

NorCal State Cup

U14-U19 Procedures, Rules, and Regulations



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1. Game Procedures

1.1 Pre-Game Procedures

Home Team:

- 1) Contact away team to insure proposed game time works for both teams
- 2) Scheduling and posting agreed game time on website
- 3) Providing properly lined field
- 4) Provide and pay credentialed referee's who must have proper refereeing uniforms
- 5) Provide NorCal Game Card to center referee
- 6) Provide referee US CLUB SOCCER player passes for each player

Visiting Team:

- 1) Respond to any communication requests from the home team in regards to match. Away teams have 48 hours to respond to Home team if the date and time would not work.
- 2) Bring copy of NorCal Game Card
- 3) Provide referee US CLUB SOCCER player passes for each player

1.2 Game-Day Procedures

At each NorCal State Cup match it is the responsibility of both teams to have possession of:

- 1) NorCal Game Card
 - a. On the Game Card both team rosters must be printed on the Card to be a valid game. Please view Rosters for more information
- 2) US Club Soccer Passes for its players

1.3 Post-Game Procedures

Home Team:

- 1) Coach or Managers signs the NorCal Game Card following the game
- 2) If no red card is given the home team holds onto the NorCal Game Card until the end of the NorCal State Cup

- 3) If a red card is given it is the responsibility to make sure the home team referee's fill out a send off report and send it to pad@norcalpremier.com
- 4) Home team posts score within 24 hours

Visiting Team:

- 1) Coach or Managers signs the NorCal Game Card following the game

2. Participation Requirements

2.1 Participation

The NorCal State Cup is open to any teams registered with a club in good standing with NorCal Premier Soccer. Club and team affiliation may be terminated because of a violation of performance conditions set forth by NorCal Premier Soccer. Following each State Cup, the league office shall review the compliance record of each team in their specific division. The NorCal State Cup committee may find that compliance with the standards is insufficient and recommend action to the league office. In extreme cases of repeated noncompliance, NorCal Premier may terminate the participation of the team in question.

3. Team Management

3.1 Team Management Requirements

All teams must have a manager or coach that has daily access to email, and a telephone number connected to a 24 hour answering system during the NorCal State Cup. Email will be the primary form of contact and it is expected that the team manager is checking email on a daily basis.

3.2 Personnel on the Bench

A maximum of 3 non-playing personnel is allowed on each team bench.

4. Rules

4.1 Playing Rules

All games under league jurisdiction shall be played according to the rules and regulations recognized by NorCal Premier League which shall be the same rules set by FIFA/USSF except for those exceptions authorized by FIFA or USSF.

4.2 Point System

The NorCal State Cup Group Phase shall operate under a point system. The point system shall award three points for a win, one point for a tie and no points for a loss. In case of a tie in the standings within a group the following will be used as tiebreakers:

- 1) "Head to Head" points between teams
- 2) "Head to Head" Goal Differential (up to 4) between teams
- 3) Overall Goal Differential (up to 4)
- 4) Goals for (up to 4)
- 5) Goals against (up to 4)
- 6) Most points against highest non-tied team in group (i.e. if the 2nd place and 3rd place team are tied best record vs. 1st place team would win tiebreaker)
- 7) Best Goal Differential against highest non-tied team in group
- 8) Most Shutouts
- 9) Least Red Cards
- 10) Coin Toss

If more than two teams are tied, the tie-breaking process will be used until a winner is determined. The tie-breaking procedure does not revert to previous criteria if one team is eliminated.

4.3 Game Lengths

All NorCal State Cup Group Phase and Knockout Phase matches will be played in full. All games will be played 11v11 with a size 5 ball. The following is the list of game lengths for each age group:

- U14 – play 2x35 minutes; 10 minute half time
- U15 – play 2x40 minutes; 10 minute half time
- U16 – play 2x40 minutes; 10 minute half time

U17 – play 2x45 minutes; 10 minute half time
U18 – play 2x45 minutes; 10 minute half time

4.4 Ties in Groups Phase

If a NorCal State Cup Group Phase match is tied after regulation, the tie stands and will be posted as a tie.

4.5 Ties in Knockout Phase

For matches that need a winner, the team with the most goals after regulation time will be the winner. If the match is tied after regulation for U14-U19 teams, two full time 5 minute overtime periods will be played. If the game is still tied after the two overtime periods, then penalty kicks per FIFA will determine the Champion.

Please note: Please make sure you arrive for your game knowing if the game can end in a draw or if a winning team is required.

4.6 Fields

It is expected that all Club Hosted Fields be of the highest quality for NorCal State Cup competition. It is expected that fields are properly lined, mowed, and have nets and corner flags. If you feel a field is not of proper quality please play the match under protest (view section on protests). If NorCal finds that a field is not to the standards of the NorCal State Cup clubs may be asked to move their matches to another field. All goals are expected to be regulation size 8' height x 24' width. Please view the expected field dimensions for NorCal State Cup Club Hosted matches:

U14 – Maximum 120 x 90 yards; Minimum 100 x 55 yards
U15 – Maximum 130 x 100 yards; Minimum 100 x 55 yards
U16 – Maximum 130 x 100 yards; Minimum 100 x 55 yards
U17 – Maximum 130 x 100 yards; Minimum 100 x 55 yards
U18 – Maximum 130 x 100 yards; Minimum 100 x 55 yards

4.7 Substitutions

A team may have no more than 18 players dressed for each game. Substitutions are allowed at the referee's discretion. A substitution can take place for either team at the following times:

- Prior to a kick-off
- A goal kick
- A throw-in
- After the referee stops play for an injury or yellow card

Unlimited substitutions are allowed but NorCal Premier Soccer reminds all coaches that it is their responsibility to handle their substitutions in a professional manner so as not to detract from the game.

5. Disciplinary Regulations

5.1 Eligibility

All players and coaches must present their US Club Player Pass to the referee prior to the match. If the individual picture is not on the ID card and the card is not laminated, the individual will not be eligible for the match. All players must be named on the game card presented to the referee at beginning of each game. **Players may only play for one Club, their club, during any NorCal Cup match** unless the NorCal Cup Coordinator approves a transfer in writing.

Individual teams may contain up to 26 players for the NorCal Cup. **For NorCal State Cup, rosters are frozen at certain dates and players may only be used from the 26-player roster submitted to NorCal. NO GUEST PLAYERS FROM OTHER CLUBS ARE ALLOWED IN ANY NORCAL EVENTS.** Only 18 of 26 players may be used for matches. The 18 players must be on the official game card given to the match official and opposing team before the start of the game. The eight players not being played must have a line through their name on the roster.

5.2 League Discipline

A send off (red card) will result in a minimum of a one (1) game suspension. A send off because of two cautions will result in the

player being suspended for the next match. If a player is sent off during the weekend, they may not play the remainder of the weekend. Games sat out that weekend can count against the suspension, as long as noted on the Roster and/or Referee Game Report as such.

Any team using suspended players will be disciplined the same as using illegal players. The NorCal PAD (pad@norcalpremier.com) must be notified of the send off within 24 hours by the home team. The player card can be returned to the team as long as the Referee Game Report shows the infraction, the players name and number.

5.3 No-Shows/Forfeits

A no-show occurs when a team willfully does not show up to a game agreed to by the teams. Penalties for no-shows are as follows:

- 1) A forfeit to the opposing team
- 2) The accumulation of two no-shows in NorCal Cup shall result in the team's termination from the Cup and a 1 year suspension for the team in the following years NorCal State Cup
- 3) A forfeit will result in a 0-3 loss
- 4) Forfeiting team will pay for all referee, field, and admin costs associated with the no-show

A team unable to attend a scheduled game because of an accident, weather, or act of god should immediately notify the opponent and the league office. Each situation shall be reviewed by the NorCal PAD committee, which shall enter a decision.

5.4 Incomplete Games

In the event a game cannot be completed, the game counts if half the game was completed. If there is no result and the match is suspended prior to the expiration of one half, the game shall be repeated at a time agreed upon by the competing teams in consultation with the Cup Coordinator.

Any team directly responsible for the termination of a game due to poor sportsmanship towards referee, opposing fans, or opposing players will result in that team forfeiting the match.

This could also lead to other possible penalties set by the NorCal PAD committee.

5.5 Protests

A protest must be clearly written on the official Game Card prior to the match in regards to field quality, referee credentials, and any other issues in regards to match conditions not being of the highest quality. If the game begins and a protest has not been made prior to the match then a protest will not be considered. Protests in regards to eligible players or the playing of illegal players may be made prior to or following the match. Protests must be sent to pad@norcalpremier.com. Specific referee decisions shall not be protested.

No Protests will be allowed at NorCal hosted matches accept in regards to the possibility of playing illegal players.

5.6 Violating League Rules

The NorCal PAD committee shall have the authority to suspend, fine, or disqualify player, team officials or competing clubs for violating league rules, or for any action or conduct not in the best interest of soccer or NorCal Premier.

5.7 Disciplinary Issues

A panel of individuals from the league shall conduct the review of disciplinary issues. This panel will be known as the PAD Committee and shall consist of a minimum of three officials.

5.8 Red Card Procedure

It is the team and clubs responsibility to ensure their Red Carded player/coach serves the minimum 1 game suspension. It is also there responsibility to ensure that their player/coach serves any additional suspension determined by the NorCal PAD committee. A referee report must be sent within 48 hours of the red card being issued. Teams must send in the verification form confirming that suspensions have been served. All reports and forms should be sent to pad@norcalpremier.com.

5.9 Suspensions

All double yellow cards and red cards will result in a minimum one game suspension. This suspension is effective immediately. Even if the official suspension is not awarded it is the team and clubs responsibility to ensure that the suspension is served.

Red cards received in NorCal State Cup matches must be served in State Cup matches. Red cards may not be served in league matches. Players would be illegible for the next league match but must sit out the next Cup match. The only exception is players receiving a Red Card in their final Cup match must sit out their next NorCal League or Cup match.

5.10 Verification Procedure

Teams must have signed verification form signed by center referee and coaches of both teams, verifying the Player or Coach did not participate in game. Send all verifications to pad@norcalpremier.com.

6. Roster Regulations

6.1 Official Roster

Create your official State Cup Roster online on your teams NorCal State Cup team page. Rosters must be submitted by September 6, 2011. There will be a Roster Open Window from November 15, 2011 – November 24, 2011 and another Roster Open Window from March 1, 2012 – March 18, 2012 to allow adjustments to team rosters. All roster additions must be submitted in writing to the Cup Coordinator. Rosters will remain locked during the Roster Open Window but the Cup Coordinator can make adjustments manually.

Players name may not be hand written onto the NorCal Game Card. Only players listed on the official Game Card will be eligible to play in NorCal Cup matches. Any team that does not submit a roster by the September 6, 2011 deadline will not be able to participate until their roster is submitted. Teams submitting rosters late will not be able to add any players that registered with US Club Soccer after September 6, 2011. In the event that a team is having a problem getting their players in the NorCal system (to show on the game card) only play the

game if the Cup Coordinator approves a valid US Club Roster to be used instead. This roster would be sent to all of the teams opponent.

6.2 Guest Players

No Guest Players will be allowed. Only players who are registered with the club the team is registered through may compete on behalf of the club in the NorCal State Cup. A player may not be registered for two US Club Soccer Clubs during the NorCal Cup.

6.3 Cup Tied – Player Transfers

Players may only compete for one team per age group in the NorCal State Cup. A club may place players on more than one 26-player team roster but players may not play on two different teams in the same age group. For example, a player may not play for a first team and a second team in the same age group. A player may play up in an older age group while competing in their true age group. Once a player plays for a team in a specific age group that player is "Cup Tied" to that team in that age group. The player may not play for any other team in that age group for the remainder of the 2011/12 NorCal State Cup.

6.4 Transfers

Transfers are only allowed with written permission from the Cup Coordinator. Transfers are generally only allowed if a player moves residence over 1 hour from where they previously lived. The League Office has final say on all Cup Transfers.

6.5 Illegal Players

Any player that does not appear on the NorCal Game Card or have a valid US Club Soccer Player Pass at the time of the match shall be considered an illegal player. Any team using an illegal player shall forfeit three points for each game to the opposing team against whom the illegal player was used. In addition, the coach of the team using the illegal player will be suspended for NorCal State Cup competition for one year.

7. Match Officials

7.1 Match Officials

Match Officials for Club Hosted matches must be licensed referees. The match officials shall consist of the referee and assistant referees (AR1, AR2). All NorCal State Cup matches must have 3 referees. No match officials may have a family member in the game they are working.

7.2 Assignment of Match Officials

For all Club Hosted matches, referees shall be assigned and paid by the home team of each match. Clubs must have their referee assignor listed on their club officials on their NorCal Premier Club Page.

For NorCal Hosted matches (generally Round of 16, Quarters, Semis, and Finals) NorCal will assign and pay all referees.

8. Scheduling and Communication

8.1 Communication Policy

Communication between teams is vitally important for all NorCal State Cup events. Please make sure to have at least 2 different contacts listed on your team's page. It is highly recommended to have as many contacts as possible so your team never misses communications from your opponent. Having the wrong email address or phone number listed is not a valid excuse for not receiving information and could result in your team and club being placed on probation if it becomes a common occurrence. Please check your team pages to make sure that your information is current. It may be a good idea to add one club representative to each team's contacts so club officials are aware of what is going on with each individual team in your club. It is very important that teams abide by the 48-hour rule in returning posted communication messages.

8.2 Policy for Scheduling Matches

NorCal will provide dates when the matches should be played. Teams are expected to be available to play anytime on those game dates, although home teams need to be flexible especially

if the opponent is traveling from a long distance. Please do not schedule games before 10am if a team is traveling from one or two hours away. We are aware of a few scheduling conflicts in the schedule during NorCal events. Please coordinate directly with opponents regarding the re-scheduling of these games into another date that works for both parties. Please be flexible and try to make this work, we all want these games to be played. Please be aware of all scheduling deadlines. For NorCal State Cup, game dates will be provided by NorCal and Home Teams will be responsible for scheduling a time and location. **All games, including reschedules, must be confirmed and on the schedule by the NorCal scheduling deadlines for each State Cup deadline. At that point schedules will be locked and can only be rescheduled if with agreement from both teams and the State Cup Coordinator.**

Please note - If NorCal feels that the home team is responsible for the game not being scheduled they will:

First Warning – 20\$ fine

Second Warning Lose home field advantage and still pay for refs and field costs.

Third Warning - Forfeit Match

Fourth Warning - Elimination from league

After NorCal scheduling deadlines have passed, both teams must agree upon any game that needs to be rescheduled. If the opponent does not agree to a reschedule, the team asking for the reschedule must either play the game or forfeit.

8.3 Cancellation/Forfeit Policy

Teams must give their opponent a 96-hour warning if forfeiting an away match or they will be required to pay field and referee costs. Please remember that this is a club competition and not an individual team competition. The following is a list of common excuses we see for needing to cancel a game. We recommend the following solutions to frequently posed problems:

Too many players missing

Solution - Remember that any player from your club is available to participate with your team as long as they are of correct age. In league matches please use 2nd team

players or players from younger teams within your club to fill out your roster. For State Cup since players may only play for one team in an age group please make sure to fill your roster to 26 by adding younger players to your frozen roster. As long as a player has a pass with your club they would be eligible to play with your team when short players unless they are competing in the same division.

Missing Coach

Solution - Any coach with a valid pass for your club is able to coach any team in that club. If your coach has several commitments then it is recommended that teams have an assistant coach or another coach from the club available to cover games.

No Fields Available

Solution - It is expected that if your team is playing in NorCal State Cup that your team has a quality field and access to field's. Fields need to be lined with proper dimensions as per posted rules. This excuse will not be acceptable for a cancellation of a match.

Tournaments/Other Games

Solution - NorCal understands that teams will possibly do a tournament during the time of League or Cup matches. This will be an acceptable excuse to ask for a reschedule but it must be done and rescheduled by NorCal scheduling deadlines. Please plan your schedule well in advance so your schedule does not become so full that you are unable to fulfill your State Cup commitment.