

FULLERTON CITY FOOTBALL CLUB (FCFC)
Code of Conduct, Regulations, and Rules

FCFC Code of Conduct

FCFC is a youth soccer organization founded and led by passionate volunteers committed to the development and well-being of our youth in the City of Fullerton. The core values of FCFC are integrity, quality, and community. FCFC supports and promotes good sportsmanship. Coaches, managers, referees, parents, and spectators are each expected to maintain the highest level of sportsmanship and professionalism.

All FCFC participants must act in a manner that promotes the best interests of youth soccer. Players have a responsibility to play fair, display good sportsmanship, and treat their coaches, opponents, and referees with respect.

Coaches

- Promote the values of FCFC: integrity, quality, and community.
- Prioritize player development and enjoyment of the game.
- Maintain a high level of sportsmanship and professionalism.
- Teach skills, strategy, and tactics to all players.
- Be knowledgeable of the game and continue learn about the game (e.g. attend training courses).
- Control the behavior of players, parents, and spectators at all times of the game.
- Never use foul or abusive language.
- Never abuse a player mentally, verbally, or physically.
- Respect the authority of the referee and be accepting of the referee's decisions.
- Be positive. Remain calm. Avoid confrontation with any individual.
- Do not enter the field of play without permission of the referee.
- Periodically reflect on your role as a coach and recognize that players may see you as a role model.

Players

- Maintain a high level of sportsmanship and fair play.
- Respect coaches, opponents, and referees.
- Be on time and prepared to play the game or participate in practice.
- Make an effort develop your skills, mental and physical
- Play within the laws of the game.
- Display self-control and do not use foul or abusive language.
- Avoid physical confrontation with any individual.

Referees

- Know and enforce fairly International Football Association Board ("IFAB") Laws.
- Be professional, i.e. on time, in proper uniform, prepared, and fit.

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- Emphasize the safety of the players and coaches.
- Show respect for players, coaches, parents, and spectators.
- Explain rules, as needed.
- Remain calm.
- Control behavior of players, coaches, parents, and spectators.
- Take each game seriously.
- Be neutral.
- Be firm, fair, honest, and consistent.

Parents and Spectators

- Be supportive of your child, i.e. be sure the player attends practices and games, and arrives on time; pick the player up on time.
- Be supportive of your team (e.g. participating in fundraisers, attending games), to the extent possible
- Be positive or quiet at games.
- Set the example for children by showing the highest standard of sportsmanship.
- Respect the coaches and all players on each team.
- Respect the authority of the referees.
- Expect your own children to be respectful.
- Attend and supervise your own children at all FCFC events.
- Avoid confrontation with any individual.
- Do not enter the field of play without permission of the referee.
- Do not coach from the sideline.
- Do not use foul or abusive language towards anyone for any reason.
- Get involved with the FCFC and volunteer, if you can.
- Abide by the rules or be subject to dismissal from the field and league discipline.
- Do not confront a coach, team, player, board member, or league official to discuss any “negative” game or practice situation until at least twenty-four (24) hours have passed from the completion of the game or practice.

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FCFC REGULATIONS

- A. PLAYING SEASON
- B. USE OF FIELDS
- C. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS
- D. SELECTION AND REGISTRATION OF COACHES AND TEAM ADMINISTRATORS
- E. HEAD COACH DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
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FCFC Regulations

A. Playing Season

1. The spring playing season officially opens with practices beginning on the Presidents' Day holiday in February. The regular season is 9 weeks long with an additional weekend of post-season playoff games. Games are not played Easter weekend or on Mother's Day.
2. The fall playing season officially opens with practices beginning on or after August 1st. The regular season is 10 weeks long, Regular season games usually begin the weekend before or after Labor Day weekend and continue through November and potentially into December (depending on holidays and rain outs). Players selected for the FCFC All-Star competition will compete against other FCFC All-Star teams and/or FCFC Select teams. These post-season competitions occur in December and in some cases in January.

B. Use of Fields

Field use permits are issued to FCFC by the City of Fullerton, and other applicable jurisdictions. Teams can only practice on FCFC-permitted fields and only at their assigned practice days/times. A "practice" is a gathering of a coach and more than three players registered to a team for the purpose of soccer instruction. The following activities are except from the definition of "practice": team formation meetings, Cal South and/or FCFC- sanctioned soccer camps or clinics, and participation in other organized soccer leagues.

C. Registration of Players

1. Age of Players
 - a. For the Fall 2024 season all players must have been born on or between the dates of January 1, 2006 and July 31, 2020.
 - b. For the Spring 2025 season, all players must have been born on or between the dates of January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2020.
2. Age Groups of Teams
 - a. Age Groups shall be comprised of players whose age corresponds to the year of the child's birth, subject to exceptions under these Regulations.

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- b. A frozen player may be placed in an older group if approved by the Director of Coaches and:
 - i. The player is within one year of the playing age of the higher division; or,
 - ii. The player needs to move from U14 to division U16 for the purpose of playing high school sports.
 - c. Play up requests must be submitted in writing by the player's parent or guardian to the Registrar by May 31st.
3. Written consent of a parent or legal guardian is required for player registration.
 4. All new registrants must present proof of age to the Registrar. Proof of age shall consist of a birth certificate, a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173) issued by the uniformed services of the United States, a birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency or board of health records, a passport, an alien registration card issued by the United States Government, a certificate issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service attesting to age, a current driver's license, an unexpired federal, state, or local government identification card (if documentation of date of birth is required), or a certification of a United States citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal, or religious certificates will not be accepted. Reproductions or photocopies of documents, which have not been officially certified by the issuing government agency will not be accepted.
 5. Registration fees for the spring recreational season will be provided if a written request is submitted by the player's parent or legal guardian to the Registrar by January 31. No refunds will be authorized on requests submitted after January 31. Registration fees for the fall recreational season will be provided if a written request is submitted by the player's parent or legal guardian to the Registrar by May 31. No refunds will be authorized on requests submitted after May 31.
 6. No child shall be allowed to participate in a FCFC team practice or game until officially registered as a player within FCFC unless permitted by CalSouth rules. A child becomes a registered player only after verification of age and acceptance of the completed registration materials by the Registrar. Teams are formed from those players registered. However, registration does not guarantee placement on a team.

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D. Selection and Registration of Coaches and Team Administrators

1. The term “Registered Team Administrator” is defined as a Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Manager, and/or Team Parent who has both registered as an Administrator for the team and successfully completed the FCFC Risk Management process.
2. No person shall perform in the position of Head Coach unless he or she is at least 19 years of age. An exception may be granted to an 18 year old applicant with written approval from the Director of Coaches, with written notice provided to the Board of Directors.
3. All Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches must be Registered Team Administrators. Each Team Manager or Team Parent is encouraged to become a Registered Team Administrator, but it is not required. An adult who does not complete the Risk Management process is not a Registered Team Administrator.
4. The selection of Assistant Coaches and team officials shall be made by the Head Coach of the team.
5. No person shall serve in a position of Head Coach or Assistant Coach unless he or she is at least five years older than the oldest player on the team.

E. Coach Duties and Responsibilities

1. At least one Registered Team Administrator must always be at every team event. The Head Coach shall provide for adult supervision by a Registered Team Administrator at all practices, games, and other team functions. Each team is encouraged to have more than one Registered Team Administrator.
2. No person who participates in coaching or training a recreational team shall receive compensation for his or her services, either directly or indirectly. Any coach or trainer who receives such compensation shall be subject to disciplinary action. Any team that participates in such action shall be subject to sanctions. Reasonable end-of-year team gifts are permitted.
3. Any person who is involved with coaching or training a recreational team shall complete and submit the required administration forms for each team. Persons who have not completed and submitted the required administration forms are not permitted to participate in coaching or training a recreational team.
4. The Head Coach shall notify the Director of Coaches and Registrar of any change in team officials.

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5. The Head Coach of each team scheduled to play the first game of the day shall make arrangements for individuals to set up the goals, nets, and flags. The Head Coach of each team scheduled to play the last game of the day shall make arrangements to take down and properly stow all field equipment. This includes the goals in their proper area, the nets, flags, and velcro in the storage bin and the doors closed. Both home team and visiting team shall share these responsibilities equally.
6. The Head Coach or Registered Team Administrator shall have each of the players' emergency treatment authorization (medical release) forms at all practices, games, and other team functions.
7. The Head Coach or Registered Team Administrator shall not leave any field or practice site until all players have been picked up and have been accounted for. Always provide measures to ensure the safety and well-being of all players under your care. **NEVER LEAVE A PLAYER WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION.**
8. The Head Coach and Team Parent shall make arrangements for trash pickup and removal at every game, practice, scrimmage, or other FCFC event.
9. The Head Coach is responsible for FCFC equipment and shall report damage or misuse of such equipment to the FCFC Director of Fields.
10. The Head Coach and other Registered Team Administrators are responsible for the conduct of the players and the team's spectators during all FCFC events. Head Coaches, assistant coaches, Registered Team Administrators, players, active members, and spectators are subject to FCFC and Cal South discipline for noncompliance with FCFC Regulations.
11. Coaches should be certified in coaching according to the level of competitiveness and age of players. FCFC will pay for coach licensing classes through Level 'E' (The Director of Coaches has final authority to approve or disapprove class registration).
12. Coaches shall adhere to and enforce the FCFC Regulations and Code of Conduct.
13. The Head Coaches shall properly fill out and sign a game card prior to arriving at each game (see Handbook sample game card). They shall present Registered Team Administrator(s) and player cards to the referee before each game.

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F. Team Formation

1. FCFC will provide two categories of recreational teams: (i) Recreational; and (ii) Select.
 - a. Generally, Recreational teams will be composed of beginner players who have limited soccer experience.
 - b. Generally, Select teams will be composed of intermediate-recreational or advanced-recreational players who have played two or more seasons on a recreational team.
 - c. FCFC players may only play on one team, Recreational or Select.
 - d. At least 80% of the total registered players for each season of each year shall be residents of the City of Fullerton.
 - e. The following table illustrates the recommended number of players, the minimum and maximum number of players, and number of freezes on a team within each division (freeze limits for the Spring Recreational teams only), although the Director of Coaching may deviate from this table in forming Spring season teams:

Age	Recommended	Minimum	Maximum	Freezes
U-19, 18	16	11	18	18
U-17, 16	15	11	18	18
U-14, 13	15	11	18	5
U-12, 11, 10	14	9	13	5
U-9, 8	10	7	11	3
U-7, 6	10	8	10	4

2. Fall Season

- a. For the Fall season, to ensure fairness and balance amongst teams, FCFC teams shall be formed following a player evaluation where registered coaches will evaluate and rate all registered players based on FCFC's Player Evaluation Matrix. The evaluation will be followed by a draft.

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- i. Based on player evaluations submitted by coaches, players shall be drafted onto a Recreational team or Select team.
 - ii. All registered players shall be placed on a team, regardless of experience or skill level.
 - iii. Coaches will select players using a draft system (see No. 5 below).
 - iv. Select Head Coaches will draft players first. All players not drafted for a Select team shall be drafted by a Recreational Coach.
- b. Generally, Recreational teams will play against other Recreational teams within FCFC, or against teams in other local recreational leagues, such as AC Brea.
- c. Generally, Select teams will play against other teams outside of FCFC, such as teams from other youth soccer organizations playing in the Coast Soccer League (“CSL”).
- d. Team rosters shall be determined by a draft administered by the Director of Coaches and the Director of Registration. The following procedures shall apply to the draft:
 - i. Teams will be formed by an open draft, at the discretion of the Director of Coaches. In an open draft the players are chosen from the list of registered players.
 - ii. Within each division (according to age and gender) and to the extent practicable, players will be placed into categories based on ratings in their player evaluations. The player’s school of attendance may be taken into account.
 - iii. Head Coaches will coordinate and draft players for each of their teams based on the categories of players and ratings provided by the Director of Coaches and Director of Registration.
 - iv. Select Head Coaches will draft players first. Select Head Coaches shall draw lots to determine their position in the draft. In order of their position in the draft, Select Head Coaches will draw one player in succession until they have a full team (see Section F.1.e above) or all categories of players have been exhausted. The Select Head Coach with the highest lot number in round one will begin the draft and reversing to the lowest lot number drawing first in round 2 and subsequently alternating until the draft is complete. In addition, Select Head

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Coaches may freeze and retain players who previously played on their team. Permission of a parent or legal guardian is required to freeze a player. All proposed freezes are subject to the approval of the Director of Coaches. Players not drafted to a Select team shall be placed on an updated list to be drafted onto a Recreational team.

- v. Following the Select teams draft, the Director of Coaches and the Director of Registration shall prepare an updated registered player list with the remaining players not placed on a Select team. The Recreational Head Coaches shall draft from the updated player list.
 - vi. Recreational Head Coaches shall draw lots to determine their position in the draft. In order of their position in the draft, the Recreational Head Coaches will draw one player in succession until all categories of players have been exhausted beginning with the Recreational Head Coach with the highest lot number in round one and reversing to the lowest lot number drawing first in round 2 and subsequently alternating until the draft is complete.
 - vii. In the event there is no specified representative of the Head Coach present at the time a team is to be drafted, the Director of Coaches will designate a member of the FCFC Board of Directors to draft for the team. The final composition of the team will not be subject to challenge by the Head Coach of that team.
 - viii. All team master rosters will be signed by the person drafting at the conclusion of the draft.
 - ix. The Registrar shall maintain a complete list of teams by division, indicating players thereon, commencing immediately after team formation.
 - x. There shall be no evaluations or drafts for age groups U-7 and below.
 - xi. No player will be cut for poor performance.
- e. Registration period for the Fall season is March 15 to June 1 annually.

3. Spring Season

- a. For the Spring season, the Director of Coaches and the Director of Registrar shall assign all registered (not frozen) players to teams.

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- b. The Head Coach may freeze up to the number of players as indicated in table F.1.e above. Permission of a parent or legal guardian is required to freeze a player. All proposed freezes are subject to the approval of the Director of Coaches.
 - c. Registration period for the Spring season is November 15 to February 1 annually.
4. Coach and Player Assignment Requests (Applicable to Fall and Spring Seasons)
- a. If more than one child of a family is in the same division and the parents request that they play on the same team, the following rules apply:
 - i. If neither child is frozen on a team, they will be drafted together.
 - ii. If one child is frozen, then the other child automatically becomes one of that team's allowable freezes. The team's number of allowable freezes is not increased.
 - iii. No Head Coach is required to accept more than one set of brothers or sisters on a team.
 - b. A parent or legal guardian may request that his/her child play on the same team as another child based on a showing of good cause or special circumstances that would justify such a placement. The Director of Coaches will review the request and approve or deny the request on a case-by-case basis.
 - c. A parent or legal guardian may request that his/her child not play for a specific Head Coach by submitting a written request to the Director of Registrar. The request must be presented to the Registrar in writing by February 1 for the spring season and June 1 for the fall season. Only one such request will be honored per player per season. The Director of Coaches has the discretion to require the parent or legal guardian to inform the specific Head Coach in writing of their request for it to be met.
 - d. A Head Coach may request that a specific player not be placed on that coach's team. The request must be presented to the Registrar in writing by February 1 for the spring season and June 1 for the fall season. Only one such request will be honored per team per season.
5. Every player in FCFC (including players on Recreational, Select, and/or All-Star teams) shall play a **minimum of 50% of each game.**

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6. Players registering after team formation shall be placed on a waiting list maintained by the Registrar. Teams needing players will receive them in the following order: Players shall be taken from the waiting list in order from the top of this list and assigned to teams with the fewest players in the order of the team's draft sequence. No player may be assigned to a recreational team after the date of the fifth scheduled game of the season.
7. Players shall be placed into divisions based on gender and age.
 - a. Player's soccer age be calculated utilizing their birth year. The mandate aligns soccer in the United States with the rest of the world in how the playing age of a player is calculated. To calculate a player's soccer age, subtract the child's birth year, from the end of the seasonal year.

For Example: In the 2023-2024 seasonal year, If the child is born in 2010 and the seasonal year ends in 2024, the calculation is $2024 - 2010 = 14$. Your child's soccer age is U14.

See age matrix below for reference:

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Season	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2025-26
Birth Year								
2019						6-U	7-U	8-U
2018					6-U	7-U	8-U	9-U
2017				6-U	7-U	8-U	9-U	10-U
2016			6-U	7-U	8-U	9-U	10-U	11-U
2015		6-U	7-U	8-U	9-U	10-U	11-U	12-U
2014	6-U	7-U	8-U	9-U	10-U	11-U	12-U	13-U
2013	7-U	8-U	9-U	10-U	11-U	12-U	13-U	14-U
2012	8-U	9-U	10-U	11-U	12-U	13-U	14-U	15-U
2011	9-U	10-U	11-U	12-U	13-U	14-U	15-U	16-U
2010	10-U	11-U	12-U	13-U	14-U	15-U	16-U	17-U
2009	11-U	12-U	13-U	14-U	15-U	16-U	17-U	18-U
2008	12-U	13-U	14-U	15-U	16-U	17-U	18-U	19-U
2007	13-U	14-U	15-U	16-U	17-U	18-U	19-U	
2006	14-U	15-U	16-U	17-U	18-U	19-U		
2005	15-U	16-U	17-U	18-U	19-U			
2004	16-U	17-U	18-U	19-U				
2003	17-U	18-U	19-U					
2002	18-U	19-U						
2001	19-U							

b. U6-U8 will play 4v4; U9 and U10 will play 7v7; U11 and U12 will play 9v9; and U13 and older will play 11v11.

8. Teams shall participate only in activities sanctioned by Cal South or the FCFC Board of Directors.
9. Practice space is allocated to teams based on field allocations provided to FCFC. Generally, fall practices are twice per week and spring practices are once per week. U6 teams practice once per week for 60 minutes. U19-U9 teams practice 90 minutes per session. U8-U7 teams practice

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60 minutes per session. Missed practice time due to rainouts, coach availability, or other reasons is lost, not accrued. All scrimmage time counts as practice time.

- 10. FCFC permitted fields are for FCFC team use only. Teams shall only practice in their assigned time slot and field location. Teams shall not use FCFC goals during practices, though they may use portable goals, unless approved by the Director of Field Scheduling and Equipment.
- 11. Team names shall bear no resemblance to a religion, ethnicity, nationality, or any other such organized or discrete group and shall not be offensive to the reasonable person in the Fullerton community. All team names shall be subject to approval by the Director of Coaches, as necessary.

G. Recreational Competition

- 1. The Director of Field Scheduling shall publish a schedule of games. Game cards will be supplied to each Head Coach at the beginning of each season. All players must be listed on the game card. All other required information must be completed prior to each scheduled game. The signed game card must be submitted to the referee prior to the start of the game. The opponent’s game card must be signed by the Head Coach or other Registered Team Administrator at the conclusion of the game. The game card must be signed and turned into the league and game outcome information provided whether the scheduled game has been played or not, as requested.
- 2. There are no team or league standings for U6, U7, or U8 teams.
- 3. For the purpose of league standings, game results shall be counted as follows:

Result	Points
Win	3
Tie	1
Loss	0

- 4. The Recreational league champion for each gender/age group will be determined by a playoff of the top four teams in league standings. The top four teams will be the four teams that have the most points based on wins, ties, losses, and any penalties accrued.
- 5. In the event of a tie in points at the end of a season, the top four teams shall be determined, in order, by the following:

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- a. Least games played.
 - b. Head-to-head win/loss record of tied teams.
 - c. Most wins.
 - d. Goals against.
 - e. If more than 2 teams are tied, once the tiebreaker is applied, the teams left will start the tie-breaking process again from the beginning.
6. The winners of the FCFC Cup competition shall be presented with individual champion medals and the team shall receive the Division Cup. The team finishing second in FCFC Cup competition shall be presented with individual finalist medals.
7. Requirements for identification (ID) cards are as follows:
- a. All coaches and team officials must have Cal South or FCFC approved ID cards.
 - b. At least one Registered Team Administrator, with his or her Cal South or FCFC approved ID cards on his or her person, is required to be present at each game for each team.
 - c. Coaches and other team officials without proper ID cards present may not participate in a FCFC match.
8. Any team playing a player who is over-age or who is not registered or who is improperly entered on the team's roster shall forfeit the game(s) in which that player takes part.
9. A team must field the minimum number of players for that age group (see Law 3, as modified) within 15 minutes of the scheduled start of the game. Failure to do so may result in a forfeiture of the game, as determined by the Referee.
10. A game forfeiture will result in a score of 1 to 0 in favor of the forfeiting team's opponent.
11. Every Recreational player in FCFC (including players on All-Star teams) shall play a minimum of 50% of each game.
12. The President, Director of Coaches, or Referee has the authority to suspend or cancel a game due to weather, field condition, or other circumstances.
13. All teams must report to the playing field ready to play unless officially notified of a game postponement or cancellation.

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14. In case of postponed, suspended, or abandoned games, the Board of Directors may designate a representative with the authority to cancel or reschedule the game or games.
15. Rescheduled games are normally discouraged and require the written approval of the Director of Coaches or Director of Field Scheduling. The reschedule procedures will be provided by the Director of Coaches or Director of Field Scheduling.
16. If a game is suspended after the play has begun, the following shall apply:
 - a. If suspended before the end of the first half, the entire game shall be replayed.
 - b. If suspended at halftime or during the second half, the current score shall be final. If the game is tied and a winner is required, regulation time shall be considered complete and the game will resume on a later date with the overtime periods.
 - c. If suspended before the end of the first overtime period, the entire overtime shall be replayed.
 - d. If suspended after the completion of the overtime period or during penalty shootouts, kicks from the penalty mark will be taken in full.
 - e. If suspended due to misconduct or violation of the FCFC Regulations or Code of Conduct by the team that would benefit by suspending the game, the game may result in a forfeit in favor of the opposing team.
17. The Director of Coaches may request a physician's letter for any player in that area concerning that player's ability to play the game of soccer. In the event disability is identified, an agreement between the player's family, Head Coach, and Director of Coaches can be reached concerning the player's participation time.

H. Injuries

1. Any injury to a FCFC participant shall be reported by the Head Coach to the Director of Coaches and the Registrar within 48 hours.
2. At the conclusion of the game, the Head Coach shall notify the Referee of any serious injury. Referees shall make a notation on the game card in case of serious injury.
3. Referees shall notify the Director of Field Scheduling immediately via email regarding all details of the injury.

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4. Any player who suffered a head injury shall be removed from the game and shall be required to provide a physician's note before returning to any further team activities involving soccer play, including practices and games.

I. Game Protests

1. A Head Coach may protest the result of a game played by teams in the U19 through U9 divisions due to the following:
 - a. The misapplication of International Football Association Board ("IFAB") Laws, or
 - b. The misapplication of FCFC Playing Rules, or
 - c. The misapplication of FCFC Regulations.
2. The following shall not be subject to a protest:
 - a. Games played by teams in the U8 through U6 divisions.
 - b. If decided in favor of the protesting party the result of the subject game would not be affected.
 - c. Referee discretionary decisions or judgment calls.
 - d. FCFC Cup games.
3. Procedure for Protest
 - a. Immediately following the game and prior to leaving the field, the Head Coach must inform the center referee of the intent to file a protest. Failure to notify the center referee forfeits the right to protest.
 - b. The Referee will note on the game card the intent of the Head Coach to protest. The Referee will notify the Director of Field Scheduling within 48 hours of the intent to protest. The referee responsible for the game will be required to submit a written report after the official protest has been submitted.
 - c. Only the Head Coach may file the protest. The Head Coach must deliver the protest, in legible written form (email is preferred), to the Director of Field Scheduling within 48 hours of the conclusion of the game. A non-refundable \$50.00 protest fee must accompany all protests.
 - d. The Director of Coaches, Director of Field Scheduling, and Director of Registration (the

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“Protest Committee”) will render a decision after consulting with both Head Coaches and the referees from the game. All reasonable efforts will be made to resolve the protest prior to the teams’ next scheduled game. The decision of the Protest Committee will be final.

J. Misconduct/Suspensions/Forfeits

1. Authority

- a. Each FCFC coach, team administrator, referee, player, parent, spectator, and any other person present (hereinafter referred as “participant”) at any FCFC sponsored or authorized event shall at all times maintain conduct which is consistent with the FCFC Regulations and Code of Conduct.
- b. FCFC reserves all legal rights and remedies in the enforcement of FCFC Regulations and Code of Conduct.
- c. FCFC’s authority extends to any FCFC sponsored or authorized event, including but not limited to games, practices, team events, and matches or team events that involve FCFC teams in other playing circuits.

2. Accountability

- a. Each participant is responsible for his or her own conduct.
- b. Coaches and other Registered Team Administrators are responsible and accountable for the conduct of any participant deemed to be supporters of, or associated with, their team.

3. Misconduct

- a. At all times each participant must strictly adhere to applicable governmental laws (i.e. federal, state, and local) and the FCFC Regulations and Code of Conduct. Failure to comply with legal requirements, or the FCFC Regulations and Code of Conduct may be deemed misconduct.
- b. The use or consumption of any alcohol, tobacco products, e- cigarettes, or illegal substances is strictly prohibited on any playing field or location at all FCFC sponsored or authorized events, including but not limited to FCFC games, practices, any team events, and games that involve FCFC teams in other playing circuits. The Board of Directors may authorize events where alcohol is consumed in compliance with applicable law.
- c. During any game sanctioned by FCFC, a referee may stop the stop the game and eject

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- any participant if, in the opinion of the referee, the offender is guilty of violent conduct, serious foul play, the use of foul or abusive language, the use of words to incite violence, interference with the game, or any other misconduct detrimental to the game.
- d. Misconduct may occur before, during, and after a game, including travel to and from the game. Misconduct may also occur at other times related to FCFC events or team activities.
 - e. Any allegation substantiated by a FCFC official of participant misconduct that includes violent activity or activity that poses an unreasonable risk to the safety or welfare of participants shall result in the participant's immediate suspension from participation in FCFC activities, including games, pending disposition on the allegation. Where practicable, the participant shall be notified of the suspension by letter or email.
4. Forfeit. The following shall result in a team forfeiting a game:
- a. Misconduct that causes the termination of the game.
 - b. Fielding an ineligible or suspended player.
 - c. Violation of the minimum playing time rights of any player.
 - d. Absence of a Registered Team Administrator, including the circumstance where the only present Registered Team Administrator is ejected from a game.
5. Discipline
- a. Bookings
 - i. Any participant ejected by the referee shall be suspended for the next scheduled game. All ejections are subject to review and may result in additional disciplinary action, including up to a lifetime ban.
 - 1. Suspended players may be on the sidelines at the games from which they are suspended, but not in uniform.
 - 2. Suspended coaches and team administrators must not be present at the games from which they are suspended.
 - ii. Any participant who receives a fourth caution (i.e. yellow card) in one season shall be suspended for the next scheduled game.
 - iii. Any participant who is ejected twice in one season (e.g. receives a second red card in one season) is automatically suspended pending disposition on the

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allegation. Where practicable, the participant shall be notified of the suspension by letter or email.

- iv. All suspensions shall be carried over into post-season play.
- v. The ejection of any participant shall result in a one point deduction in the standings for the team.
- vi. Bookings shall result in marks against a team.
 - 1. A team shall receive one mark for each caution and two marks for each ejection of a participant.
 - 2. Teams with excessive marks may be barred from post-season play at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- vii. Participants shall be subject to discipline by FCFC for misconduct. Discipline for misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. A letter or email of reprimand
 - 2. Probation, up to five years.
 - 3. Suspension, up to five years.
 - 4. Revocation of membership
 - 5. Lifetime ban

6. Determination

- a. Discipline shall be determined after an investigation conducted by a committee of three non-interested FCFC board members, officers, operational directors, or operational committee members (“Disciplinary Committee”) appointed at the approval of the Board of Directors.
- b. The Disciplinary Committee shall attempt to gather written testimony (email is permissible) from the principal parties and witnesses on all sides of the alleged misconduct. Upon receipt of written testimony, the Disciplinary Committee will come to a consensus decision on disposition of the misconduct allegation, including any resulting discipline.
- c. The Disciplinary Committee shall notify the participant accused of misconduct the decision on the misconduct allegation, including any resulting discipline. If the decision

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is to suspend the accused party for more than one (1) year, revoke the membership of or enter a lifetime ban for a participant, the matter may be subject to appeal, if the accused party submits a notice of appeal within three (3) days of receiving notice of the suspension, revocation or ban. The Disciplinary Committee shall provide a copy of the notice to the President and the Director of Field Scheduling.

7. Appeal

- a. Disciplinary decisions resulting in a participant's probation or suspension may be appealed to the Board of Directors by the participant within three (3) days of being notified of the decision. A participant must notify the President in writing or by email of his or her appeal and pay a non-refundable administrative fee to FCFC of \$100.00. The participant may apply for a waiver of the fee based on financial hardship.
- b. Upon notice of appeal, the President shall notify the Board of Directors of the appeal. The Board of Directors will review the evidence and make a determination on the appeal.
- c. In the interest of completing the appeal in a timely fashion the President will proceed under the following process and may set short but reasonable deadlines for each step:
 - i. The Disciplinary Committee shall ask the appealing participant for a concise written statement (email is permissible) on the basis for his or her appeal.
 - ii. The Board of Directors shall request the record on which the Disciplinary Committee made its determination and a concise written statement (email is permissible) from the Disciplinary Committee on the claims of the participant's appeal.
 - iii. The Board of Directors shall provide the record and Disciplinary Committee's statement to the appealing participant. The participant may submit a second concise written statement (email is permissible) in reply to the Disciplinary Committee's statement.
 - iv. At the Board of Directors' discretion, interested parties in the disposition of the accusation may be invited to provide a written statement in response to claims made by the appellant or the investigating director.
 - v. The Board of Directors may request additional written statements as needed to make a determination on the appeal.
 - vi. The Board of Directors shall meet (in person or by conference call) to discuss the issues and come to a majority decision on the appeal. The Board of Directors

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may, at its discretion, invite individual interested parties to this meeting to answer questions; attendance is on an invitation only basis.

- vii. The Board of Directors may sustain, amend, modify, or vacate the Disciplinary Committee's decision. Any decision that amends, modifies, or vacates the Disciplinary Committee's decision shall result in any paid administrative appeal fee. The Board of Directors must notify the appealing participant, Disciplinary Committee, and President of its decision on the appeal in writing (email is permissible) within 48 hours of its decision. The notice shall include a statement that the Board of Directors' decision cannot be appealed within FCFC, but may be appealed to Cal South.

K. U7 and U6 Supplemental Rules

1. U7 and U6 is designed as an introduction to soccer for 4, 5, and 6 year old boys and girls. Guidance and support are provided to ensure that all players receive a positive and fun experience while learning basic soccer skills and team play.
2. The following regulations are listed only as they differ from the preceding standard FCFC Regulations.
3. Teams may be co-ed and shall be formed registration by the Director of Coaches and Area Clinic Coordinator under the following considerations and any additional criteria determined by the area committee or Board of Directors:
 - a. Geographic area, gender, or experience of players.
 - b. Number of players on a team, i.e. maximum of 10 players for 4x4 divisions
4. Competition shall be minimal with an emphasis on all players learning and enjoying the game.
5. Once a game has been officially started, it shall be considered a game.
6. Make-up games shall be at the discretion of the Director of Coaches.
7. Each U7 and U6 team will have at least one designated team referee per game who will officiate the team's own games during the season. Each team will provide a referee for all games. The team's referee will co-officiate the game cooperatively with the opposing team's referee.

L. Referees

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1. Referees are subject to review by the Board of Directors. All Adult Referees must successfully complete Cal South Level 'A' Risk Management (LiveScan).
2. The Categories of Referees are:
 - a. Youth Referee - a referee younger than 18 years of age.
 - b. Adult Referee – a referee who is at least 18 years of age.
 - c. USSF Certified Referee - a person who is certified by the USSF for the current year.
3. Referees shall be assigned by the Director of Field Scheduling. Referee assignments are not subject to appeal.
4. Referees shall be assigned based on the following:
 - a. Adherence to the FCFC Regulations and Code of Conduct.
 - b. For league play, Referees will be assigned to games outside of their affiliated age groups (e.g. as a parent, coach, or player), wherever possible.
 - c. For FCFC Cup games, Referees shall be assigned outside of their affiliated division by the Director of Referees.
 - d.
 - e. In no case shall a center Referee officiate a game in which he or she has an interest unless that interest is made clear to both coaches and both coaches agree to such officiating.
 - f. A Youth Referee shall be at least two years older than the division in which he or she is the center referee, except upon the approval of the Director of Field Scheduling.
5. It shall be the duty of each Referee to:
 - a. Conduct him or herself in a manner befitting a member of FCFC.
 - b. Maintain the welfare and safety of players as the highest priority.
 - c. At all times encourage clean competition and good sportsmanship.
 - d. Enforce the FCFC Regulations and Code of Conduct and rules of governing bodies.
6. The game card is the official record of the game. Referees shall place the completed and

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signed game cards in a designated area at the field or hand them to the coach following the game. The Referees shall print their names on the game card.

7. Each Referee is responsible for providing their own uniform, equipment, and supplies.
8. Referees are subject to discipline under the FCFC Regulations and Code of Conduct for misconduct.
9. Referees must be in full uniform for all assigned games.

M. Game Cards

1. A properly filled out game card shall be brought to each game by the coach or other team administrator. It will include the date, time, and location of the game, as well as the team's own information and that of the opponent, if known. The last name of every player on the team's roster shall be listed, and the card shall be signed by the coach prior to the match.
2. At the conclusion of the match, the referee shall indicate the final score on the front of the card and may indicate playing time. Each Head Coach shall sign the opponent's game card.
3. The referee shall also indicate any bookings and may write notes on the back of the game card.
4. The referees shall leave the game cards at the game site in the league-designated location, as applicable.

Sample game cards are available in **Appendix A**.

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PLAYING RULES OF THE GAME

FCFC matches shall be governed by the International Football Association Board (“IFAB”) Laws of the Game (“IFAB Rules”). FCFC Playing Rules incorporate by reference the IFAB Rules here. The IFAB Rules are available at <https://calsouth.com/laws-of-the-game/>.

The FCFC Playing Rules consist of the 17 IFAB Laws and rule summaries for the small sided divisions. Any modifications to the IFAB Rules will be printed here.