

2026 U18 Inter-League Rules & Regulations

Inter-league rules are in addition to FIFA, CalSouth and District 5 rules

League Responsibilities

- A. Provide a home pitch.
- B. Ensure that non-divisional involved board members are present at all home matches. They will assist the referees and coaches with any sideline, spectator, and/or player verbal or physical abuse.
- C. Must review players receiving three (3) yellow cards for continued unsportsmanlike conduct resulting in a one match suspension
- D. Must report disciplinary hearing results held due to ejected players for fighting to inter-league coordinators.
- E. Hosting League will provide referees
 - a. Referee crew will consist of two (2) center referees or a center referee and two assistant referees.
 - b. Center referee must be eighteen (18) years old or older and have a current Grade 9 or higher referee license.
 - c. Assistant referees must be at least fifteen (15) years old or older and have a current Grade 9 or higher referee license.
 - d. Referees are NOT to collect player ID for any reason.
- F. Hosting league is responsible for collecting all match reports.
- G. Once all conflicts/error(s) are corrected by inter-league coordinator(s) the published schedule will be the game schedule for the remainder of the U18 season. No other adjustments will be honored.
- H. Coaches/Admin/League member cannot reschedule game(s). Games will be played as scheduled. Rescheduling by coaches/admin/league member will result in a forfeit for both teams.
- I. If a player is determined to be ineligible, the team will forfeit all games played with that player. Player has 72 hours (3 business days), to provide an original birth certificate.

Coaches' Responsibilities

- A. Players will not shake hands prior to or after matches.
- B. The fifty percent (50%) play rule for the players applies; all exceptions due to illness, injury, or tardiness must be documented on the match report. Offending team will forfeit that match with a resulting score of 0-2 in favor of the opposing team.
- C. All coaches and players must have ID cards at each game. Coaches must present coaches and player IDs to the referee prior to the start of the match. A first-time violation will result in the game being played and the coach of the offending team

receiving a one (1) game suspension to be served at the teams next match/game. Any subsequent violations will result in further discipline to be determined by District 5.

D. Match Report

- a. Both home and away teams must have computer generated match reports.
- b. Written in players are not allowed.
- c. Names and jersey numbers must be printed on the match reports.
- d. Coaches must review the match report(s) prior to each match, at the half-time break and at the completion of the match.
- e. Coaches must sign the match report, not doing so does not constitute a grievance or protest.

E. Coaches are responsible for checking the standings posted on the District 5 website for accuracy and report all inaccuracies to inter-league coordinators.

Rules

- A. Teams will have four (4) home matches and four (4) away matches. (If possible).
- B. Matches impacted by nature (fire, rain, etc) will be rescheduled.
- C. Matches will consist of 40-Minute halves, 20-minute quarter substitution, running clock.
- D. Teams and parents on opposite side-lines. Parents on the half of the field away from the Assistant Referee (to the left of their team's coach).
- E. Players must wear shinguards that are appropriate for their age and size. Then may be no more than 2 inches above the ankle. No Mini-Shinguards.
- F. Nobody is to be behind the goals or goal lines.
- G. No pets allowed at the fields during match play.
- H. Ten Point Scoring System
 - a. Win = 6 points
 - b. Tie = 3 points
 - c. Loss = 0 points
 - d. Goal = 1 point per goal up to three (3) goals
 - e. Shut Out = 1 point
 - f. Forfeit = 8 points to opposing team (0-2 score with no shut-out point).
- I. Substitutions will occur at the quarters
- J. Any injured player requiring coach assistance on the pitch must leave the pitch for at least one play and may re-enter with referee approval on their next stoppage of play or may be substituted for the remainder of the quarter.
- K. Referee abuse will not be tolerated and will result in stern disciplinary action.
- L. All referees and head coaches my sign match reports at the conclusion of each match acknowledging its' accuracy, not doing so does not constitute a grievance or protest.
- M. Match protest
 - a. Referee calls cannot be protested
 - b. Protests must be emailed to the inter-league coordinators using a league approved protest form within 48 hours of the match.

- N. Match reports must be reported to inter-league coordinators within twenty-four (24) hours of the match
- O. Referee reports must be submitted to inter-league coordinators within twenty-four (24) hours of the match.
- P. Players ejected twice during the year for fighting will not be allowed to participate in the current inter-league season.
- Q. Inter-League playoff tie breakers
 - a. Head-to-Head competition – does not apply if more than two teams are involved or if the teams have not played each other.
 - b. Number of goals allowed
 - c. Number of goals for
 - d. Number of shutouts for
 - e. Shoot out
- R. Highest seeded team in the championship match will have the option to host or use a neutral site for the championship match.
- S. Playoff overtime rules
 - a. Golden Goal
 - b. Fifty-percent (50%) play rule does not apply.
 - c. 2 15-minute overtime periods played at the same player strength as the normal game time
 - d. Substitutions may be done between the 2 overtime periods
 - e. Any red cards issued will result in team playing short for the remainder of the match
 - f. If still tied at the end of overtime, penalty kicks will take place. Only fielded players are eligible to take penalty kicks. Goal keepers may be switched out with a fielded player before the start of penalty kicks.

Yellow/Red Cards

- A. Yellow card requires the player to come off the pitch until the next stoppage of play with referee approval or may be substituted for the remainder of the quarter
- B. Players receiving two (2) yellow cards (soft red) in the same match will be suspended for one (1) game, the suspension will be for their teams next match.
- C. Players or coaches sent off will serve at least a one (1) match suspension and possible further disciplinary action pending review of an official referee report by inter-league coordinators.
- D. Ejection for fighting will result in a three (3) game suspension. Play may be required to attend a disciplinary hearing held by their league of play before resuming inter-league play.
- E. A player receiving three (3) yellow cards accumulated in the season will automatically be suspended for their next match
- F. Any player who is ejected twice during the year for fighting will no longer be allowed to participate in inter-league.

G. Player who receives a red card for fighting and 3 yellow cards may not be eligible for all-stars (Open Cup). District 5 will decided on a case by case basis.