

SIGNATURE LEAGUE
INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES



April 2019

CALIFORNIA STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION-SOUTH

Signature League Information and Procedures

Last updated April 2019

The Cal South Signature League is an advanced recreational soccer league for youth and families designed to promote skilled soccer, good sportsmanship, fair play and a safe environment. The objective of the Cal South Signature League is to provide our recreational based leagues with an intermediary playing level that better prepares players, parents and coaches in the transition from recreational play to competitive club play.

1 Section 1 INFORMATION

1.1. The Cal South Signature League is a playing circuit for boy's and girl's teams in the 2011 (9U) – 2001 (19U) age brackets. **Players with a birth year of 2014 (6U) and younger are not allowed to play in Signature League.** Playing Circuits provide for a skill and commitment level of soccer above the recreational level, yet below the club level. Individual Circuits may consider additional or alternate age brackets based on individual Circuit or geographic needs.

1.2. Approved Signature League Playing Circuits are being established throughout the Southern California area. These playing circuits are set in smaller geographic areas in an effort to limit team travel distance and will be facilitated by Cal South. All Playing Circuit activities will be conducted and communicated through the official Cal South Signature League home page. The web site will provide general Circuit information, schedules, bracket standings and periodic updates.

1.3. Players will be registered as Cal South Signature players under the Signature League "Play Type" level within their sanctioned sponsoring recreational league.

2 Section 2 PROCEDURES

2.1. Circuit Formation:

2.1.1. Circuits will be formed with a primary focus on limiting travel distance for all teams within an individual circuit.

2.1.2. A Signature League Circuit will encompass a 20 – 30-mile radius within an area. Individual Circuit mileage restraints may be expanded as deemed appropriate.

2.1.3. Any Cal South Recreational League/Club in good standing, with a minimum of 300 recreational players registered in the previous Fall, may apply for and sponsor Signature League teams in the playing circuit. Cal South Online Registration System roster confirmation may include actual Fall recreational league program.

2.2. Team Formations

2.2.1. Returning Teams will be allowed to freeze five players in the 2011 (9U)-2010 (10U) and seven players in the 2009 (11U)-2001 (19U) to team formation.

2.2.2. New Teams will be allowed to freeze three players in the 2011 (9U)-2010 (10U) and five players in the 2009 (11U)-2001 (19U) to team formation.

2.2.3. The remaining team formations must be formed via an open and published tryout process or a player evaluation tryout process. Each league shall have a minimum of two tryout sessions, and players are encouraged to attend both tryouts.

- 2.2.4. All participants in a tryout must be registered with Cal South prior to the tryout session. Onsite registration may be done for anyone not registered prior to arriving to the tryout.
- 2.2.5. Player tryout opportunities must be widely advertised to all potential players
- 2.2.6. Players should tryout at least once for the team for which they want to be considered. A player considering playing up, should attend the older tryout as well.
- 2.2.7. Once tryouts are completed and players are evaluated teams will be formed by the league's Signature League Director/Representative and any committee the league forms.
- 2.2.8. The local recreation league shall balance most capable players based on the rank order. The selection committee should be unbiased and supervised by the Signature League Director/Representative.
- 2.2.9. No team shall be accepted into the Signature League if they did not follow the team formation policy. If a team is found to not have complied with the team formation procedures after being accepted into the Signature League Circuit that team shall forfeit the season and all games shall be deemed a forfeit loss of 1-0 and they shall be responsible for all referee fees for each game. In addition, the head coach of the team shall be suspended from coaching any Cal South member and sanctioned team at any level for the next calendar year. All teams from the organization shall not be permitted to participate in the post season if their organization permitted a team to play without complying with the procedures for Team Formation.
- 2.2.10. Signature League is a recreation "All-Star" program. It is designed to give players a fair opportunity to play at a higher level than recreation soccer. It is expected that Signature League Directors/Representatives fully comply with the Team Formation procedures. Any Signature League Director/Representative who permits coaches and teams to not follow the Team Formation procedures shall be subject to discipline by their league and/or Cal South.

2.3. Administration

- 2.3.1. An Individual Signature League Board may consist of the following members:
- 2.3.1.1. Signature League Director, Signature League Coordinator for individual local league communication, activities and competition coordination.
- 2.3.1.2. Signature League Committee Members: Monitors game cards, game violations, game scores, standings, rules and assists the Director in the overall operations of the Circuit.
- 2.3.1.3. Local League/Club Signature League Representative: Works with their individual League/Club sponsor teams, to secure playing fields and facilitate League/Club referees for all games on their home fields.

2.4. Each League/Club Responsibilities:

- 2.4.1. Designating local members as the 1) Signature League Director/Representative, 2) Secondary League Representative, 3) Referee Coordinator/Assignor and 4) Field Contact Person to the Playing Circuit. These persons should assist participating teams from the league and serve as a communications link between the Circuit, sponsoring league and team coaches/managers.
- 2.4.2. Selecting team head coaches, assistant coaches and team managers for each team participating in the Circuit
- 2.4.3. Publish dates and assist teams in their evaluation of players, selecting team rosters and general team formation
- 2.4.4. Assisting with online team registration

- 2.4.5. Assisting teams in purchasing their 2 team uniforms
- 2.4.6. Assisting in designating available playing fields for circuit games and assist by notifying the SL scheduling coordinators of any field closures or cancelled games.
- 2.4.7. Assisting with Referee assignments for Home games.

2.5. All Players, Coaches and other Team Administrators MUST have a Cal South picture ID card printed from the Cal South Online Registration System stamped or signed by the league registrar and laminated. The head coach, assistant coach and team administrators must each have passed Cal South “KidSafe” Risk Management LiveScan fingerprint process.

a. It is strongly recommended that Head Coaches are rostered to only one (1) team during the season as we will not accommodate coaches’ game conflicts.

2.6. All players must have a Cal South registration/medical release form with parent / guardians' signature at all team functions. These forms shall be provided to the match referee upon request.

2.7. The Head Coach and Assistant Coaches must each hold the appropriate Cal South required coaching license. AUS Soccer “Grassroots” IP (In-Person) 9v9/11v11 coaching license at a minimum is required. If a coach has a US Soccer “E” level license this will suffice to coach. Each team must have a carded coach or assistant coach at each game or the team will forfeit the game and be subject to Disciplinary Action from Cal South. In an EMERGENCY, a Cal South Administrator/coach of any Cal South League/Club who holds at least a USSF “E” or Grassroots License with a current approved Risk Management designation may coach the team during a game.

2.8. The Playing Circuits shall provide bracket scheduling, tournament scheduling, posting of bracket scores and standings and handle general activities as outlined in these regulations and playing rules.

2.9. The Signature League Director and Committee will review all procedures and rules each year and make modifications and recommendations as deemed appropriate.

3 Section 3 FEES

3.1. Playing Circuit Team Entry fee will be \$300.00 per team for the fall playing season. This fee will handle administration costs, web costs, field rental for playoffs, referees for this event, and awards for the season and the post-season tournament. This is a non-refundable fee payable to Cal South.

3.2. A Fall player participating in the Signature League Playing Circuit shall be capped fee at \$500.00 for the playing season.

3.3. An estimate breakdown of the capped player Signature League fees shall be made public by the local recreational league. Teams are not expected to purchase balls, player bags, water bottles or extra equipment for players.

3.4. Player fees can be used to pay for part-time trainers like Club Teams. Fees may be used to pay for short term or part time training, not to exceed four (4) hours per week. Sponsorships and donated services may be used for full time trainers.

4 Section 4 FALL SEASON/DEADLINES

4.1. The fall playing season shall be designated from September 7th until December 31st. This includes pre-season and post-season tournaments. Season games will be played on Saturdays on permitted fields. **Weeknight evening games may be scheduled if approved by Signature Director and Hosting League.

4.2. League/Club will provide their participating **Team Count list by July 26, 2019.**

4.3. Team Registration online applications and team registration fees are due by **August 16, 2019. No team fee refunds after August 23rd.**

4.4. CalSouth will notify each team and league of acceptance or current application status of each team into the Playing Circuit by **August 19th.**

4.5. Team Rosters are to be completed in the Cal South Online Registration Program by August 30.

4.6. League game schedules for 10 regular season games should be published and distributed the 4th week of August.

4.7. No new players may be added to the fall season team roster after the August 31st (12:01am) Signature League "Roster Freeze" deadline. Players may be added to team rosters following the conclusion of post season play-off games.

4.8. No games may be rescheduled by the individual league or team once the final schedule is published. **Games will not be rescheduled due to coaching conflicts with Signature League or other league games. The team or league must find an assistant coach to stand in these instances.** Teams are not permitted to reschedule games directly with other teams. In these instances, these game results will be invalid, and the games will be classified as unofficial or not a played game. Only games cancelled due to official city/school district field closures or rainouts may be rescheduled upon approval from the Circuit committee. Otherwise, the game will not be rescheduled and/or played.

4.9. The first regular season game will be the first Saturday after Labor Day in September. The regular season will conclude before Thanksgiving. Post season (play-offs) may be scheduled after Thanksgiving weekend and conclude before Christmas. No games will be played the week of Thanksgiving Weekend.

4.10. First Place teams in each age bracket during regular league play receive player medals.

5 Section 5 POST SEASON INFORMATION

5.1. Playoffs will be limited to top 4-6 teams in each age group during the regular season depending on how many teams are registered. In combined age brackets, there will be playoffs for the top 4 teams in each separate age bracket. Format shall be: Cross play or Seed 1 vs Seed 4 and Seed 2 vs Seed 3. The top seeded team shall be the home team after each playoff round. Winners advance to a championship game.

5.2. Playoff Champions will be awarded a playoff medal and Cup for each age group. Finalists will be awarded player medals in each age group and Cup.

6 Section 6 SIGNATURE LEAGUE RULES OF PLAY

6.1. See Signature League Rules of Play