisher shall be named the division champion and shall represent the SCSL at the MTOC.

C) Should a circumstance occur where none of the teams in a division represent the SCSL at the MTOC, there shall be no division champion and awards will not be awarded to that division. The organization whose team who would have been the SCSL representative to the MTOC shall be responsible for any fines or penalties levied by the MYSA.

D) All teams, players and coaches shall adhere to their responsibilities as defined in the SCSL Policy Manual.

<u>Section 5.</u> Team Size

A) A maximum of 22 players are allowed on each team roster for the Grade 7 – PG division 1 and division 2 age groups.
B) The recommended roster size for Grade 2 through Grade 4 teams is 13 players.
C) The maximum roster size for Grade 5 and Grade 6 D1 teams is 18 players.
D) There shall be no limitation on the size of each team roster for the Grade 5 and Grade 6 division 2 age groups (non-MTOC eligible teams).
E) All Grade 5-8 D1 teams shall be eligible for the SCSL playoffs and MTOC if a minimum of 75% of roster is from the clubs geographical defined area
F) GR5-8D2 requires 75% of the rostered players to be from clubs geographical area to be eligible for the SCSL playoffs.
   - Clubs may request a waiver/exception to the rule above to the SCSL BOD for review/approval.

Roster Size	75% requirement	Roster Size	75% requirement
18	14	13	10
17	13	12	9
16	12	11	8
15	11	10	8
14	11	9	7

G) For grade 9/10 D1 and D2 and PG a team shall be eligible for MTOC competition if a minimum of 75% of the rostered players are from the same league. Any exceptions must be approved by the SCSL BOD and MTOC Committee.
H) All teams eligible for MTOC must submit a final roster prior to the date set by the MTOC Committee.
I) Any player moving from Team A to Team B (MTOC eligible) prior to the MTOC cutoff date shall no longer be eligible to play for Team A for the remainder of the SCSL schedule- they are now only eligible to play on Team B

<u>Section 6.</u> Rules of the Game

A) Current International Rules shall be in effect except as specifically stated otherwise in these SCSL Rules of Play.

B) After the season has been declared open by the SCSL, all games scheduled by the SCSL shall be under the jurisdiction of this League.
C) All teams under the jurisdiction of this League shall play under the rules of the game as approved by Fédération International de Football Association (FIFA) and as amended by the Rules of Play of the SCSL.
D) Grades 2-4 all divisions, If the goalkeeper kicks the ball into the opposing team's penalty area without touching the ground or a player, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposition from the half field line.
E) For the Grade 2 through Grade 4 age groups, FIFA red card rules apply except that a red-carded player can remain in the team area. The player shall remain the responsibility of the coach(es) and can be substituted for at the next normal substitution opportunity.
F) Please use Section 7.E.2 and Section 7.E.3 for modified restart distances with regards to Grades 2-4 and Grades 5-6 games in the 7v7 and 9v9 formats.

<u>Section 7.</u> Game Procedure

A) Duration of the Game

Grade11-PG	(2) 45-minute halves	5-minute halftime
Grade 9-10	(2) 45-minute halves	5-minute halftime
Grade 7-8	(2) 35-minute halves	5-minute halftime
Grade 5-6	(2) 30- minute halves	5-minute halftime
Grade 2-4	(2) 25-minute halves	5-minute halftime

1.In Championship and Playoff games, if the score is tied at the end of regulation time overtime periods shall be played.
- For Grade 5 through Grade 8 - two (5) minute overtime periods
- For Grade 9/10 through Grade 11-PG - two (10) minute overtime periods

2. If at the end of that time there is still no decision, FIFA Penalty Kick Rules will apply in order to determine a winner.

B) Game Balls
1. #4.... Grade 2 – Grade 6
2. #5.... Grade 7 - PG
3. Home clubs MUST provide a minimum of 2 game balls for all scheduled SCSL matches.

C) Team Locations
1. Both teams must be on the same side of the field, with spectators on the opposite side, ten (10) feet back from the sideline.
2. For all age groups there shall be no more than three (3) coaches in the team area.
3. At least one fully credentialed coach over the age of 18 on the sidelines at all times. If no over 18 coach is available once the game has begun, the game shall be abandoned and a full game

rescheduled. If no 18+ plus is available at game start time the game will be forfeited by that team Home or away- no reschedule permitted.

D) Team Rosters

1) Prior to the start of the game, the coach must provide two (2) color copies of official team game cards as approved by the SCSL Registrar, to the referee in color. Any player not present for that game should be crossed off. Before kickoff the referee will provide each coach with the opposing team's official team roster.
2) Roster to include the following information only- Full name & Jersey # - all other information MUST be blackened out if applicable.
3) All players on the official team roster can play in any scheduled game.
4) A player listed on the official team roster shall be considered as a competing player whether he/she plays or not.
   Alterations to the official team roster by any person other than the SCSL Registrar or failure to provide the official team roster prior to the game may result in forfeiture of the game by the offending team and/or suspension of the Coach(s) of the offending team.
5) If a player is challenged as not being of appropriate age, the team challenging MUST submit a written request within 72 hours of the game completion to the SRC and the club/director or coach must provide a birth certificate within three (3) days of notification by the SRC.
6) Any SCSL organization may allow girls to play on boy's teams.
7) Number of Players on the Field shall be:
   - Grade 2 through Grade 4 – Seven (7) players for each team, including the goalkeeper. (7 v 7) A minimum of 5 players are required to start a game.
   - Grade 5 through Grade 6 - Nine (9) players for each team, including the goalkeeper. (9 v 9) A minimum of 6 players are required to start a game.
   - Grade 7 and Older – Eleven (11) players for each team, including the goalkeeper (11v11). A minimum of 7 players are required to start a game.

8) When the colors of two competing teams are similar, the home team must change to a different numbered jersey. Alternatively, the entire home team may wear numbered "pinnies" or mesh "pinnies" of a different color that allow the number on the player's jersey to show through. Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from the other players. Uniforms must consist of numbered shirts (minimum of 6" numbers), shorts, socks and footwear, which may be sneakers or soccer shoes. No metal cleats are allowed. No team shall play without shirts.

9) Grade 1 players may play on Grade 2 teams only during the Spring season only.

- Proof of grade shall be submitted to the SCSL registrar for review/approval
- Grade 1 players MAY NOT participate in Fall travel season

E) The field dimensions shall be;

1. Playing Fields: An organization that is unable to comply with any of the field requirements and recommendations may apply to the SCSL BOD for a waiver.
    - Note that the dimensions intentionally overlap so that a maximum sized 7v7 field with 6 x 18 goals meets the minimum requirements for Grade 6 in order to provide maximum flexibility in arranging fields.
    - The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

2. For the Grade 2, 3 & 4 Age Groups:
    - Width - 35 yds. minimum 50 yds. Maximum
    - Length - 45 yds. minimum 70 yds. maximum
    - Halfway Line – Marked out across the field
    - Center Circle – 8 yd radius at center of field on halfway line.
    - Corner Arcs – conform to FIFA
    - Goal Area – A goal area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line three (3) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of three (3) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the goal area.
    - Penalty Area:
        - ⇒ For fields less than 60 yards in length: A line drawn 10 yds. from each goal post and 10 yds. into the field of play joined by a line parallel with the goal line. Penalty mark and arc are 8 yds each.
        - ⇒ For fields of 60 yards in length and longer: A line drawn 14 yds from each goal post and 10 yds into the field of play joined by a line parallel with the goal line. Penalty mark and arc are 8 yds each.
    - Goals: maximum 6.5 feet high and 18 feet wide minimum 6 feet high and 12 feet wide (Recommended size is 6ft. high by 18 ft. Wide).

● Modified Restart Distance: To align with field markings, all restarts for teams in Grades 2-4 require opponents to stand 8 yards from the ball. This includes kick-offs, goal kicks, corner kicks, and both direct and indirect free kicks.

3. <u>For the Grade 5 & 6 Age Groups</u>
   - Width - 45 yds. minimum 55 yds. maximum
   - Length - 70 yds. minimum 80 yds. maximum
   - Halfway Line - Marked out across the field
   - Center Circle - 8 yd. radius at center of field on halfway line
   - Corner Arcs – the corner arc shall be drawn with a 3-foot radius from each corner of the field.
   - Goal Area – Conform to FIFA
   - Penalty Area – A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, fourteen (14) yards from the inside of each goal post. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of fourteen (14) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made ten (10) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area. Optionally the penalty area may conform to FIFA if only used for Grade 5 and older play. viii. Goals: Maximum 8 feet high and 24 feet wide Minimum 6 feet high and 18 feet wide
     (Recommended size is 6ft. high by 18 ft. Wide).

   - Modified Restart Distance: To align with field markings, all restarts for teams in Grades 5-6 require opponents to stand 8 yards from the ball. This includes kick-offs, goal kicks, corner kicks, and both direct and indirect free kicks

<u>4. For the Grade 7 to PG Age Groups</u>
   - For these age groups, SCSL follows FIFA rules.
   - See chart page 26

F) Coaching Credentials

1. Coaches must have their Mass Youth Soccer Credentials Badge in their possession at each SCSL sanctioned event. Coaching credentials must be visible and worn at all times..

G) Substitutions

1. Substitutions may be made at the discretion of the referee at the following points in the game:
    - half time
    - after a goal is scored
    - when game is stopped for injury
    - Both teams may make substitutions prior to a throw-in only if the offense substitutes.
    - prior to a goal kick
2. Substitution is not allowed on free kicks or corner kicks.
3. Substitutions of a yellow carded player.
4. A player who is being substituted must leave the field by the nearest point on the touchline/goal line (unless the referee indicates the player can leave quickly / immediately at the halfway line or via a different point because of safety, injury, etc.)

H) Game Times

1. All games shall start on scheduled time. After fifteen (15) minutes, the tardy team shall lose the points.
2. A team which fails to appear at a game will forfeit the game. The referee and opposing coach will report the score of the game as a forfeit through forfeit reporting process and notify SCSL scheduler
3. Score shall be entered as 4-0

I) Heading the Ball

1. <u>Heading Not Permissible</u>: All players age 10 years old and younger, regardless of what age group program they are playing in, shall not engage in heading either in practice or in games. All players in age groups Grade 6 and younger shall not engage in heading in games. Training is permissible for player age 11 and 12 per limitations noted in the MYSA Policy on Heading the ball.

2. <u>Heading Infraction</u>: For those players designated as not being permitted to head a ball in games as identified in the above section Heading Not Permissible the following modified Law 12 of the FIFA Laws of the Game will apply: An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player, in the opinion of the referee, deliberately heads or attempts to head the ball. If, in the opinion of the referee, a deliberate header or attempt to head occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick will be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If, in the opinion of the referee,

a player does not deliberately head or attempt to head the ball, then play should continue.

J) Build-up Line

1. During the Spring and Fall Travel season the Grade 2, 3 & 4 age groups will be required to use a build-up line for all goal kicks.
    a. The midfield line must be used to mark the build-up line. The opposing team must have all players retreat behind the buildup line.
    b. As soon as the ball is played by the team taking the goal kick, the players on the opposing team can advance.
    c. On a goal kick if a team plays a ball before the team has retreated to the build-up line at midfield that is their prerogative.

<u>Section 8.</u> Referees

A) Grade 7 & above are required to have 3 officials. At a minimum the center ref MUST be fully certified via Mass Ref requirements

B) Grade 5 & 6 division 1 games require 3 officials. At a minimum the center ref MUST be fully certified via Mass Ref requirements

C) Grade 5 & 6 division 2 games require 1 center official. At a minimum the center ref MUST be fully certified via Mass Ref requirements

○ clubs may assign additional ARs for gr5 & 6 D2 games if available.

- In the event 3 officials are not available for the grade 5 & 6 D1 games the opposing coach must be notified 24 hours prior to the scheduled match day.Game may be requested to be rescheduled by the visiting team.
- All other age groups, the Home Club, will supply one (1) referee for all Grade 2 through Grade 4 matches and for Grade 5 & 6 division 2 matches.
- The Home Club will also provide two (2) assistant referees for Grade 5 & 6 division 1 and all 11v11 matches.

D) The presence of an experienced referee, assigned by the Home Club Assignor to officiate any match in the Grade 5D1 and older age groups is mandatory. Should there be no experienced referee available, or the assigned referee is not present, the match shall not take place and will be rescheduled by the clubs/teams involved. Both coaches must report that the referee was absent to the SCSL and their club director. The coaches may agree on a reschedule date prior to leaving the field and such agreement must be reported to their club directors for review and final approval. Otherwise, the coach of the home team must provide the

opposing coach within 72 hours of the original date of the game 3 possible makeup dates and times.

Note: An experienced referee is one who is in good standing and has previously been assigned one or more games by the SCSL at the Grade 9 level or above. *This does not apply to assistant referees.*

SCSL Recommendation: Center Referees should be at minimum 2 yrs older than the grade/age they are assigned to.

E) If a referee does not arrive 30 minutes past the scheduled time, he / she is not entitled to any fee. If available, the coaches of the two teams shall appoint an acting referee, who is a currently registered member of MYSA, or currently a registered USSF referee and play the game. The acting referee is entitled to claim the regular fee. Otherwise, the game must be rescheduled following the normal rescheduling process.

F) The official referee shall be the sole judge on the field of play and his/her decision shall be final. No protest based on referee's judgment decisions shall be allowed. Any complaints about any official shall be directed, in writing, to the Referee's representative(s) of the SCSL, MYSA and USYSA.

G) SCSL reserves the right to expel or suspend referees in the event of misconduct or failure to report scores, cards and descriptions of events surrounding the issuance of red cards or for serious injuries on the field.

H) Referee fees and payment shall be as set forth in Section 110 in the SCSL Policies Manual.

I) SCSL Organizations MUST ensure all Mass Ref assignors are fully certified and are ONLY assigning per guidelines above.

Section 9. Player/Coach/Team Infractions 2025-2026

PLAYER , COACH & SPECTATOR INFRACTION WORKSHEET EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1ST, 2025

All suspensions include SCSL playoffs/MTOC as well as carryover from season to season. (Spring to fall, fall to spring ETC)			
OFFENSE	CARD ISSUED	DISCIPLINE (# of games)	
		Expected Minimum	Maximum Allowed
PLAYER: Single Game Incident			
Run of Play	1st Yellow	0 Games	
Non Violent Conduct (NVC) for both Yellow Cards	2nd Yellow (RED)	1 Game	2 Games
Handling Ball (DOGO) - Situation to determine penalty	RED	1 Game	2 Games
A second yellow card or a straight red card is issued for Insulting, Offensive or Abusive Language (AL), Serious Foul Play (SFP), which may involve pushing or shoving but does not include fighting or other Violent Conduct (VC) offenses.	2nd Yellow (RED) or RED	2 Games	4 Games
Violent Conduct (VC) – Includes fighting, kicking, spitting, physical contact outside of normal play, and any form of discrimination. Discrimination may include verbal or physical actions.	Straight RED	4 Games	Expulsion
PLAYER: Season Accumulation			
Run of Play: PLEASE NOTE - Only one yellow card per game shall accrue towards the cumulative season total	2nd Yellow	0 Games	
	3rd Yellow	1 Game	
	4th Yellow	2 Games	
	5th Yellow	3 games	6 games
Non-Violent Conduct (NVC)	2nd RED	4 Games	6 Games
Violent Conduct (VC) - any contributing offense	2nd RED	8 Games	Expulsion
COACH, CREDENTIALED ADULT or SPECTATOR			
Send Off or Code of Conduct Violation - Non Violent Conduct (NVC): To include spectator issues - may also include both home and away coach(s)/credentialed adult. This includes prior, during and after the game. *	1st Offense	1 Game	3 Game
Send Off or Code of Conduct Violation - Non Violent Conduct (NVC): To include spectator issues - may also include both home and away coach(s)/credentialed adult. This includes prior, during and after the game. *	2nd Offense	3 Games	6 Games
Send Off -Violent Conduct (VC): To include spectator issues - may also include both home and away coach(s)/credentialed adult. This includes prior, during and after the game. *. This includes ANY form of physical or verbal discrimination. *	1st Offense	3 Games	Expulsion
Send Off -Violent Conduct (VC): To include spectator issues - may also include both home and away coach(s)/credentialed adult. This includes prior, during and after the game. *. This includes ANY form of physical or verbal discrimination. *	2nd Offense	6 Games	Expulsion

*** PLEASE NOTE: These suspensions can include misconduct towards referees, however, please see US Soccer Policy 531-9 on elevated referee abuse penalties.**

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

NON-PHYSICAL*	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

PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

PHYSICAL*	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.

KEY PENALTY FACTORS

- Single offenses are at **minimum the prescribed game penalty or time penalty** for non-red zone offenses
- Penalties can be **both game and time depending on severity** / circumstances
- Second time offenders receive **double punishment**
- Third time offenders receive a **lifetime ban**
- More than one offense at the same time is **at least the punishment for the most serious offense**
- Offenses against minors are automatically subject to **a "minor multiplier" resulting in triple punishment**
- Game consequences are **inclusive of 1 game penalty for any red cards given**
- Optionality for **50% penalty for first offense from a minor**

Effective March 2025

For more information, visit: USSOCCER.COM/RAP

RESPECT THE CALL

<u>Section 9.</u> Player/Coach/Team Infractions (continued)

A) The coach of a yellow-carded player **<u>may request</u>** that the yellow-carded player be substituted before play resumes.

B) Infractions that result in a player or coach being ineligible to participate for the remainder of the season, or for which expulsion is considered requires the 1st Vice-President to notify the SCSL President and Club Director of the player/coach ineligible status. The Club Director notified a team official of the player/coach ineligibility until the next BOD meeting. The player/coach/spectator may appear before the SCSL BOD to plead their case. A two-third vote of the SCSL BOD is required to suspend or expel a member. At the next Board meeting, the 1st Vice-President may recommend expulsion from the SCSL of that player/coach. The player/coach shall not be eligible to participate in the MTOC held in the season of the expulsion. Any appeal of the expulsion must be submitted to the 2nd Vice President per Section 7-5 (C) of the SCSL By Laws.

C) Coaches are responsible for maintaining a record of yellow and red card infractions for their players and reporting those infractions by means of the designated SCSL Scoring Website. Any team found to be playing an ineligible player shall forfeit the game to the opposing team. An ineligible player is one who is currently under suspension or one who received a red card in the prior game or does not have the required waiver approved by SCSL registrar. An ineligible player knowingly taking part in any game and his/her coach shall both be subject to a mandatory suspension of one (1) calendar year.

D) Infractions resulting in game suspensions shall be reviewed by the Sportsmanship Review Committee for appropriateness of discipline. The referee game report providing detail of all infractions is mandatory to make the most informed decision. In some instances, additional information may be requested from coaches, spectators or assistant referees. In lieu of a referee report or explanation of the infraction(s) on the report, the minimum discipline shall be applied to the infraction.

E) The SCSL may recognize the suspension of players or teams by officials of like ruling or coequal bodies by which the SCSL has been notified. specific to US Soccer policy 531-9 Referee Misconduct/Abuse

F) Any team that accumulates three red cards will be reviewed by the Sportsmanship Committee for further disciplinary action. Additionally, each red card beyond three will be subject to further review by the Sportsmanship Committee.

<u>Section 10.</u> Game Misconduct /General Misconduct

Game officials, coaches, players, and spectators are expected to follow all League and FIFA rules. Not following these rules is considered misconduct or game misconduct.

1. Misconduct or game misconduct by game officials, coaches, players or spectators may occur before, during and after the match.

2. Misconduct or game misconduct toward game officials, clubs or players may also occur during travel to and from the match and at later times when directly related to duties of a game official as a referee. This includes but is not limited to the use of social media, text, email, etc.

3. Reports of instances of misconduct or game misconduct not outlined in card infraction rules and guidelines may be investigated by the Sportsmanship Review Committee and could result in suspensions from 1 game to expulsion from the league.

4. Spectators (or groups of spectators) sanctioned or otherwise addressed by the referee may be subject to further sanctions by the Sportsmanship Review Committee.

5. Adjudication

    a. Instances of misconduct or game misconduct shall be addressed by Section 10-2 of the SCSL By Laws and Section 300 in the SCSL Policy Manual.

<u>Section 11.</u> Game Protests

A) Game protests shall be in conformance with the game protest guidelines set forth in Section 500 in the SCSL policies manual.

B) Any team protesting a game must, through its manager or coach.
   1. Must initiate such a protest in writing, using the approved SCSL protest form, by handing one (1) copy to the coach or manager of the opposing team, and a second copy to the referee ***BEFORE*** leaving the field of play. The protest form is located at the back of this handbook. SCSL recommends the coaches should print blank copies and bring them to each game.

C) A formal protest, in writing, stating all the known facts shall be sent to the SCSL 2nd Vice President within three (3) days of the game being played. A deposit of $100 will need to be paid by that Clubs Director at the next SCSL meeting and will be forfeited should the protest not be sustained.

D) Game officials or coaches that refuse to accept written protests shall be subject for disciplinary review by the Sportsmanship Review Committee which will include a minimum of a 1 game suspension. SRC MUST be notified upon refusal by the protesting team official and club director

Section 12. Field Unplayable

A) If the field is unplayable, the Director of the home club must notify the Referee Assignor, the opposing Club Director and the opposing coach three (3) hours before playing time. The referee will be paid by the town failing to notify the Referees' Representative in time.

1. If a coach deems a field unplayable due to unsafe field conditions, he must notify the field referee that the match site is under protest. He must follow the outlined procedure in Section 11 in the SCSL Rules of Play as to protest.
2. If a home team has multiple fields available and the scheduled game is planned for an alleged unsafe field, the match can be relocated to an immediately available field if the game can be started within sixty (60) minutes. No regularly scheduled game may be displaced for the purpose of playing a game that is scheduled on a protested field.
3. Make up games shall be scheduled per Section 115 in the SCSL Policy Manual.
4. When the field becomes unplayable, the referee shall suspend the match and inform both coaches of unsafe/poor field conditions.
    - a The referee shall declare it an official match if- one complete half has been played.
    - b If the game is terminated prior to one half of the game being completed the game MUST be rescheduled per Section 115 in the SCSL Policy Manual.

Section 13. Determination of Division Champions

A) General

1. The standing of teams in division one (D1) and in division two (D2) shall be determined by points, three (3) points to the winning team and one (1) point each in case of a tie.

B) Grade 5 through PG Age groups

1. At the end of the season, the SCSL Playoff Champion team in the Grade 5 through PG divisions will receive an award for each player, coach and manager as identified on the official team roster. Subject to a SCSL Board of Directors vote.
2. If, at the end of the season's play, two or more teams have the same number of points, the winner and division champion shall be determined based on the record of their head-to-head competition during the season.
3. In case a team disbands or if for any reason a team shall not have played half of its scheduled games, the games played shall not count for or against opposing teams.

C) Grade 2, 3 & 4 Friendship Games –

1) General

a. Season ending Friendship Games shall be held for all teams competing in the Grade 2, 3 & 4 age groups. Separate Friendship Games shall be held for each division at a location determined by the Board.

b. Team Seeding -The team match-ups shall be determined by the Friendship Game host and shall ensure equal competition between the teams.

c. Friendship Game Guidelines

i. Normal Grade 2, 3 & 4 SCSL Rules shall apply unless specifically decided otherwise by the Board. Each Team shall receive a copy of the Friendship Game Rules for that teams' division. All Teams shall be notified of any changes 7 days prior to the Friendship Game.

ii. All participating in the Friendship Game in all divisions shall receive an award for each player, coach and manager as identified on the team roster.

C) Division 1 & 2 Playoff Winners

1. All awards shall be supplied by SCSL.
2. A Maximum of twenty (22) awards shall be distributed per Championship team. plus maximum of 3 coaches

D) Pursuant to Section 7-8 of the Constitution & By Laws:

1. The champion for each Division 2 age group shall be required to move to the Division 1 the following year.
2. Any Division 2 team with less than 2 losses (excluding forfeits) during the regular season shall be required to move to Division 1 the following year. Unless 50% of the team's players or less are remaining from the prior year.
3. Clubs that already have a Division 1 team for that age group shall not be required to follow paragraphs 1 and 2 above.
4. Any Division 1 team with a winning record shall not be allowed to move to Division 2 the following year unless 50% or more of the players from the prior year are no longer on the roster. The prior year's spring season roster must be presented to the BOD for review.
5. Any team wishing to be exempted from paragraphs 1 through 4 above must apply to the SCSL BOD in writing at the November SCSL meeting.

<u>Section 14.</u> Determination of MTOC Representation

A) For each age group the determination of the team to represent the SCSL at the MTOC shall be made by means of playoff games. The structure of the playoff schedule and team seeding shall be decided by the Board and published in the coach's manual and on the SCSL web site. The BOD reserves the right to make the final determination as to which teams will represent the SCSL at the MTOC.

Fact Sheet

	Grade 2 - 4	Grade 5 - 6	Grade 7 - 8	Grade 9-10	Grade 11-PG
Players					
Max. on Field	7	9	11	11	11
Min. on Field	5	6	7	7	7
Max. on D1 Roster	N/A	18	22	22	22
Max. on D2 Roster	Unlimited	Unlimited	22	22	N/A
Recommended. Roster Size	13	16	18	18	18
MTOC Roster Max.	18	18	22	22	22
Playing Field					
Max. (WxL)	50x70 yds	55x80 yds	100x130 yds	100x130 yds	100x130 yds
Min. (WxL)	35x45 yds	45x70 yds	50x100 yds	50x100 yds	50x100 yds
Center Circle Radius	6-8 yds	8 yds	10 yds	10 yds	10 yds
Penalty Area**	L<60-10 x 24-26 L>60-10x32-34	14x34-36 yds	18x44 yds	18x44 yds	18x44 yds
Penalty Mark from Goal	8 yds	10 yds	12 yds	12 yds	12 yds
Goal Area **	3x10-12 yds	6x20 yds	6x20 yds	6x20 yds	6x20 yds
Goal Size Max. (ft)	6.5x18 ft	8x24 ft	8x24 ft	8x24 ft	8x24 ft
	Grade 2 - 4	Grade 5 - 6	Grade 7 - 8	Grade 9-10	Grade 11-PG
Goal Size Min. (ft)	6x12 ft	6x18 ft	8x24 ft	8x24 ft	8x24 ft

Games					
Ball Size	4	4	5	5	5
Half Duration	25 min	30 min	35 min	45 min	45 min
Coaches	3	3	3	3	3
Other					
Ctr. Referee	$40	$50	$60	$80	$80
Asst. Referee	N/A	D1=$35 D2=$35 (D2 not required)	$45	$65	$65
Casts/splints	No	No	No	No	No
Jewelry	No	No	No	No	No
Soft hair items	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shin guards	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**Dimension of line parallel to goal line is based on goal size.
***SCSL does not recommend assigning referees age 15 or younger to the center of a division 1 match.

Policies Manual

Section 100 – Player/Coach/Team/Referees

101 Score Reporting

The HOME team shall be responsible for reporting all scores by means of the South Coast Soccer League (SCSL) web site in Sports Connect. All scores are due to be reported within 72 hours of the completion of the game.

In order to report scores online follow the posted instructions on the SCSL website.

1. Rosters must be signed by coaches from both teams and the referee with the official game score and any infractions. A United States Soccer Federation (USSF) referee report is required to be submitted to the Chair of the Sportsmanship Review Committee for every game where there were infractions via the SCSL website.

- **Fines and Penalties**
- A $25 fine per incident shall be levied against an SCSL organization whose team(s) does not report yellow or red card violations or other mandatory player-game information by the deadline.
- A $25 fine per incident shall be levied against an SCSL organization for each home game where a referee report is not submitted where infractions (yellow /red cards) occurred during the game.
- A $50 fine per incident shall be levied against an SCSL organization whose team(s) does not report the result of their games by the deadline. (within 72 hours of game completion)
- A $200 fine shall be levied against an SCSL organization for not declaring (posting) teams on the web site by the deadline.
- A $100 fine shall be levied against an SCSL organization for rosters that are not received by the Registration deadline. (Late fee)
- A $250 fine per incident shall be levied against an SCSL organization whose team(s) forfeits any of their-scheduled games.
- A $250 fine per incident shall be levied against an SCSL organization whose team(s) forfeits any game involving the islands of Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket. This includes teams from Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

- A $500 fine per incident shall be levied against an SCSL organization that drops, adds or changes age groups or divisions after the SCSL Board of Directors deadline with $200 going to the Scheduler.

- A $1000 fine per incident shall be levied against an SCSL organization that makes any team changes after the schedule has been released with $200 going to the Scheduler.

- A team dropping from the declared division once the season commences with be issued a $1000 fine and $250 forfeit fee for all remaining scheduled games

103 Multiple Rostering

A player cannot play for more than one team in any MYSA recognized town league.

- A player may only play for one team/club in one MYSA town based recognized league during the same season. Example- player can not play for SCSL team and a team from South Shore soccer league)
- A player can only play for one town based team within a single season
  Exception: A player may be rostered to more than one team during a playing season with the following restrictions: IE: Club team and town team or High School team and Town Team)

104 Roster Submissions

1. Clubs are responsible for the submission of team rosters with credentialed coaches via Sports Connect. by the date established by the SCSL Board of Directors.
2. Rosters that are not submitted to the league Registrar by the date established will result in a $100 fine being assessed to the town organization.
3. The SCSL registrar shall be paid $1.00 per player registration and $2.00 for each add, drop or error.
4. Any team submission after the deadlines for submission that are set by the SCSL BOD, shall be assessed in the following manner:
   A. If submitted at least 2 weeks before the start of the season the club will be assessed a $100 fine payable to the league registrar and be guaranteed to be finished for the start of the season.
   B. Any team submission submitted less than 2 weeks before the start of the season shall be assessed a $100 fine payable to the league registrar and will not be guaranteed to be ready for the start of the season.
5. Rosters must have an up-to-date color picture of each player.
6. Team Rosters which are incomplete (contain omissions or problems) when submitted will not be activated until complete is received by the registrar. and subject to $100 late submission fee

105 Transfers

A team is permitted a maximum of three (3) transfers prior to the MTOC roster freeze deadline, during a seasonal playing year. These transfers are based upon maximum roster size as given above. Players may be added at any time to bring the roster to the allowed maximum. Official roster forms must be

returned and approved by the League Registrar before any player can participate for their new team. The SCSL will abide by MYSA rules governing eligibility.

106 Team members

Any player properly assigned shall not play for any other team than that for which he/she registered, except as per United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) Rule 2104.

107 Team Responsibilities

Each club, upon being accepted as a member of the SCSL, shall be furnished with a copy of the Constitution and by Laws, Rules of Play and the Policies Manual of the League and this shall be deemed sufficient notice of their responsibilities.

108 Club Officials and Coach's Responsibilities

A copy of the SCSL Handbook will be available electronically via the SCSL website to every coach/club representative. It is the responsibility of every coach/club representative to familiarize themselves with the SCSL Rules of Play, the coach/club representative responsibilities regarding sportsmanship and the behavior of their players, spectators, and themselves. Failure to comply will lead to review by the SRC and possible disciplinary action.

109 Referees

SCSL Rules of Play and Policies Manual will be available to all referees to be downloaded from the SCSL website. It is the responsibility of the Referee Assignor to distribute the SCSL Rules of Play and Policies Manual to referees under his/her jurisdiction.

110 Referee Fees and Payment

1. **Fees**

Age Group	Referee	Referee Assistant
Grade 2 - 4	$40	N/A
Grade 5 - 6 D2	$50	N/A
Grade 5 - 6 D1	$50	$35
Grade 7 - 8	$60	$45
Grade 9 /10– PG	$80	$65

2. The home team shall pay the referee the exact amount before the start of the game. If there are assistant referees, the referee shall distribute the game fee to the assistant referees before the start of the game.

111 The Presence of any pet of any sort other than service or assistance animals is prohibited from all SCSL sanctioned events

112 Reserved

113 Wearable Safety

- Players can play with an approved equipment accommodation if a current season American with Disabilities Act (ADA) waiver is granted by the SCSL BOD.
- Players with plaster/fiberglass casts or hard splints, even if padded, **cannot play**—even with the permission of a parent or medical approval.
- Players with orthopedic braces that have exposed or uncapped metal parts are also not allowed to play.
- IFAB mandates; "All items of jewelry (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewelry is not permitted." - See the IFAB Laws for full requirements.
- Players with medical, religious, or cultural wearable items must have the item properly secured and protected (such as by taping down, covering, wrapping, or secured through other methods.) Medical information displayed on an item should stay observable.

114 Reserved

115 ReScheduling of Games

1. Re-scheduling will be allowed throughout the season as long as both teams/Clubs agree to the reschedule. In the case of a reschedule request for a verified school or religious event, the game MUST be rescheduled. If the 2 teams/Clubs cannot agree on a new date/time for the reschedule, the SCSL President shall decide when the game will be played. All reschedules must be agreed upon and the game changed in Sports Connect by 9 pm the Wednesday before the originally scheduled date and time for the game or the game must be played as previously scheduled.
2. All rescheduling shall be done by the home club using the Sports Connect web site and the current rules for re-schedules.
3. Any games not played by the last scheduled day of the SCSL playing season shall not be played. This applies to all age groups with the exception of Grade 2 - 4 age groups as no standings are kept for the Grade 2 – 4 age groups. The teams involved waive any rights to the points that would have been awarded if the game had been played. Clubs acknowledge that due to weather conditions or other circumstances teams may be required to play more than one game in a day to complete the eight game season.

116 Reserved

117 MTOC Playoff Structure and Seeding

1. The teams representing the SCSL BOD at the MTOC shall be determined by a playoff schedule and structure as set forth by the SCSL BOD.
2. Should a change in the Playoff Structure be deemed necessary by the SCSL BOD, such changed Playoff Structure shall be conveyed to the teams by the SCSL Director for each town organization and shall be published on the SCSL web Site.
3. The seeding of teams for the playoffs in each age group shall be determined by the following:
   A. Total overall points
   B. The record of their head-to-head competition during the season.
   C. Total goals scored
   D. The goal differential for each team is determined by subtracting goals scored against each team from goals scored for each team. A maximum differential of five (5) shall be allowed for each match.
4. Should a tie exist after the above determination, the SCSL BOD shall decide the team seeding consistent with fair play and sportsmanship.
5. If two or more teams are tied for the last playoff spot then only head to head competition during the season will be used to determine which team makes the playoffs. If this does not break the tie then special play in games will be scheduled between the end of the season and prior to the start of the playoffs to determine which team qualifies for the playoffs.

Section 200 – Board of Directors Procedures

201 Penalties and Fines

1. If a town or other SCSL recognized organization should not be represented at a scheduled SCSL BOD meeting a $50 fine shall be levied against that organization. The organization may choose to be represented by means of a proxy with prior notification to the SCSL President

   Step 1
   Scheduler, Registrar, SRC Chair. will submit to President/Treasurer the recap for all fees/fines associated for that season detailing each club expense.

   Step 2
   Once reviewed the President/Treasurer will send out to all clubs, (whether you have fees or fines) to all Directors.

   Step 3
   Clubs will have 14 days to review and work with Scheduler, Registrar, SRC Chair on any questions or discrepancies – Report/Recap owner will have final say to any adjustments.

   Step 4
   Scheduler, Registrar, SRC Chair will submit an adjusted recap as needed within 7 days from the 14-day review period.

   Step 5
   Invoices will be sent out to all clubs for payment. Once invoices are sent out there will be NO adjustments to what is owed.

   Step 6
   pay your invoice per normal process

2. It is specifically noted that no league officer(s) may waive fines. A vote by the SCSL BOD meeting is required.
3. All fines for the Spring Season must be paid prior to the next Annual General Meeting or the team registrations for the next Spring season will not be accepted if the fines are not paid by the December meeting.

202 Appointed Positions

1. The President may fill positions by appointment as may be required at any time with the approval of the SCSL BOD. These appointed positions may be paid positions.
2. Currently authorized appointed positions:

   A. Webmaster – The webmaster position is currently authorized as a paid position by the SCSL BOD and may be appointed by the president at his/her discretion. The Webmaster shall:

   - Maintain the SCSL web site as required to provide the information and services as directed by the SCSL BOD.
   - The Webmaster will be paid a $500.00 annual stipend for web maintenance (i.e., minor updates/programming and posting materials). Any major programming or website updates/ changes will require a proposal and SCSL BOD vote and will be billed separately from web maintenance.

B. Scheduler – The Scheduler position is currently authorized as a paid position by the SCSL BOD and may be appointed by the President at his/her discretion. The Scheduler shall:

- Publish and maintain the official schedule for the SCSL, track game re-scheduling, make-up games, playoff structure and seedings and the overall league standings using the information provided by the coaches.
- The Scheduler will be paid $2,500.00 for the spring schedule and spring playoff schedule.
- The Scheduler will be paid $1,000.00 for the fall schedule.

Section 300 – Expulsion and Suspension of Members

301 Appeals

Appeals to decisions of expulsion or suspension shall be made to the Appeals Board per section 7-5 (c) of the SCSL By Laws.

302 Re-Admission

Suspended or expelled members may apply for readmission to the SCSL BOD by means of written request to the SCSL BOD. two thirds of the SCSL BOD voting is required for a suspended or expelled member to be reinstated to the SCSL. Member(s) will be notified via email of the BOD vote and status within 7 days..

303 Terms and Conditions

1. "Misconduct" includes, but is not limited to, assault and abuse as described below.
   A. Game Misconduct - includes, but is not limited to, actions other than those of abuse or assault which violate the basic principles of the SCSL regarding sportsmanship, fair play and malicious blowouts as defined below.
   B. Malicious Blowout - the act of running up a score without regard for sportsmanship or rules of conduct. This action may include verbal abuse to the losing team by direct remark or coach joking or jesting with winning players regarding other teams or directing players to play very aggressively and in an intimidating manner. Malicious Blowout is primarily observed by the winning coach taking no sportsmanlike actions to improve the game condition by creating a more equally competitive game environment.
2. "Referee" includes the following: All currently registered USSF referees, linesmen, 4th officials or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match. Any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee. Any club Linesman.
3. “Coach" includes all currently registered team coaches, assistant coaches, managers or trainers.
4. "Player" includes all currently registered persons listed on an official roster as a player on a particular team.

5. "Spectator" includes any parents, relatives or friends of a particular player or team member who attends a particular game or event involving that team.
6. "Assault" includes but is not limited to the following acts: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting at or on, grabbing or bodily running into, the act of throwing an object that could inflict injury, or damaging clothing or personal property.
7. "Abuse" includes but is not limited to the following acts: using foul or abusive language, using racial slurs or insults related to a person's sexual orientation or spewing any beverage upon a person or a person's personal property or club town property, or verbally threatening another person.
8. Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as "I'll get you after the game" or "You won't get out of here in one piece," are some examples of abuse.

304 <u>Jurisdiction</u>

1. Assault or Abuse of a Referee: When any player, coach, manager, club official or game official assaults or abuses a referee, the responsibility to adjudicate the matter shall rest with the MYSA, and all pertinent data and evidence shall be immediately given to the MYSA and SCSL Sportsmanship Review Committee (SRC).

2. Other Assault or Abuse and Game Misconduct: When any player, coach, manager, club official or spectator assaults or abuses another player, coach, manager, club official or spectator or commits an act of game misconduct, the responsibility to adjudicate the matter shall rest with the SCSL Sportsmanship Review Committee (SRC).

305 <u>Hearings</u>

Reports of referee assault or abuse shall be made to the MYSA. All other reports of assault or abuse shall be made to the SCSL. The Sportsmanship Review Committee (SRC) shall be the body to conduct hearings of suspensions or expulsions resulting from assault, abuse or game misconduct and shall make appropriate recommendations to the SCSL Board of Directors.

1. Assault: When an allegation of assault is verified by the SCSL, the person is automatically suspended until the hearing on the assault. The SCSL must hold a hearing within thirty (30) days of the abuse or assault. If the league does not adjudicate the matter within that time period, the jurisdiction shall immediately vest with the MYSA to adjudicate the matter. Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind the automatic suspension.

2. Abuse and/or Game Misconduct: In cases of report of abuse or game misconduct, a hearing is held only when requested by the alleged assailant or otherwise deemed appropriate by the SCSL.

306 Hearing Procedures

SCSL follows the procedures of Massachusetts Youth Soccer. You can find Procedures for Disciplinary Actions and Appeals & Grievances and Complaints and Appeals on their website.

https://mayouthsoccer.org/governance/

307 Penalties and Suspensions

1. Assault: The player, coach, manager or official committing the assault shall be automatically suspended from the SCSL for4 matches. A match shall count toward the suspension period only if it is actually played. A match is considered played if the opponents of the suspended player, coach, manager or official forfeit the match for any reason. The matter shall be reviewed by the Sportsmanship Review Committee who will make recommendations to the SCSL BOD for further action if deemed warranted. Shorter periods of suspension shall not be provided, but if circumstances warrant, longer suspension periods may be provided.
2. Abuse: The minimum suspension period for abuse shall be at least 3 scheduled matches within the SCSL. A match shall count toward the suspension period only if it is actually played. A match is considered played if the opponents of the suspended player, coach, manager or official forfeit the match for any reason. The matter shall be reviewed by the Sportsmanship Review Committee who will make recommendations to the SCSL BOD for further action if deemed warranted. A longer suspension may be provided if circumstances warrant.
3. Game Misconduct: The minimum suspension for game misconduct shall be at least 2 scheduled matches within the SCSL. A match shall count toward the suspension period only if it is actually played. A match is considered played if the opponents of the suspended player, coach, manager or official forfeit the match for any reason. The matter shall be reviewed by the Sportsmanship Review Committee who will make recommendations to the SCSL BOD for further action if deemed warranted. A longer suspension may be provided if circumstances warrant.

a See section 303 for list of but no limited to examples of game misconduct

308 Reporting Procedure

1. Referees reporting an assault or abuse on a Referee shall follow USSF RefereeAbuse Prevention Policy 531-9.

2. A person reporting an assault and/or abuse other than a Referee assault or abuse shall transmit a written report of the alleged assault and/or abuse, within 48 hours of the incident (unless there is a valid reason for later reporting), to the President of the SCSL or their designees.
3. A person reporting an incident of game misconduct shall transmit a written report of the alleged game misconduct, within 48 hours of the incident (unless there is a valid reason for later reporting), to the President of the SCSL or their designees.
4. The SCSL shall report to the MYSA the final determinations and suspensions resulting from all reports of assault and/or abuse, and game misconduct for which it has jurisdiction.

Section 400 - Reserved

Section 500- Game Protest Guidelines

501 Protests After the Game is Played

There are only two (2) acceptable reasons for protesting a game AFTER it has been played. They are:

1. A team plays an unregistered, ineligible player.
2. There has been an obvious error made in the application of the Laws of the Game that directly affects the outcome of the match.

A protest being submitted after a game is played and which conforms to one of the stated reasons must be received by the Protest Board Chairperson before forty-eight (48) hours have passed since the end of the game being protested. Any team or coach protesting a game must follow the procedure as given in Section 11 of the SCSL Rules of Play. No protests can be entertained if they are based on judgment decisions made by the Referee during play. All protest/discipline actions taken by the Protest Board will be reported in writing to the SCSL BOD. Copies of the report will be sent to any coaches involved, the club Director and the referee Representative.

Section 600 - Reserved Section

Section 700 – Membership

The following requirements have been established for membership in the SCSL and must be submitted by the date set by the SCSL BOD.

1. The team application(s) is(are) received.
2. Club geographical boundaries have been declared or reconfirmed.
3. The filled out SCSL Handbook Survey has been submitted to the League Secretary.

4. A non-returnable registration application fee of $500, as determined by the Board, has been paid.

All organizations seeking membership in the SCSL shall submit a copy of their organization's Constitution and By Laws to the SCSL. The SCSL BOD shall determine the date for initial submissions. Any changes to the organization's previously submitted Constitution and By-Laws must be submitted at the December planning meeting.

The SCSL reserves the right to challenge any provisions or changes that conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the SCSL as well as any provision which does not comply with the stated Objectives or Philosophy of the SCSL, MYSA and USSF or is deemed to conflict with the ideal of sportsmanship and fair play.

Section 800 - Rules of Play

801 Changes to Rules of Play

1. Any new Rules of Play or changes to existing Rules of Play, whether proposed by a SCSL BOD member or any other member of the SCSL, shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Secretary.
2. The Secretary shall present to the SCSL BOD for consideration the recommendation at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting after receipt of the recommendation.
3. The SCSL BOD shall then submit any proposal to the next Regular or Special General Meeting with its recommendations. Details of the proposed changes to the Rules of Play shall be included in the meeting agenda notice.
4. The proposal shall be discussed and voted upon. A simple majority vote is necessary for acceptance of the change

Section 900 - Residency Requirements

901 General

The primary intent of the SCSL is to provide inter-town competition. The primary requirement for team play at all levels is town residency.

902 Exceptions/Waivers

- An organization may submit a complete roster with exceptions to this requirement for approval by the SCSL BOD. Such submission for exception shall be by means of a filled out SCSL waiver form and should include a written justification for each exception, including appropriate supporting information. The SCSL BOD shall review each such submission for exception and inform the organization concerned of the action taken. Any subsequent proposed additions to the roster that are exceptions will also require review and approval by the SCSL BOD.

- The SCSL Registrar and each Clubs registrar and travel director are responsible for maintaining all waiver forms/emails and tracking compliance relating to all waiver requirements. Any instance of non-compliance may result in review by the SCSL SRC and include disciplinary action.
- Coaches are responsible for ensuring all waivers are in compliance per SCSL guidelines prior to signing game roster(s) for each SCSL sanctioned event. Non-compliance may result in review by the SCSL SRC and include disciplinary action.

903 <u>Residency</u>

1. A club shall roster players only from within its accepted geographical boundaries as defined per Section 3 of the SCSL Constitution and By Laws or a waiver is required -refer to section 2 below.
2. All teams competing in any SCSL league shall be composed of players residing in towns within the geographical limits of the SCSL. Players outside the geographical boundaries of the SCSL require SCSL BOD approval prior to requesting approval from the player(s) current club and league president. league president's approval via email is required prior to placing the player(s) on the SCSL roster.
3. Clubs or individuals who actively recruit/roster players from outside their own club's geographical area without SCSL BOD approval shall be suspended from the SCSL for one (1) year and shall be subject to any additional action deemed appropriate by the SCSL BOD and SRC .
4. A player may be allowed to play for a non-hometown team if the two SCSL clubs involved mutually agree. The request must be made by means of a properly filled out SCSL waiver form to the SCSL BOD per Section 902. and submitted to the SCSL registrar for review prior to placing player(s) on roster.

    - **<u>All players requesting/requiring a waiver MUST first register/notify their hometown organization indicating their desire to play travel soccer.</u>**

5. A player who has been denied a waiver by their hometown club may play for another town's team in their age group. In such cases the SCSL BOD reserves the right to declare that team as ineligible for MTOC competition.
6. Players residing in a town without a club registered with and accepted by the SCSL may register with and play for any SCSL club. Waiver forms are NOT required for this situation but the SCSL BOD and Registrar must be notified prior to placing player(s) on roster. (currently Barnstable and New Bedford)
7. Out of State players do not require a SCSL waiver but must be listed on the SCSL waiver tracker prior to being placed on a roster for review by all clubs with SCSL.
8. For all Divisions, submissions qualifying under the following guidelines will be approved unless the SCSL BOD finds, in a particular case, that such approval would be inconsistent with the basic principles of the League.

A. A player who moves from town A to town B and has played for town A for at least two (2) of the three (3) previous spring soccer seasons may play for town A for one (1) more Spring season or for town B immediately. Any exceptions must be submitted to the SCSL BOD in writing by the player's parents or guardians.
B. Adjacent towns that have an insufficient number of players to form two (2) full teams at an age level may combine players to form a team, which would be placed in an appropriately competitive division.

9. For Division I, the SCSL BOD may approve residency exceptions for the purpose of providing broader access to competition at this level. In acting on such submissions, the SCSL BOD shall be guided by the following principles:

   A. Division I should be evenly competitive and in the spirit of town competition.

   B. Each player has a right to competition at the highest level his or her capabilities will allow.

   C. A player who has access to Division I play in his or her hometown of residency should not be considered for such play in another town unless both clubs agree and submit an SCSL waiver form per Section 12-2 of the SCSL Constitution and By-Laws.

10. Organizations, which represent two or more adjacent towns associated in a regional school district, shall be considered as town organizations for purposes of these Policies and By Laws and shall have the same rights as organizations representing a single town.

11. Organizations which represent two (2) or more adjacent towns not associated with a regional school district and have defined their geographical areas as specified in Section 3 of the Constitution & By Laws, with the approval of the SCSL BOD, shall be considered as town organizations for the purposes of these By Laws and shall have the same rights as those organizations representing a single town.
12. Individuals residing within the geographical boundaries of a club not previously registered with the SCSL and who have previously played for another SCSL club shall be required to register with and play for the expansion club. All requests for exceptions must be submitted to the SCSL BOD prior to the deadline for submission of rosters to the SCSL Registrar.
13. For the case of towns which have multiple clubs authorized per Section 3 of the Constitution & By Laws, the Fall membership of such clubs shall be exempt from recruitment by another club operating in that town.

Playoff information

Note: Playoff information may be found on the South Coast website at southcoastsoccer.org after May 1, 2026

MTOC Rules and Procedures

Note: The Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (MTOC) Rules and Procedures are subject to change. Please check for updated information at https://mayouthsoccer.org/events-and-programs/mtoc/

Reporting of Scores
Sports Connect

Scores shall be reported by the home team via the South Coast Soccer League (SCSL) web site in Got Soccer. All scores must be reported within 48 hours of the completion of the game. Scores reported after the 72 hours will result in the club being fined.

Reporting of Infractions
Sports Connect

All yellow or red card infractions must be reported within 72 hours by the home team via the South Coast Soccer League (SSCL) website Sports Connect. Failure to do so will result in the club being fined.

Referee Reporting of Infractions
SCSL Website Submission

A referee report is also required for all cards issued,and any code of conduct issue to include a detailed description of the incident must be submitted within 72 hours. Failure to complete & submit a referee report within this timeframe will result in the club being fined.

SCSL recommends that each coach print and bring additional photocopies of the Official Game Protest forms to each game. The forms can be found on the following pages.

Official Game Protest Form

Game #: _____ Game Date:_____

Game Location _____

Age Group: Gr-_____ Boys____Girls____Division: 1 or 2

Protesting Coach's Name: _____

Club: _____

Opposing Coach's Name: _____

Club: _____

Referee's Name: _____

Protest Prior to the Game

If the protest is being made prior to the start of the game, (which can only be for field conditions) enter an "x" below

_____ I am not playing; my team is leaving the field.

Reason for the Protest Prior to the Game; with proof, Pictures, Statement's, Etc.

Protest after the Game

After a game has been completed, this protest form is to be used for only one of the following two reasons. Please put an "x" next to the reason.

_____ The opposing team played an ineligible player.

_____ There has been an error made in the application of the Laws of the Game.

One copy of this game protest must be given to the referee and one copy to the opposing coach. The referee and opposing coach are REQUIRED to accept this game protest notification. The protest must be submitted in writing per section 12 in the SCSL rules of play.

Official Game Protest Form

Game #: _____ Game Date:_____

Game Location _____

Age Group: Gr-_____ Boys____Girls____Division: 1 or 2

Protesting Coach's Name: _____

Club: _____

Opposing Coach's Name: _____

Club: _____

Referee's Name: _____

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