

South Carolina State Challenge League (SCSCL)

2004-2005 League Rules and Guidelines

1. AUTHORITY:

The South Carolina State Challenge League (SCSCL), is a competitive league for both boys and girls classic teams, U11 thru U19. The SCSCL is sanctioned and administered by the South Carolina Youth Soccer Association (SCYSA). All teams participating must be sanctioned and in good standing with SCYSA.

The SCSCL shall be governed by SCYSA Board of Directors who is solely responsible for the rules and policy of the SCSCL. These rules and policies will be administered by the SCSCL committee. The SCSCL Committee shall be comprised of the SCYSA Cups and Games Director who shall serve as the chairman, a SCSCL Administrator, one member from each District appointed by the District Commissioner; and one member from each District appointed by the SCSCL Administrator. The SCSCL Administrator is appointed for a two year term by the SCYSA Cups and Games Director with the approval of the SCYSA Board of Directors.

In the administration of SCSCL rules, regulations, policies and guidelines, the successive order of governing bodies shall be SCSCL, SCYSA, USYSA, USSF, and FIFA.

2. Eligibility:

To be eligible for SCSCL, a classic team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered youth players and the teams must comply with all SCYSA rules. Teams and Clubs shall be in good standing with SCYSA.

3. Competition Division and Age Groups:

SCSCL is comprised of U15 thru U19 challenge boys and girls teams in the Fall Season.

SCSCL is comprised of U11 thru U14 challenge boys and girls teams in the Spring Season.

4. Dissemination of SCSCL Information to Teams:

Your Club President or his/her SCSCL club designee will have the responsibility of disseminating all SCSCL pre-season information to all Challenge teams. During the season the participating teams will receive all communication by e-mail.

5. SCYSA Web Site:

Periodically check the SCYSA web site www.scysa.org under SCSCL for updated information.

6. SCSCL Web Site:

All field directions will be posted on the SCSCL Web site at hotstat.com

There will not be a field direction booklet mailed to teams.

7. Registration: (Fall season- mid July Spring season - late December)

Complete an Application to Play - SCSCCL requires the Club President or his/her SCSCCL designee and the Head Coach to sign the Application to Play

Clubs must batch all applications together for mailing in single envelopes with the following:

- Club's Code of Conduct Form
- Application to Play Registration Form with separate checks
- Registration Fee payable to SCYSA \$450 each season
- Team Performance Bond Fee payable to SCYSA \$450 each season
- Club Performance Bond Fee payable to SCYSA See chart below

The Club Presidents' or his/her SCSCCL club designee will be responsible for registering ALL of their teams (new or existing teams) desiring to play in the SCSCCL and mailing the proper documentation for receipt on or before the designated deadline. Applications will not be accepted after the established deadline.

8. Registration Deadline:

All registrations forms and checks should be mailed by the club designee to the league administrator to be received on or before July 15, for the fall season and December 15, for the spring season.

Late Registration will only be allowed with the approval of the SCSCCL committee and a \$300 late fee will be assessed.

If a team withdraws after the registration deadline date, the team will forfeit their registration fee, team performance bond and a \$300 withdrawal fee which will be paid within 10 days or the club performance bond will be cashed. The club must post a new club performance bond within ten days of notification. A club failing to pay this fine is subject to having ALL of their teams placed in bad standing. Being placed in bad standing would prohibit participation in the SCSCCL, SCYSA Challenge Cup, refusals of Permission to Travel and any other SCYSA activities.

9. Fees Payable per Season:

Registration Fees: \$450 per team (includes field rental, referee assignor fee, SCYSA Challenge Cup entry fee and league expenses)

Club Performance Bond: Varies depending on number of teams registered

Team Performance Bond: \$450 per team

Referee Fees: Varies - see the below chart

10. Club Performance Bond:

Each club sponsoring SCSCCL teams is required to submit a Club Performance Bond.

The fee for this is: 1 – 5 teams = \$200

6 – 10 teams = \$500

11 + teams = \$750

If a fine is assessed to a club bond, the club will be required to submit the correct monies to meet the fee requirement by the designated date or the bond check will be cashed. Club performance bond checks will be destroyed at the end of each season, if not forfeited.

11. Team Performance Bond

If a fine is assessed to a team bond, the team will be required to submit the correct monies to meet the fee requirements by the designated date or the bond check will be cashed. If the bond is forfeited, another bond will need to be posted prior to the next game. Team performance bond checks will be destroyed at the end of each season, if not forfeited.

12. Referee Fees: (Same in all SCYSA Districts)

<u>Age Division</u>	<u>Referee</u>	<u>R.A.</u>	<u>Total Paid</u>	<u>Per Team</u>
U19/18/17	\$40	\$30	\$100	\$50
U16/15	\$34	\$26	\$86	\$43
U14/13	\$28	\$20	\$68	\$34
U12/11	\$26	\$18	\$62	\$31

13. Player/Coaches Passes:

Each player, coach and assistant coach in SCSCCL must have an official US Youth Soccer pass (ID card). The pass shall have the player's signature (cursive only, not printed), the signature of the State Registrar or his/her designee, and a current photograph of the player permanently attached. Players may not be photographed in hats or headbands. Laminated player passes are required. The same requirements apply to the Coach and Assistant Coach. NO pass---NO play.

14. Team Rosters:

All teams playing in the SCSCCL must have an official roster signed and sealed by the SCYSA State Registrar (or designee). The roster shall list the team coach, team assistant, and all team players.

If you would like to REGISTER / ADD OR TRANSFER a player/coach to your team, please contact your Club Registrar. Allow 10 days for processing. When the State Registrar has approved the registered, added or transferred player/coach, a new roster and pass is issued.

15. Guest Players:

Not allowed

16. Red Card Tracking Form:

All teams participating shall use their Red Card Tracking during league play through the First Round of State Cup and present the completed form signed by the head coach to the SCYSA Director of Cups and Games (or his designee) prior to the start of the Final Round of State Challenge Cup. At the end of league play, if your team is not participating in the First Round of State Cup, then your Red Card Tracking Form should be turned in to your District Commissioner within two weeks.

17. Medical Release Forms- (recommended):

In case of injury, this form is usually required by a hospital to expedite treatment of the injured player. Please be aware of any medication the player may be allergic to. SCSCCL would prefer the teams travel with a small medical kit.

18. Player Equipment and Uniforms:

All teams shall wear matching uniforms consisting of jersey, shorts and socks. Every field player shall have a unique and identifiable number attached to his/her jersey. Additional garments may be worn to protect against the elements, but all players must present a uniform appearance and all extra clothing is subject to the approval of the referee. Socks must be pulled up over each player's shin guards and all shirts must remain tucked in for the duration of all matches. No jewelry of any type may be worn during a match under any circumstances.

All players including the goal keeper, must wear shin guards during the duration of all matches. Additional equipment or clothing worn to reduce the chance of injury or to protect existing injuries shall be used only with the approval of the referee. The referee is the sole judge of whether player equipment, casts, or protective or other assistant devices shall be allowed as prescribed in the FIFA Laws of the Game. In general, hard casts will be allowed only if they are (a) wrapped in their entirety with a half inch of foam or other cushioning material and (b) are, in the opinion of the referee, safe. At the first indication that a player with a cast or other protective device is using it in an unsafe manner, or to gain an advantage, the player shall be removed from the match. The player may not return for the duration of the match or until the cast or device has been removed.

Should the referee in any match determine that the equipment worn by a player does not meet the FIFA criteria as documented for non-dangerous player equipment, and prevents the player from match participation, that referee shall be required to submit a written report to the league administrator detailing the reason (s) for the decision.

19. Fields:

Each club is required to provide a minimum of two fields, appropriately sized

based on the below chart:

<u>Age Division</u>	<u>Min. Field Size</u>	<u>Max. Field Size</u>
U17/18/19	65 x 110	70 x 120
U15	65 x 110	70 x 120
U13/14	65 x 110	70 x 115
U11/12	55 x 110	60 x 110

4:1 ratio ---Usage of one field per 4 teams registered

Example: If a club submits U16/15/14/13 and U11 teams, then two fields must be reserved for SCSCCL matches. U11 will use one field and the other field for U13 and up. SCSCCL would prefer the fields be at the same location.

The fields may be used for neutral site matches.

20. Referee Assignors:

We will have referee assignors for the league in each district.

21. Decorum:

A copy of your Club's Code of Conduct guidelines must be submitted with your applications.

Coaches are responsible for the behavior of all players, coaches, parents, and spectators associated with their team. Coaches and their players shall be located on the opposite side of the field from the parents and fans.

The only persons allowed on the team bench during a SCYSA league match are those players and non-players listed on the approved official SCYSA State Roster, with a maximum of four (4) non-players. All players and non-players shall have approved SCYSA player/non-player passes and must be checked in at the field by a referee before being allowed on the bench.

The only exception to this rule shall be: 1) Any medical emergency requiring additional assistance, 2) During half-time visitors may approach the team bench with approval of the coach.

22. Schedule:

SCSCCL will make every effort to schedule between 8-12 games for each team, per season. The schedule listed on the SCSCCL web page is the OFFICIAL schedule.

Rescheduling of matches is the sole discretion of the league administrator. Teams may not reschedule or cancel scheduled matches. Both teams will be fined and forfeit their match. Disciplinary action may also be taken by the SCSCCL Committee.

SCYSA Challenge Cup will allow a maximum of eight (8) teams to participate in each division. The teams from the Region III Premier League, if any, shall be seeded one and two. The remaining teams shall come from the South Carolina State Challenge League (SCSCCL) based on their league standings.

SCYSA requires teams to play a minimum of four (4) scheduled league games to qualify for the SCYSA Challenge Cup.

23. Unscheduled Weekends (BYE):

Each team will be allowed three (3) unscheduled (BYE) weekends. These dates must be indicated on the Application to Play Registration Form and may NOT be changed.

24. Qualifying Matches:

Qualifying matches are those scheduled league matches against teams in your own age division. SCSCCL will schedule you to play all teams within your division at least once.

Only qualifying matches will be used to determine league standings.

25. Non-Qualifying Matches:

SCSCCL may schedule non-qualifying matches with teams outside your age division to complete your schedule. Teams playing up will follow the older teams designated referee pay scale and duration of the match.

Non-qualifying matches WILL NOT be used to determine league standings.

26. Grace Periods:

Teams not ready to play within 10 minutes after the scheduled starting time of any match shall forfeit the match.

27. Forfeit:

Once the schedule has been issued, teams that do not play their scheduled games, REGARDLESS OF WHEN THE TEAM INFORMS THE SCSCCL ADMINISTRATOR OF ITS INTENT TO NOT PLAY, will forfeit their \$450 team performance bond fee PLUS the entire referee fees for that match. Another \$450 team performance bond fee must be posted prior to the team's next scheduled match.

If a team refuses to play their scheduled matches with no call to the SCSCCL Administrator, the team will incur penalties, fines and could be suspended from league play.

The SCSCCL Committee has the option to waive or alter the fee on a case by case basis. If a team contacts SCSCCL Administrator by phone and in writing, then it increases that team's chances of paying less monetary penalties. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT CANCELING GAMES EARLY WILL WAIVE OR ALTER YOUR PENALTY. Fines and penalties can be appealed to the SCSCCL Committee.

Forfeits will be counted as a 3-0 shutout win and the team will be awarded 3 points. The forfeiting team will not receive credit for games counting toward the required minimum of four (4) games or the required minimum seven (7) games for seeding.

Any team having forfeited two (2) or more games during their current cup season shall be reviewed by the SCYSA Board of Directors and may be deemed ineligible for cup play.

28. Team Cancellation of Scheduled Matches:

All matches must be played as scheduled. Teams choosing to cancel/not appear for a scheduled match will forfeit their team performance bond, forfeit the match and pay all appropriate SCSCCL fees.

29. Weather Related Cancellations:

Canceling games for severe weather is appropriate (lightning, player safety, etc.) but club's cancellation of games due to minimal rain is not acceptable. Club President or his/her SCSCCL club designee must contact the SCSCCL Administrator immediately if the fields are closed due to weather. Contact the appropriate teams that are scheduled to play on your fields. In case of weather related cancellations non-qualified

matches may be replaced with qualified matches. Rescheduling of matches is the sole discretion of the league administrator

30. Field Related Cancellations within 24 hours of Game Day:

May occur in emergency situations only. SCSCCL discourages the submission of fields for usage that could result in consistent cancellations of games. If field related cancellations should occur, the host club must contact the SCSCCL League Administrator and the local Referee Assignor IMMEDIATELY. A host club that fails to adequately move games could result in, payment of referee fees, removal of future home games etc. at the discretion of the SCSCCL committee.

Rescheduling of matches is the sole discretion of the league administrator.

31. Home Teams:

The team listed first in each pairing on the schedule is the home team. The home team shall change jerseys and/or socks if, in the opinion of the referee, there is a color conflict.

32. Game Ball: (Required):

It is the responsibility of both teams to provide a playable game ball to the referee at the beginning of each match.

U11-12 uses a size # 4 game ball

U13-19 uses a size # 5 game ball

33. Length of Match: (No overtime)

<u>Age Division</u>	<u>Min. per half</u>	<u>Half-time</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>
U17/18/19	45 minutes	5 minutes	5
U15/16	40 minutes	5 minutes	5
U13/14	35 minutes	5 minutes	5
U11/12	30 minutes	5 minutes	4

34. Water Breaks:

It is the Referee's discretion whether a water break will be permitted.

35. Rules of Competition:

All matches will be conducted in accordance with FIFA's "Laws of the Game" consistent with the following additional requirements of US Youth Soccer National Championship Rules and SCYSA Policy and Procedures Manual.

36. Player Substitutions:

Unlimited substitutions are allowed. Substitutions may be made on the following stoppages of play;

- Prior to a throw-in your favor
- Prior to a goal kick by either team
- After a goal by either team
- After any injury by either team when the referee stops play (unlimited substitutions)
- At the beginning of the second half
- When the referee stops play to caution a player, only the cautioned player may be substituted prior to the re-start of the game

37. Reporting Your Scores:

Game reports must be entered online. The person completing the Game Report online will only need to enter the score, all other information is for your team use. If a Red Card is issued, the Coach must call SCSCCL League Administrator (864-967-9046) and send an e-mail to the SCSCCL League Administrator (SCSCCLLeague@aol.com) within 24 hours of the game. Failure to comply could result in forfeiture of the teams bond.

Please note: there is a Tuesday morning 9:00 am deadline to complete Game Reports.

At the end of the Season there is a Sunday morning 9:00 am deadline to enter Game Reports, so the SCYSA Challenge Cup scheduling can be completed.

Reporting Instructions:

- Go to your SCSCCL Team Page
- Log-in to the Coaches Corner using your password
- Select the Game Reports tab at the top of the page
- Find the game you played and enter the game scores
- After you enter the scores select the Create button
- Enter any other information you care to enter
- When you are finished entering information go to the bottom of the page
- Select Submit Report
- You are finished

*If the reported scores from both teams agree the records will be update automatically.

38. League Standings:

Only qualifying matches are used to determine a team's league standings. Three (3) points are awarded for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) for a loss. A forfeit will be treated as a loss. A team ready to play whose competitor forfeits shall be awarded a win (3 points). No points will be allowed for any team forfeiting (0 points). In any case, where both teams forfeit, 0 points will be awarded. Wins, losses and forfeits will be determined by the League. The team with the highest points percentage will be ranked number 1 and the second highest points percentage will be ranked number 2 in league standings, and so on.

At season's end, teams will be ranked within the league by their point percentage.

Example: A team plays 10 games with a record of 5-3-2. Five wins for 15 points, three losses for 0 points, and two ties for 2 points = 17 total points, or a .567 points percentage.

17 total points will be divided by the total maximum points 30.

(10 games x 3 points = 30 pts.) Winning percentage = .567

If two or more teams are tied on percentages at the end of the season, the following tie breaking procedures will be used:

- a. Head to head competition (if three teams are tied go direct to b.)
- b. Goal differential with a maximum differential of three (3) goals per game
- c. Total goals scored
- d. Fewest total goals allowed in all games
- e. Fewest red cards
- f. Coin toss

39. SCSCCL Discipline and Appeals:

All matters involving discipline and appeals within the SCSCCL shall be in accordance with SCYSA Discipline and Appeals Policy/Procedures.

All protest or appeals shall be filed in writing to the SCSCCL Administrator within seventy-two (72) hours of the game or circumstance that is being challenged. The SCSCCL Committee shall make a ruling on the matter within seven days of receipt of written document.

All Protest and Appeals filed must be accompanied by a certified check in the amount of \$250.00 made out to the SCSCCL. If the Protest or Appeal is upheld, the fee shall be returned.

Judgment decisions of the Referee are not subject to appeal or protest.

The following team and individual penalties are in place for ALL SCSCCL teams:

If a player receives a red card during a match, this player must sit out the remainder of the match and the next scheduled SCSCCL or State Cup match. If the red card is given for fighting the suspension shall be for two games.

If a coach is ejected the same guidelines as above apply, in addition the team will also incur a \$200 penalty. A \$200 check must be mailed before the team can play their next scheduled league match. If the \$200 check is not received before the next scheduled match the entire (\$450) Team Performance Bond check will be cashed.

If a spectator is asked to leave by the referee through the coach and the spectator refuses, then the coach will be ejected. The coach is responsible for his spectators and can be cautioned or ejected for the conduct of his spectators.

SCSCL may add additional penalties to those involved for violent conduct or other infractions should the SCSCL Committee deem necessary.