



ADULT SOCCER LEAGUE RULES

Parks and Recreation • 323 Church St.
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I. Team & Player Eligibility

- A. No player under 18 years of age will be allowed to participate, and no high school students are eligible to play.
- B. Players may be active on a college team and still participate in the recreation league (top only). Teams are also limited to registering a maximum of two players per roster who have participated on intercollegiate soccer teams during the current year.
- C. **Players may participate on one team only.** Teams may only enter one league of play.
- D. Each team is limited to a 20-player maximum on their roster. **Only players who have signed the waiver form are eligible to play.** Falsifying signatures results in suspension. Note: players who are caught playing without filling out the proper paperwork are subject to suspension as well as the manager of the team played with.
- E. Rostered players must appear in at least 3 games during the regular season to be eligible for playoffs.
- F. New players may not be added after the third regular season game. **Note:** If, in the opinion of league officials, a player(s) is too exceptional in ability to participate in a lower league, said player may be dropped from the league.
- G. Once a player signs the waiver form with a team, they must be released by the manager prior to playing on another team. After the player is released, and sits out one game, they can sign with another team.
Exception: If a player has officially played one league game and then is released, they may not play on another team in the same league in which they were released.
- H. Managers who lose players during the season through injury or other reasons may petition the League Director to obtain permission to have those players permanently released from the roster and replaced.
- I. Protests regarding ineligible player(s) must be submitted to the Parks & Recreation Office by 5:00pm the following working day. Teams using ineligible players may be subject to forfeiture of all league games played.

II. League & Playoff Procedures

- A. The number, variety, and type of leagues shall be determined by the Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department, but teams may request league preference when they are registered. Usually, leagues will consist of 6 teams each.
- B. Players must appear in three regular season games in order to be eligible for the playoffs.
- C. Playoffs will be as follows:
 - 1st place vs. 4th place • 2nd place vs. 3rd place • winners play for playoff championship on the same day as the semis.Playoffs for a four team league may have any of the following formats:
 - 1st place & 2nd place make the playoffs • 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place make the playoffs • All four teams make the playoffs.Playoff Champions receive individual awards.
- D. Ties will be broken using the following system: **(A forfeit means lower seeding for tiebreaker situations)**
 1. Head to head record among tied teams
 2. Goal differential in games among tied teams
 3. Fewest goals allowed
 4. Goal differential in all games

III. Forfeits

- A. **Forfeit time is 10 minutes after game time.** If a team is not ready to start 10 minutes after the scheduled game time, with at least 7 players, the game will be a forfeit and a win will be awarded to the opposing team.
- B. A forfeit is recorded as a loss. In the event of a double forfeit, both teams receive a loss. **A forfeit means lower seeding in tiebreaker situations.**
- C. A team shall be subject to a **\$50.00** fine for the **second** time they forfeit a game. The fine is to be paid prior to their next scheduled game.
- D. If a team forfeits two games they lose eligibility of advancing to the playoffs.
- E. If a team forfeits three games they will be dropped from the league.
- F. There shall be no postponement of a game. A team that foresees a conflict with a particular game and notifies the Recreation Department 24 hours or more prior to the game time will be credited with a loss, but will not be charged a forfeit fee. Teams may only use this rule once.
- G. No refunds are made after a team has participated in one game. (See refund policy)
- H. Teams which drop or are dropped from the league lose any playoff rights, the right to reclaim any part of their entry fee, and lose priority registration status. Team manager loses the right to manage a soccer team for one (1) year.

IV. Protests

- A. Only protests regarding player ineligibility will be accepted. No protests on rules, interpretations of rules, or judgment calls will be accepted.
- B. A written protest must be submitted to the Recreation Office no later than 5:00 P.M. the next working day following the protested game. Protests must be clearly written and accompanied by a \$20.00 filing fee. If the protest is upheld, the fee shall be returned.

V. Player Conduct

- A. The manager shall be the official representative of the team unless they designate one of the players as team captain prior to the game.
- B. Two yellow cards in one game equals a red card.
- C. Slide tackling an opposing player is not allowed in the SCPRD soccer leagues. Slide tackling will result in an automatic red card.

- D. **If a player receives a red card they will be automatically ejected from the game and serve a minimum one game suspension. Suspended players are not allowed in the soccer facility until their suspensions have been served.**
- E. **Any player who receives 3 yellow cards in a season will be suspended for at least one game.**
- F. **Any player who receives a suspension during the regular season will automatically be placed on probation for the remainder of the season. A player who is ejected or suspended while on probation will be suspended for the remainder of the season. A player who accrues two yellow cards while on probation will be suspended for the remainder of the season.**
- G. Any player who is ejected from a playoff game will not be eligible for further playoff games.
- H. The manager will be held responsible for all rules as stated in this Adult League Soccer Rules Sheet.
- I. Managers are responsible to see that their players are familiar with the SANCRA "Player Code of Conduct."
- J. All players/teams must conform to the "Player Code of Conduct." A player/team suspended by one public recreation agency will automatically be suspended from other local recreation agencies.
- K. In the official's judgement any player who appears to be under the influence of alcohol will be ejected from the game and subject to further discipline.
- L. Managers can also be held responsible for the actions of their spectators.
- M. Managers must report all injuries to the Site Supervisor. Ice is the only first aid provided at recreation facilities.

VI. Pre-Game Rules

- A. Teams will be allowed pre-game warm-ups only if time permits.
- B. Score cards (supplied by the site supervisor) must be filled out and turned into the official 10 minutes before game time.
- C. Managers must list the players in attendance on the score card to be handed into the game official. If players are not listed accurately, they will not receive credit for participating in the game.

VII. Playing Time

- A. A game shall consist of two 35-minute halves, with a 5-minute period between halves. The referee will keep the official game clock. Teams will be given a countdown warning as time begins to expire.
- B. Regular season games that end with the score tied will be counted as ties in the standings.
- C. Playoff games that end in a tie will have 10 minutes of sudden death. If still tied at the end of sudden death; each team will take 5 penalty kicks and if still tied then 1 penalty kick each until there is a winner.

VIII. Rule Exceptions

- A. Unless otherwise stated, Official High School Rules govern league play.
- B. Teams may start and continue with seven registered players—but may not start with less than seven. If seven players are present at game time, the game will begin on time.
- C. Each team is allowed two one-minute time-outs per half. Time-outs cannot be accumulated.

IX. Offside Rule

- A. A player is in the offside position when nearer to the opponent's goal line than the ball, unless: the player is in their own half of the field; or the player is not nearer to the opponent's goal line than at least two opponents.
- B. A player shall not be penalized for being in an offside position if the ball is received directly from a goal kick, a corner kick, or a throw-in.
- C. It is not an offense in itself to be in an offside position
- D. A player is offside and penalized if, at the time the ball touches or is played by a teammate, the player is involved in active play and interferes with play or with an opponent or seeks to gain an advantage by being in that position. **PENALTY: Indirect free kick at the spot of infraction.**

Note: A player is not considered offside if the opponent deliberately passes the ball and it is intercepted by them. If a defender attempts to play a ball from the opponent and a player is in an offside position, the player will still be offside. This is different from both HS and FIFA rules. If the player is in an offside position and actively involved in the play, they will still be considered to be offside.

X. Miscellaneous Information

- A. **All team members must have uniformly colored and numbered jerseys or shirts for all individuals except the goalkeeper. The goalkeeper must wear a different colored outfit than all other players on the field, including the officials. Jerseys must be individually and permanently numbered.**
- B. Normally, two officials will officiate each game. If one official is present, the game shall be played. If no officials are present, games will be postponed and made up at a later date.
- C. Players may NOT use their arms as a means to protect their chest while playing a ball off the body.
- D. Players are not allowed to wear metal/plastic hairclips, piercings, or any other jewelry that can cause injury. Jewelry that cannot be removed may be taped. Metal cleats are not permitted.
- E. Soccer cleats (with plastic spikes) and shin guards are required as a safety measure.

XI. Weather Updates (Harvey West Park only)

- A. To inquire if your game is rained out, call the Parks and Recreation Office **after 3pm** the day of your game at 420-5265, #4. When declared a rainout by Parks and Recreation prior to game time, an attempt will be made to contact team managers informing them of the rainout. The game officials may also call a rainout due to unsafe field conditions at the field.

XII. Insurance

- A. Participants in recreation activities sponsored by the Recreation Department are not covered in any manner for personal liability or property damage. **PLAYERS ARE COMPETING IN THIS PROGRAM AT THEIR OWN RISK.**

XIII. Governing Body

- A. The Recreation Supervisor shall serve as League Director and has final authority to make decisions and exceptions pertaining to all Adult Soccer League rules, regulations, roster procedures, and player eligibility.