

# SANTA CLARA YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

## GENERAL LEAGUE RULES

The Santa Clara Youth Soccer League, as an affiliated league of the California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA) and the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), shall enforce all applicable rules, regulations and policies of all the affiliated organizations.

The following general rules are adopted by the Santa Clara Youth Soccer League in order to promote the spirit of the game of soccer and to protect the interests of all members of the League.

### **General League Rules:**

1. **Violent Conduct.** The League has a zero tolerance for any violent conduct by players, coaches, parents or any other persons during any League activity. Any league activity includes but is not limited to games, practices or meetings.

The League Board of Directors will investigate any and all acts of violence. Penalties may range from suspension or expulsion from League Activities. Examples of violent conduct include but are not necessarily limited to, spitting, or other unseemly act, on or at another person; striking or attempting to strike another player team official or spectator, unlawfully entering the field of play during an altercation. Persons committing any violent act will be required to immediately leave the area.

2. **Wearing of Jewelry.** Players may not wear any type of jewelry during games or practices. Jewelry includes but is not limited to rings, bracelets, necklaces or earrings.

***Exception: Players may be allowed to wear medical identification bracelets or necklaces as long as they are safeguarded in some way as to not pose a hazard to other players.***

3. **Smoking and Alcoholic Beverages.** In accordance to the guidelines set by CYSA and the Santa Clara Unified School District, smoking and alcoholic beverages shall be prohibited at all activities sponsored by the League.
4. **Playing Time.** It shall be the policy of the League that all players playing on recreational (Class 4) teams and U9 and U10 competitive (Class 3) teams shall play at least 50% of any game.

Playing time on all other teams will be at the discretion of the coach of the team. The League recommends that the coaches limit the size of their rosters to a manageable number so that all players have an opportunity to develop their playing skills.

5. **Required Player Equipment.** All players participating in any practice, game or other competition shall wear the following equipment: approved shoes (*baseball style cleats are not allowed to be used*); shin guards; and socks which cover the shin guards completely.
6. **Red Card Penalties.** All incidents involving the issuance of a red card involving any person affiliated with the League will be reviewed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will have discretionary powers to increase penalties befitting the infractions.
7. **Refund of Registration Fees.** Player registration fees will be refunded accordingly for the following reasons upon request:
  - A. A player is unable to be assigned to a team. Player is entitled to a full refund.
  - B. A player is physically unable to play any game after being assigned a team due to any reason unrelated to any League activity is entitled to a refund less the CYSA fee.
  - C. A player is assigned to a team but unable to play any game is entitled to a refund upon request less the CYSA fee and uniform costs, if issued a uniform.

All requests for refunds shall be submitted to the Board of Directors no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>. Refunds shall be issued by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

8. **Fingerprinting. 3-03** Every registered coach or team manager shall be required to comply with the following:
  - A. Complete an Adult Registration Form on an annual basis.
  - B. Upon initial application submit to a criminal background check that will include at a minimum the submittal of finger prints as directed by the Board of Directors.
  - C. Adult volunteers or coaches are not required to be finger printed as long as they were properly registered by the League during the previous year.
9. **Under 6 and Under 8 Playing Formats. 3-02** As approved by the membership the playing formats for the Under 6 and Under 8 age groups shall be as follows:
  - A. **Under 6 Teams** shall play a 3 v. 3 player format with no designated goalkeeper.

- B. **Under 8 Teams** shall play 4 v. 4 player format with no designated goalkeeper.
10. **Player Evaluations. 3-03** The coach of each team from under 8 through under 16 shall evaluate each player on their team. Player evaluations must be completed on the League Player Evaluation Form as approved by the Board of Directors. Coaches shall submit the completed player evaluation forms to their Age Group or Playing League Coordinator.
11. **Volunteer Participation Program. 3-04** The objective of the program is to provide an adequate number of volunteers so that the League can meet its mission.
- A. At the time of registration each individual family will pay a 40-dollar refundable Volunteer Participation Program (VPP) Fee.
  - B. The VPP Fee will be fully refunded after an adult member of the family serves at least 4-hours of volunteer time for the League and submits a completed VPP Reimbursement Form which will be available at registration, at selected sites and on the League's website.
  - C. It will be the responsibility of each family to find opportunities to volunteer the required volunteer time.
  - D. In an effort to provide the best opportunity for families to volunteer time, the League will post volunteer opportunities on our website and in the Keeper.
  - E. The following persons will be exempt from paying the VPP Fee at the time of registration:
    - i. Current members of the Board of Directors.
    - ii. Persons submitting a coach application at the time of registration. This exemption will apply to an assistant coach and team manager per team.
  - F. Reimbursements will be made on a monthly basis.
12. **Restriction on Players Playing Up in Age Groups. 3-04** The League strongly recommends that players play in their own age group as designated by CYSA, USYSA or any other affiliated organization. In no case can a player play up in an age group that is more than two years older than their designated age group without the approval of the Board of Directors. A written request for a player to play up more than two years must be submitted to the Board of Directors and be signed by the player's legal guardian and the coach of the team for which the player is requesting to play. This in no way limits a team that is qualified from playing up in an age group that is more than two years above their designated age group.