

# Oklahoma Premier Clubs

Club Handbook – 2017/18 Season

**Draft**



*A US Club Soccer Sanctioned League*



The goal of this handbook is to provide assistance to clubs, coaches and managers to ensure the Oklahoma Premier Clubs Programming (“OPC”) operates smoothly and is a positive experience for all involved – players, coaches, managers, club officials, referees, and parents.

When competing in OPC Programs, the club is responsible for overseeing their coaches, players, parents and club personnel – administratively, on and around the field. Each club is responsible for ensuring all club members understand and meet the following requirements and follow OPC Rules and Code of Ethics.

**Quality** – Clubs and their teams must be committed to striving for excellence with respect to play, sportsmanship, fields, referees and the total soccer experience.

**Director of Coaching** – Clubs must have a named Director of Coaching listed on the OPC website with a working email address. The Director must be familiar with each team in their club and the team's involvement in the OPC Programs. The DOC will also serve on the OPC Technical Board who oversees all aspects of the OPC programming.

**Fields** – Clubs should have at least one high quality field (5 time slots) per eight teams. Teams traveling long distances deserve to play on decent fields! Teams may ask that they play all away games.

**Referees** – Clubs must have a current USSF certified Referee Assignor and enough current year USSF licensed referees available to cover all their teams entered in competition. OPC will have a Lead Assignor who will work with all club assignors.

**Administrator** – Clubs must have an administrator responsible for helping teams maintain their club and team information on the OPC website. This person should have a working email address and be available to assist team managers with all administrative tasks.

**Good Standing** – Clubs must be in good standing with OPC.

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## **Letter from OPC Member Clubs**

Hello OPC Soccer Members,

During the past few years, massive changes have occurred in the national soccer landscape.

On the youth side, we have seen the accelerated development of club soccer, providing more opportunities for children to play the sport more seriously, as well as the US Soccer Federation's entry into running their own league programs with the development of the US Soccer Development Academy Leagues and Elite Clubs National League under US Club Soccer. We have seen US Club Soccer grow tremendously through providing excellent programming solutions for clubs across the nation including the over 19 National Premier Leagues (NPLs), Club and Team based Regional and National Competition platforms that have now elevated to major national prominence in our country.

We are seeing a long needed update to the US Soccer Coaching Education Programs, including bringing the state level education under their staff rather than farming it out to their USYSA state organizations.

Over the past year, our clubs have been discussing and collaborating on a plan to bring elevated programming into our state. Our collective goal is to develop programs that facilitate the development of all players, coaches and referees in the most efficient and objective way possible. Given the continued changes in the soccer landscape and our clubs' capabilities, we decided that building new programs under US Club Soccer was in the best interest of all players, coaches, referees and therefore our sport.

We began this examination with our organization's mission and then moved on to examine our core values and our position within the US Soccer Landscape. As we enter the 2017 Fall Season, we are excited to share with you our vision, mission, core values and programming details. We look forward to an exciting 2017-18 seasonal year!

Thank you,

OPC Board

(List Club Director Names)

## **OPC Mission**

We elevate soccer by developing players, clubs, coaches and referees.

## **OPC Core Values**

### ***Collaboration***

We collaborate with our soccer community to make wise decisions

### ***Fun***

We celebrate soccer and take fun seriously!

### ***Impact***

We make a meaningful difference

### ***Agility***

We do the right thing, and we move quickly

### ***Competition***

We believe that healthy competition is essential to progress and development

### ***Education***

We are committed to learning and development

**OPC League General Rules and Regulations**  
Applies to all State and Regional Leagues and Cups



## **Section 1: Administration/ Management**

### **1.1 – OPC League**

The OPC League, run by Primetime Sports, is a US Club Soccer sanctioned league and member of the United States Soccer Federation.

### **1.2 – Governance**

All OPC competitions are governed by regulations approved by the OPC Board and written in this handbook. The Board shall rule on all disputes and issues pertaining to OPC competitions that are not covered in the Code of Ethics. The Board may overrule rules in this handbook if it is determined to be for the good of the game. Primetime Sports will rule on all Game Day Operations matters that fall within the Code of Ethics and Rules of Competition.

### **1.3 – Club Definition**

In order for a club to be considered a member of OPC, the following conditions must be satisfied:

1. All teams participating in OPC events must belong to a single legal entity, with a single leadership structure, single financial structure and a single governance structure.
2. All teams participating in OPC events must have a common Club name, logo and uniforms.
3. All teams participating in OPC events must operate under a single technical structure/ plan and report to a single Technical Director, Director of Coaching or Executive Director.
4. All players participating in OPC events must be registered under a single US Club ID.
5. All teams participating in OPC must be their primary competition platform.

### **1.4 - Club Pass Rule**

Each US Club Soccer Player Pass can be used for any age appropriate team in the issuing club. Thus, players have the ability to move up and down within their club, giving individual teams the ability to make changes game to game due to illness, injury, vacation or other conflicts. It is considered unethical for teams to move players down within a club for the purpose of creating a competitive advantage.

### **1.5 - Team Management**

Each team must have a team manager that handles the following responsibilities: scheduling games, referee payments, travel cooperation, reporting of scores and communication with appropriate league officials. All team managers must have access to email that is checked on a daily basis and a telephone number connected to a 24-hour answering system

during the season.

### **1.6 - Division Formations**

Competitive divisions will be structured according to the playing level of teams as determined by the OPC Board, which has final authority on all placement issues. Should Primetime determine there is an insufficient number of teams to constitute an age group division, the teams affected may be allowed to temporarily or partially compete in a different division of play.

### **1.1 - League Standings**

Official standings of teams, the keeping of which is the responsibility of Primetime Sports, are tabulated on a regular basis and displayed on the OPC website – powered by Primetime Sports.

### **1.2 – Play Up Request Guidelines**

For teams who wish to request to play up an age group, the Club DOC will make the decision with the Board using the following criteria to determine if a team needs to play up for their development:

1. Team is current State Cup Champion or Finalist within their own age group, AND
2. Team has proven in previous seasons to be a very dominant team within their own age group, OR
3. Team does not have appropriate competition locally and needs to travel significantly in order to find competition within their own age group

Play up requests must be submitted to the Board by the Club DOC.

## **Section 2: Scheduling and Communication**

### **2.1 – Required Club Contacts**

Each club's GotSoccer account needs to be kept up to date with the proper contact information. Please keep in mind that this is the primary method by which OPC communicates with your club. Failing to have the proper contact information may result in your club missing vital league communication. Each club shall maintain the following club contacts:

- DOC
- President
- Registrar
- Referee Assignor

### **2.2 - Communication Policy**

Communication between teams is vitally important for all OPC events. Each team must have at least 2 different contacts listed on your team's GotSoccer page and ensure that **both contacts have an email and phone number listed**. All team scheduling communication should be done through the GotSoccer chat system so that there is proper record of the communication. Team contacts must respond to communication within 48 hours. Listing the wrong email or phone number will not be a valid excuse for not responding to communication.

### 2.3 - Policy for Scheduling Matches

The OPC/Primetime will provide dates for all matches along with scheduling deadlines. *Teams are expected to be available to play any time on the game dates provided.* Home teams should take travel time into consideration. Please do not schedule games before 10 AM if a team is required to travel more than one hour. Please do not schedule games for older ages (U15 and up) before 3pm on SAT/ACT test dates. All games must be scheduled (time and location) by the deadline provided by the OPC Office. After the deadline passes, the schedules are locked and games can only be rescheduled if both teams agree. Teams un-willing or unable to attend games will forfeit the game. Any un-played games will be documented by league officials and may result in a club being removed from OPC.

*Please Note* - If the OPC Board feels that a club is responsible for the game not being scheduled or communication from the away team is not responded to in a timely manner, teams may lose home field advantage but still pay for referees and field costs.

### 2.4 – Re-Scheduling Games

Once a game has been agreed on in writing, both teams must agree on any scheduling change. After the scheduling deadline passes, a date must be set before any change is made to the schedule. *i.e. If a team would like to reschedule a game following the scheduling deadline, a specific reschedule date must be set before the game can be changed.*

### 2.5 – Rain Outs

In the event of a forced reschedule (i.e. rainout), it is the home team's responsibility to reschedule the match. All rain outs must be rescheduled within 1 week of the original match date.

### 2.6 - Cancellation/Forfeit Policy

Teams must give their opponent a 96-hour warning if forfeiting any match or they will be required to pay field and referee costs. Please remember that this is a club competition and not an individual team competition. The following is a list of common excuses teams cite for wanting to reschedule or cancel a game. We recommend the following solutions to frequently posed problems:

- Too many players missing (sick, testing, etc.) - Remember that any player from your club is available to participate with your team as long as they are of correct age. In league matches please use lower team players or players from younger teams within your club to fill out your roster.
- Missing Coach - Any coach with a valid pass for your club is able to coach any team in that club. If your coach has several

commitments then it is recommended that teams have an assistant coach or another coach from the club available to cover games.

- No Fields Available - It is expected that if your team is playing in OPC, you have access to quality fields. This excuse will not be acceptable for cancellation of a match.
- Tournaments/other games - OPC understands that teams will possibly play in a tournament during the league. This will be an acceptable excuse to ask to reschedule a game, but it must be rescheduled by OPC scheduling deadlines. Please plan your schedule well in advance so your schedule does not become so full that you are unable to fulfill your league commitment.

## **Section 3: Match Officials**

### **3.1 - Match Officials**

Match officials must be current year USSF licensed referees. The match officials shall consist of the referee and two assistant referees including all 7v7 and 9v9 matches.

### **3.2 - Assignment of Match Officials**

Match officials shall be assigned and paid by the home club for each match. Each club is required to have a current year certified USSF Referee Assignor listed in their GotSoccer account.

## **Section 4: League Discipline**

### **4.1 - Violating League Rules**

The OPC PAD Committee and the Primetime Sports shall have the authority to suspend, fine, disqualify or otherwise impose sanctions on, players, team officials or competing clubs for violating league rules, the OPC Code of Ethics or for any action or conduct not in the best interest of soccer or the OPC League.

### **4.2 - Disciplinary Issues**

Any breach of OPC Rules outlined in this Handbook should be reported to the appropriate Event Coordinator, who will then refer it to the OPC Board. Any incidents or breach of the OPC Code of Ethics should be reported through the PAD Incident Report system. All reports of rule violations or breaches of the OPC Code of Ethics may only be reported by a club's DOC or President.

### **4.3 - Red Cards**

If a Red Card is shown, it will result in a minimum of a one (1) game suspension. This includes a Red Card as the result of two cautions. If a player is sent off during the weekend, they may not play the remainder of the weekend, regardless of which event the Red Card is issued in. Games sat out that weekend will count against the suspension, as long as noted on the roster and/or Referee Game Report as such. Any player used during a suspension will be considered an illegal player and the team, coach and club will be punished accordingly.

#### **4.4 - Red Card Procedure**

In any game where a Red Card is issued, the referee must notify the Primetime Office within 24 hours and the home team must fill out a Send Off Report at OKPremierClubs.com. The player card can be returned to the team as long as the Referee Send Off Report shows the infraction, the player's name and number. In addition to the send off report, teams must send in the verification form confirming that suspensions have been served. All reports and forms should be sent to Primetime Sports.

#### **4.5 - Suspensions**

It is the teams' and/or clubs' responsibility to ensure their Red Carded player/coach serves the minimum 1 game suspension. It is also their responsibility to ensure that their player/coach serves any additional suspension determined by the OPC PAD committee. There shall be two types of suspensions:

1. **Minor Offenses** – These include send offs for normal soccer actions, 2<sup>nd</sup> yellow cards, etc. Minor offenses will be given suspensions for a number of games within the competition that the red card was received in.
2. **Major Offenses** – These include send offs for violent actions. Major offenses will incur suspensions for an amount of time and will rule players or coaches out across all OPC competitions.

The only exception is that a suspension may be postponed – at the discretion of the OPC Board – if it would prevent the player from playing in College Showcase Events.

### **Section 5: Equipment**

#### **5.1 - Safety**

A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to themselves or another player (including all jewelry).

#### **5.2 - Casts**

No orthopedic (hard) casts, air splints or metal splints may be worn. Players will be allowed to play in a soft cast at the discretion of the Referee.

#### **5.3 - Jewelry**

Absolutely no jewelry, including rings, chains, watches, jewelry, hair clips, bobby pins, earrings, bracelets, rubber bracelets, or abnormally long fingernails may be worn while participating in any NorCal games. Only Medical Alert Warning Bracelets may be worn, and shall be taped to secure them to the player's body. Earrings and other piercings cannot be taped, and must be removed.

#### **5.4 - Shin guards**

All players are required to use shin guards at all times. They must be worn properly and be professionally manufactured and unaltered. Socks must completely cover shin guards.

#### **5.5 - Braces**

It is strongly recommended for the safety of the player, that a player does not wear a brace during OPC games. Braces are allowed as long as the referee decides that the brace will not or cannot hurt the player wearing the brace or any other player. All metal, metal-like, or plastic brace supports are to be properly covered for the duration of the match. Elastic-type supports without any metal, carbon fiber, hard plastic or like devices are permitted provided the referee does not deem the support to be potentially harmful to other players.

#### **5.6 - Eyeglasses**

Players who must wear eyeglasses are encouraged to wear sports goggles. Lenses must be unbreakable and frames must be unbreakable plastic or sturdy metal.

#### **5.7 – Player Uniforms**

The two teams must wear colors that distinguish them from each other and also the referee and the assistant referees. *It is recommended that the home team wear dark uniforms while the away team wears light uniforms.* Each goalkeeper must wear colors that distinguish them from the other players, the referee, and the assistant referees. All players on a team except the goalkeeper shall wear identical uniforms (shirts, shorts, and socks).

If there is a conflict in uniform color, the home team shall change uniforms to colors.

**5.8 - Player Numbers**

Player numbers must be affixed to the back of the uniform shirt. Each player within a team shall wear a unique number.

**5.9 – Undergarments**

If undershirts or shorts are worn they must match the main color of the jersey or short. If tape, or other material is applied externally to the socks it must be the same color as the part of the sock to which it is applied.

**5.10 - Home Team**

The home team is the team listed first on the official schedule. The home team will furnish the game balls.

**5.13 - Technical Area**

OPC encourages both team benches to be on the same side of the field.

**OPC League Rules and Regulations**  
**Applies to all Youth Premier Leagues and Regional Leagues**



## Section 1: Competition Rules

### 1.1 - Playing Rules

All games under league jurisdiction shall be played according to the rules and regulations recognized by the OPC which shall be the same rules set by FIFA/

U.S. Soccer (USSF) except for those exceptions authorized by FIFA or USSF.

### 1.2 - Point System

All OPC Leagues shall operate under a point system. The point system shall award three points for a win, one point for a tie and no points for a loss.

### 1.3 - Tie Breakers

In case of a tie in the standings within a league, the following will be used as tiebreakers:

1. "Head to head" points (win/lose/ draw) between teams
2. "Head to head" Goal Differential between teams
3. Overall Goal Differential (up to 4)
4. Goals for (up to 4)
5. Goals against (up to 4)
6. Most points against highest non-tied team in group
7. Best goal differential against highest non-tied team in group
8. Most shutouts
9. Least red cards
10. Coin toss

### 1.4 - Game Details

Age	Game	# of Player	Roster	Field Length	Field Width	Ball Size	# of Referee
U8**	4x10 min 5	4v4	12	*Min 30 Max	*Min 20 Max 30	3	0
U9-U10	2x25 min 5	7v7 (min =	14	*Min 47 yrd Max 60 yrd	*Min 30 yrd Max 40 yrd	4	1
U11-U12	2x30 min 5	9v9 (min =	16	*Min 70 yrd Max 80 yrd	*Min 40 yrd Max 50 yrd	4	1
U13	2x35 min 10 min	11v11 (min =	18	Min 100 yrd Max 120	Min 55 yrd Max 80 yrd	5	3
U14-U16	2x40 min 10 min	11v11 (min =	18	Min 100 yrd Max 120	Min 55 yrd Max 80 yrd	5	3
U17- Adult	2x45 min 10 min	11v11 (min =	18	Min 100 yrd Max 120	Min 55 yrd Max 80 yrd	5	3

\*Use of cones for lines allowed

\*\* U8 – Game length is recommended but each Club can decide the best format, each team will play 2 games on each game date (thus the large roster size), there is no offside rule for 4v4 formats.

### **1.5 - Fields**

The playing field used by each team must be lined according to USSF standards with goals (U8 recommended goal size is 4'x6', U9 –U12 recommended goal size is 6.5'x18.5' but game can be played as long as both goals are the same size), nets and flags. The goal of each club shall be to provide an enjoyable experience for the fans, players, officials and everyone involved with the staging of a soccer game.

All 7v7 and 9v9 fields should be laid out based on US Soccer Standards.

### **1.6 – Heading Game Rule**

For U11 and below, when a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area (6 yard box), the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.

*This rule shall apply to the age groups of U11 and below. Players who are playing up will play according to the rules of the age group in which they are playing. It is the club's responsibility to understand the effects of this rule on players playing up.*

### **1.7 – No Re-Entry Protocol**

In accordance with the US Soccer return to play guidelines, any player removed from the field for a suspected head injury will not be allowed to return to the field of play unless cleared by a Healthcare Professional.

### **1.8 – Health Care Professional**

A health care professional is defined as “a licensed health care professional such as an athletic trainer certified (ATC), or a physician (MD/DO), with a skill set in emergency care and sports medicine injuries and with knowledge and experience related to concussion evaluation and management.” It will be up to each club to decide whether they will provide a health care professional at their matches, and to ensure that their health care professional has the correct certification to be evaluating players for head trauma. If a club plans to use a health care professional to evaluate suspected head injuries during a OPC match, the health care professional must be presented to the referee prior to the start of the match. Referees will not allow the re-entry of players removed from the field of play for suspected head injuries unless they are informed of the presence of, and meet with, a health care professional prior to the start of the match.

### **1.9 - Substitutions**

Substitutions are at the referee's discretion. A substitution can take place for either team at the following times:

1. Prior to a kick-off
2. A goal kick
3. A throw-in by either team
4. After the referee stops play for an injury or yellow card or red card

*Unlimited substitutions are allowed but OPC Soccer reminds all coaches to handle substitutions in a professional manner so as not to detract from the game.*

### **1.10 – Ties in League Play**

If a League game is tied after regulation, the tie stands and will be posted as a tie.

### **1.11 - Playoffs for League**

For matches that need a winner, the team with the most goals after regulation time will be the winner. If the match is tied after regulation for U9-U19 teams, two golden goal 5 minute periods will be played. Teams will have a 5-minute break before the first overtime. After 5 minutes, teams will change sides, with no break, and play the remaining 5 minutes. If the game is still tied after the two overtime periods, then kicks from the mark per FIFA will determine the winner.

*Please make sure you arrive for your game knowing if the game can end in a draw or if a winning team is required.*

### **1.12 - Incomplete games**

In the event that a game cannot be completed, the game will stand if half or more of the game was played; provided, however that if any team is directly responsible for the termination of the game, no matter how much of the match remains, due to poor sportsmanship towards a referee, opposing fans, or opposing players, the team will be required to forfeit the match. This could also lead to other sanctions set forth by the Primetime League Office or OPC Board. If there is no result, and the match is suspended prior to the expiration of one half, the game shall be replayed at a time agreed upon by the competing teams in consultation with the Primetime League Office. *Referees are required to submit a incident report for all matches that are ended early.*

### **1.13 - No-Shows**

A no-show occurs when a team willfully does not show up to a game agreed to by the teams. The penalty for a no-show shall be a forfeit to the opposing team and the loss of an additional three league points, as well as a \$300 fine imposed on the club. One no-show may result in the offending team being terminated from the league. Two no-shows in a single season shall result in the offending team's termination from the league.

### **1.14 - Forfeits**

A forfeit occurs when a team is unable to attend a scheduled game and the teams are unable to come to terms on a time to reschedule (after the scheduling deadline has passed). A forfeit will result in a 3-0 win to the team not at fault. The forfeiting club will be fined \$300 to cover all referee and field costs if they inform the opponent less than 96 hours before the scheduled game time. A team unable to attend a scheduled game

because of an accident, weather or act of god should immediately notify the opponent and the League Office. In these circumstances, the League Office will review and rule on the situation.

### **1.15 - Protests**

Protests regarding the match conditions (i.e. field condition, etc.) must be made prior to the start of the match and be clearly written on the official game card. Protests regarding the use of illegal players may be made prior to or following the match and be clearly written on the game card. Specific referee decisions cannot be protested. No match condition protests will be allowed at OPC hosted events. All protested games should be sent to the appropriate event coordinator, who will forward to the League Office for a ruling.

### **1.16 – Fines**

The OPC may impose the following fines:

- Team drops out of the league after final brackets are posted: \$250
- Team drops out of the league after 1<sup>st</sup> game is played: \$100/ per game missed
- No-show/ Forfeit within 96 hours to a scheduled game: \$300

## **Section 2: Rosters**

### **2.1 - Player Registration**

Players shall be registered according to US Club Soccer rules.

### **2.2 - Game Roster**

Each team must create an official OPC roster in their GotSoccer account. Only players who are listed on the official Game Card will be eligible to play in OPC League matches. *Player's names may not be handwritten on the OPC Game Card.* If any player is not listed on the OPC Game Card, he/she must be added electronically to the roster before the player is eligible to play. Team rosters may contain up to 26 players, and there is no limit to the number of changes that can be made to the roster, provided the players are active in the team's club and are not on another club's US Club Roster.

*Players may not play for 2 teams in the same division of play* (a division of play is a combination of age group and level, ie: two teams from the same club may not share players if their playing in the same set of division standings). No matter how many players are listed on a team's roster, only 18 players for U13 and up, 16 players for U11- U12 and 14 players for U9-U10 may be used for OPC League matches.

### **2.3 - US Club Soccer Player Pass**

All players and coaches must present their US Club Soccer player pass to the referee prior to the match. If the individual picture is not on the ID card and the card is not laminated, the individual will not be eligible for the match.

### **2.4 - Forgotten US Club Player Credentials**

If a team forgets their US Club player passes for a OPC League game the game should be played under protest. Any players that wish to play must have a picture taken prior to the game and submitted to the League Office to verify that the players were eligible to participate. If this is a continuous issue with a team or club, the League Office may remove that team from the league.

### **2.5 - Guest Players**

No guest players are allowed in the OPC Leagues. ALL players must be registered with an OPC club through US Club Soccer.

## **2.6 - Illegal Players**

Any player who does not appear on the official OPC game card or have a valid US Club Soccer Player Pass issued by the same club at the time of the match shall be considered an illegal player. Any team using an illegal player shall forfeit the game, the coach of the team using the illegal player will be suspended from all OPC competitions for one year, and the Club of the illegal player will incur a \$500 fine.

## **Section 3: Game Day Procedures**

### **3.1 - Pre-Game Procedures**

Home Team Responsibilities

- Schedule and post agreed game time in GotSoccer
- Provide properly lined field
- Provide and pay current year licensed USSF referees (half)
- Provide OPC Game Card (with both team rosters) to center referee
- Provide referee with current year US Club Soccer player passes for each player and team official.

Visiting team responsibilities:

- Provide referee US Club Soccer player passes for each player and team official
- Have a copy of official OPC Game Card if needed by center referee
- Provide and pay current year licensed USSF referees (half)

### **3.2 - Game Day Procedures**

Each manager should have the following at every game

- OPC Game Card
- US Club Medical Release forms
- US Club Soccer roster of team
- US Club Soccer passes for its players and team officials

### **3.3 - Post-Game Procedure**

Home team Responsibilities:

- Coach or manager sign the Game Card following the game and  
NOTE TOP TWO PLAYERS ON OPPOSING TEAM for PDP SELECTION PURPOSES
- If no red card is given, the home team holds onto the Game Card until the end of the season
- If a red card is given, see red card procedure above – this requires immediate action from the center referee and manager
- Post score within 24 hours
- Game Report

Visiting team responsibilities:

- Coach or manager must sign the Game Card following the game
- NOTE TOP TWO PLAYERS ON OPPOSING TEAM for PDP SELECTION PURPOSES

### **3.4 - Personnel on the bench**

A maximum of 3 team officials are allowed in each team's technical area. Team officials must have a US Club pass in order to sit in the technical area. It is highly recommended that teams have several credentialed coaches or managers with passes for the team just in case something happens to the head coach. A US Club pass makes a person eligible to coach any team in the club for which that coach or manager is credentialed.

### **3.5 - Score reports**

The home team will post the score in GotSoccer within 24 hours of the game. The home team will keep and file the Game Card for possible future reference.

### **3.6 - Game Card**

Both teams must have a copy of the OPC Game Card. The home team will supply the Game Card to the match officials before the match. The away team should have a copy of the Game Card in case it is needed. Following the match, the Officials and each coach need to sign the Game Card. The home team will keep and file the Game Card for future reference.

### **3.7 – Jersey Conflict**

If there is a conflict in jersey colors, it is the home team's responsibility to change colors. OPC encourages home teams to wear their dark colors, while away teams wear light colors.

### **3.8 – Additional Instructions for Juniors Divisions**

1. Players playing in the Juniors Division may be registered with US Club via the Super Rec Registration form. The cost is \$10 per player and \$5 per coach.
2. You will not need player passes for the games.
3. All teams will bring a laminated roster from their home club registration system. This is the roster the referee will use to check in players. There will be no passes so this will be on the honor system.
4. Managers or coaches will be able to login to the team account and print a Game Card directly from the schedule. The home team and away team should each bring a copy of the Game Card for the referee.
5. Once a game is complete, coaches are responsible to report the score of the match. Both coaches should record the score and both coaches should keep a copy of the Game Card for their records in case there is any question about the final score of the game.

## National Premier League (NPL) Rules and Regulations



*Teams in the OPC may also be in an NPL League. There are 19 leagues across the United States that are part of the NPL, which has been created to provide a national developmental platform with the highest level of competition in given geographic areas, and to elevate and change the competitive youth soccer landscape based upon fundamental principles in US Club Soccer's 10-year vision. The champions of each NPL (including the RiverValley and TX Champions NPL) are awarded a spot in the US Club National Premier League Champions Cup.*

## **Section 1: Competition Rules**

### **1.1 - Playing Rules**

All games under an NPL league jurisdiction shall be played according to the rules and regulations recognized by the respective NPL and teams shall abide by those rules. NPL competition rules will take precedent over the OPC but at no time shall this preclude an OPC member team, coach or players from adhering to OPC Code of Ethics.

### **1.2 – League Participation**

OPC teams that also participate in an NPL will have their head-to-head matches count in both league standings. The OPC League standings are for seeding purposes for OPC State Cup (See below).

### **1.3 - Tie Breakers**

In case of a tie in the standings within a league, the following will be used as tie breakers:

1. "Head to head" points (win/loose/ draw) between teams
2. "Head to head" Goal Differential between teams
3. Overall Goal Differential
4. Goals for
5. Goals against
6. Most points against highest non-tied team in group
7. Best goal differential against highest non-tied team in group
8. Most shutouts
9. Least red cards
10. Coin toss

### **1.4 – Ties in NPL**

If an NPL game is tied after regulation, the tie stands and will be posted as a tie.

### **1.5 - Game Lengths**

All NPL-OPC matches will be played in full. All games will be played 11v11 with a size five ball. The following is the list of game lengths for each age group:

- U14 – play 2x40 minutes; 10 minute half time
- U15 – play 2x40 minutes; 10 minute half time
- U16 – play 2x40 minutes; 10 minute half time
- U17 – play 2x45 minutes; 10 minute half time
- U18 – play 2x45 minutes; 10 minute half time

### **1.6 - Fields**

It is expected that all Club Fields be of the highest quality for NPL competition. It is expected that fields are properly lined, mowed, and have nets and corner flags. In case the above conditions are not met, the game will be played under protest (view section on protests). If OPC

finds that a field is not to the standards of the respective NPL, clubs may be asked to move their matches to another field.

Expected field dimensions for NPL matches:

- U14 – Maximum 120 yards x 80 yards; Minimum 100 yards x 55 yards
- U15-U19 – Maximum 120 yards x 80 yards; Minimum 105 yards x

60 yards All goals are expected to be regulation size 8' height x 24'

width.

### **1.7 – No Re-Entry Protocol**

In accordance with the US Soccer return to play guidelines, any player removed from the field for a suspected head injury will not be allowed to return to the field of play unless cleared by a Health Care Professional.

### **1.8 – Health Care Professional**

A health care professional is defined as “a licensed health care professional such as an athletic trainer certified (ATC), or a physician (MD/DO), with a skill set in emergency care and sports medicine injuries and with knowledge and experience related to concussion evaluation and management.” It will be up to each club to decide whether they will provide a health care professional at their matches, and to ensure that their health care professional has the correct certification to be evaluating players for head trauma. If a club plans to use a health care professional to evaluate suspected head injuries during a NorCal match, the health care professional must be presented to the referee prior to the start of the match. Referees will not allow the re-entry of players removed from the field of play for suspected head injuries unless they are informed of the presence of, and meet with a health care professional prior to the start of the match.

### **1.9 - Substitutions**

Substitutions are allowed at the referee's discretion. A substitution can take place for either team at the following times:

1. Prior to a kick-off
2. A goal kick
3. A throw-in
4. After the referee stops play for an injury or yellow card

Substitutions are permitted as follows:

- First Half - No Re-Entry
- Second Half – One (1) Re-Entry

There will be 1 re-entry per half for an injured GK (no field player re-entry).

In accordance with the new USSF Head Injury guidelines, a substitution for a suspected head injury will not count against re-entry rules.

### **1.10 - Incomplete Games**

In the event that a game cannot be completed, the game counts if half or more of the game was played; provided, however that any team directly responsible for the termination of the game due to poor sportsmanship towards a referee, opposing fans, or opposing players will result in that team forfeiting the match. This could also lead to other possible penalties set by the OPC. If there is no result, and the match is suspended prior to the expiration of one half, the game shall be repeated

at a time agreed upon by the competing teams in consultation with PrimeTime Sports.

### **1.11 No-Shows/Forfeits**

A no-show occurs when a team willfully does not show up to a game agreed to by the teams. Penalties for no-shows are as follows:

- A forfeit to the opposing team – 0-3 loss
- See fines for additional repercussions

A team unable to attend a scheduled game because of an accident, weather, or act of god should immediately notify the opponent and the League Office. Each situation shall be reviewed by the OPC, which shall make a final decision.

### **1.12 Protests**

Protests for NPL-OPC matches should follow their respective NPL rules and policies.

## **Section 2: Rosters**

### **2.1 - Personnel on the Bench**

A maximum of 3 non-playing personnel are allowed in each team's technical area.

### **2.2 - Game Roster**

Follow their respective NPL policies.

### **2.3 - Eligibility**

All players and coaches must present their US Club Player Pass to the referee prior to the match. If the individual picture is not on the ID card and the card is not laminated, the individual will not be eligible for the match. All players must be named on the Game Card presented to the referee at beginning of each game. Players may only play for one club, their club, during any NPL match. All players from a club are eligible to participate in NPL matches within the age eligibility limits. **No players may play for more than one team within a level of play in the NPL.** (a division of play is a combination of age group and level)

Only 18 players may be dressed for a match. The 18 players must be on the official

Game Card given to the match official and opposing team before the start of the game. Any players listed on the roster that will not play must have a line through their name on the Game Card.

#### **2.4 - Guest Players**

No Guest Players will be allowed.

#### **2.5 - Illegal Players**

Any player who does not appear on the NPL-OPC Game Card or have a valid US Club Soccer player pass issued by the same club shall be considered an illegal player. Any team using an illegal player shall forfeit the game. In addition, the coach of the team using the illegal player will be suspended from all OPC competitions for one year. It will also result in a \$500 club fine.

#### **2.6 - In Season Transfers**

Players may only play for one club during a NPL season, unless the OPC Office grants a transfer. The NPL Season is defined as the start of the fall season through the final NPL weekend in the spring. Once a transfer request is granted, a transferred player must sit out five (5) games before being eligible to play for his/ her new team. Any player not sitting out will be considered an illegal player. The OPC Board has final say on all transfers.

### **Section 3: Game Day Procedures**

#### **3.1 - Pre-Game Procedures**

Home Team Responsibilities:

- Schedule and post game time/location on website
- Provide quality field equipped with goals, nets, flags and proper lines
- Assign qualified current year licensed
- Assign referees and pay half of

referee fee

Visiting Team Responsibilities:

- Respond to any communication requests from the home team in regards to match within 24 hours
- Pay half of referee fees

#### **3.2 - Game Day Procedures**

At each NPL match both teams must to have possession of:

- Game Card - home team provides a copy for the center referee. Top TWO players on opposing team is selected by the OPPOSING coach for PDP selection purposes.
- US Club Soccer player passes for each player and non-player in the technical area

### *Required Pre-Game Procedure*

Approximately five minutes prior to each NPL match, it is recommended that teams conduct an International "Walkout." Following the Walkout the teams shall shake hands with the referees and the opposing players. It is our hope to foster camaraderie and respect between the teams and referees prior to the start of the match. In case of a highly impacted game schedule the Walkout can be waved in order to help games start on time. In that case teams shall still shake hands with the opposing players and the referees. In addition, each game should have the following:

- Benches for both teams
- Easy-up or bench cover set up for both Home and Away team
- Water for both teams and referees

#### *Other Pre-Game Possibilities*

Some clubs have the ability to go above and beyond. If possible clubs may provide the following:

- Play music prior to the match or at halftime.
- Play the National Anthem prior to the match after the team's Walkout and before they shake the referee and opponents hands.

### **3.3 - Post-Game Procedures**

Home Team Responsibilities:

- Coach or manager signs the NPL-OPC Game Card
- Post score within 24 hours (failure to post scores within 24 hours may result in a fine)
- Report goals and assists for home team scorers
- Coach or DOC fills out the Online Game Report
- Report any red card (home or away) to the NPL and OPC Office

within 24 hours

Visiting Team Responsibilities:

- Coach or manager signs the NorCal Game Card
- If Home team does not post the score within 24 hours, Away team should post the score and inform the NPL Coordinator
- Report goals and assists for visiting team scorers
- Fill out NorCal NPL Online Game Report

### **3.4 – Jersey Conflict**

If there is a conflict in jersey colors, it is the home team's responsibility to change colors. NorCal encourages the home team to wear their dark uniform color, and the away team to wear their light uniform color.

## **Section 4: Club Bond, Fines, and Penalties**

### **4.1 - Fines**

1. Team dropping from league after NPL acceptance - \$350 per team
2. Forfeits, no-shows or Cancellations with less than 96 hours notice - \$300 (used for field and referees)
3. Forfeits, no-shows or Cancellations with 96 hours notice - \$100 per game
4. Playing illegal players - \$500.00 per instance
5. Failure to schedule matches by the league scheduled deadline - \$50 per game
6. Failure to reschedule a cancelled match within 48 hours - \$50 per game

7. Home team failure to report score within 24 hours - \$20 per game (each club will receive a warning before being fined for score reporting)
8. Failure to Provide three current year licensed referees - \$50 per missing referee

9. Failure to provide shade/ tents for both teams - \$50 per occurrence
10. Failure to provide water for both teams - \$50 per occurrence
11. Failure to provide benches for both team - \$50 per occurrence

#### **4.2 - Other Penalties**

Accumulation of two no-shows for a club in NPL shall result in the Club's termination from NPL-OPC.

# OPC State Cup Rules and Regulations



## Section 1: Competition Rules

### 1.1 – Playing Rules

All OPC State Cup games shall be played according to the rules and regulations recognized by OPC League which shall be the same rules set by FIFA/USSF except for those exceptions authorized by FIFA or USSF.

### 1.2 – Point System

The OPC State Cup shall operate under a point system. The point system shall award three points for a win, one point for a tie and no points for a loss.

### 1.3 – Tie Breakers

In case of a tie in the standings within a league flight the following will be used as tiebreakers:

1. "Head to Head" points between teams
2. "Head to Head" Goal Differential (up to 4) between teams
3. Overall Goal Differential (up to 4)
4. Goals for (up to 4)
5. Goals against (up to 4)
6. Most points against highest non-tied team in group (i.e. if the 2<sup>nd</sup> place and 3<sup>rd</sup> place team are tied best record vs. 1<sup>st</sup> place team would win tiebreaker)
7. Best Goal Differential against highest non-tied team in group
8. Most Shutouts
9. Least Red Cards
10. Coin Toss

If more than two teams are tied, the tie-breaking process will be used until a winner is determined. The tie-breaking procedure does not revert to previous criteria if one team is eliminated.

### 1.4 – Game Details

Age	Game	# of Player	Roster	Field Length	Field Width	Ball Size	# of Referee
U9-U10	2x25 min 5	7v7 (min =	14	*Min 47 yrd Max 60 yrd	*Min 30 yrd Max 40 yrd	4	1
U11-U12	2x30 min 5	9v9 (min =	16	*Min 70 yrd Max 80 yrd	*Min 40 yrd Max 50 yrd	4	1
U13	2x35 min 10 min	11v11 (min =	18	Min 100 yrd Max 120	Min 55 yrd Max 80 yrd	5	3
U14-U16	2x40 min 10 min	11v11 (min =	18	Min 100 yrd Max 120	Min 55 yrd Max 80 yrd	5	3
U17-U19	2x45 min 10 min	11v11 (min =	18	Min 100 yrd Max 120	Min 55 yrd Max 80 yrd	5	3
Adult	2x45 min 10 min	11v11 (min =	18	Min 100 yrd Max 120	Min 55 yrd Max 80 yrd	5	3

	half	7)		yrd			
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\*Use of cones for lines allowed

## **1.5 – Fields**

The goal of each club shall be to provide an enjoyable experience for the fans, players, officials and everyone involved with the staging of a soccer game. With that in mind it is expected that all club hosted fields be of the highest possible quality for OPC State Cup competition. The playing field used by each team must be lined according to FIFA standards with goals, nets and flags. If you feel a field is not of proper quality, please play the match under protest and submit the protest to the League Office (view section on protests).

All goals are expected to be regulation size 8' height x 24' width. U9 –U12 recommended goal size is 6.5'x18.5' but game can be played as long as both goals are the same size.

## **1.6 – Heading Game Rule**

For U11 and below (2006 birth year), when a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area (6 yard box), the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.

## **1.7 – No Re-Entry Protocol**

In accordance with the US Soccer return to play guidelines, any player removed from the field for a suspected head injury will not be allowed to return to the field of play unless cleared by a Health Care Professional.

## **1.8 – Health Care Professional**

A health care professional is defined as “a licensed health care professional such as an athletic trainer certified (ATC), or a physician (MD/DO), with a skill set in emergency care and sports medicine injuries and with knowledge and experience related to concussion evaluation and management.” It will be up to each club to decide whether they will provide a health care professional at their matches, and to ensure that their health care professional has the correct certification to be evaluating players for head trauma. If a club plans to use a health care professional to evaluate suspected head injuries during a OPC match, the health care professional must be presented to the referee prior to the start of the match. Referees will not allow the re-entry of players removed from the field of play for suspected head injuries unless they are informed of the presence of, and meet with a health care professional prior to the start of the match.

## **1.9 – Substitutions**

Substitutions are at the referee's discretion. A substitution can take place

for either team at the following times:

1. Prior to a kick-off
2. A goal kick
3. A throw-in by either team

4. After the referee stops play for an injury or yellow card or red card

*Unlimited substitutions are allowed but OPC reminds all coaches to handle substitutions in a professional manner so as not to detract from the game.*

### **1.10 - Ties in Group Round (only if there is group play)**

If a OPC State Cup Group Stage (U14-U19) or First/ Second Round (U9-U13) match is tied after regulation, the tie stands and will be posted as a tie.

### **1.11 - Matches Needing a Winner**

For matches that need a winner, the team with the most goals after regulation time will be the winner. If the match is tied after regulation, two full-time 5-minute overtime periods will be played, **for final games two full-time 10-min overtime periods will be played (U15-U19 only).** If the game is still tied after the two overtime periods, then kicks from the mark per FIFA will determine the winner.

*Make sure you arrive for your game knowing if the game can end in a draw or if a winning team is required.*

### **1.12 - Incomplete games**

In the event that a game cannot be completed, the game counts if half or more of the game was played; provided, however that any team directly responsible for the termination of the game due to poor sportsmanship towards a referee, opposing fans, or opposing players will result in that team forfeiting the match. This could also lead to other possible penalties set by the OPC. If there is no result, and the match is suspended prior to the expiration of one half, the game shall be repeated at a time agreed upon by the competing teams in consultation with the OPC.

### **1.13 - No- shows/forfeits:**

A no-show occurs when a team willfully does not show up at a game agreed to by the teams. Penalties for no-shows are as follows:

- \$300 fine
- A “no show” from the home team will result in the rescheduling of the game and the loss of home field.
- A “no show” from the away team will result in the rescheduling of the game and the away team paying for the field and referees for the rescheduled game.
- A report regarding all no shows will be sent to the League Office for possible further action. A team unable to attend a scheduled game because of an accident, weather or “Act of God” should immediately notify the opponent and the Tournament Coordinator. Each situation will be reviewed by the League Office,

which will render a decision.

## 1.14 – 2017-18 State Cup Championships Format

### League 1 (Champions League)

- Teams are seeded based on their League 1 standings.
- Top teams that are in NPLs (top from each club) and any other self-selected by club in 1st year
- Top 4 will be seeded in a Final Four group as follows:
- 1st plays 4th
- 2nd plays 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Winners advance to the Final. Semifinal losers play 3<sup>rd</sup> place match.
- Champion automatic bid to US Club Nationals
- Runner Up qualifies for US Club Regionals
- Note: These teams can also qualify for NPL post season through their NPL leagues
- So if same team qualifies then next team down gets bid.

### League 2 - Europa

- Top 4 teams from league seeded. Remaining teams in OPC Leagues are placed in each group by random draw.
- Round 1 winners will be placed in a "Gold" Division and continue with single elimination until a Gold State Champion is declared. Losers of Round 1 will be placed in a "Silver" Division and continue with single elimination until a Silver State Champion is declared.
- No post season regionals but players can Club Pass to the teams above.

## Section 2: Rosters

### 2.1 – Player Registration

All players shall be registered according to US Club Soccer rules.

### 2.2 OPC State Cup Official Team Roster

Each team must create their official OPC State Cup Roster on their team's GotSoccer online account. *Rosters will be capped at 26 players, and once frozen, teams may only use players off this 26-player roster. Roster freeze dates will be posted on the OPC State Cup Calendar.* These days may be adjusted due to scheduling of games so please check the State Cup website for exact dates.

### 2.3 – Game Roster

Only players who are listed on the official Game Card will be eligible to play in OPC State Cup matches. Player's names may not be handwritten on the OPC Game Card. If any player is not listed on the OPC Game Card, he/she must be added electronically to the roster before the player is eligible to play. Only 18 players for U13 and up, 16 players for U11-U12 and 14 players for U9-U10 may be used for OPC State Cup matches.

### 2.4 – US Club Soccer Player Pass

All players and coaches must present their US Club Player Identification Card to the referee prior to the match. If the individual picture is not on

the ID card and the card is not laminated, the individual will not be eligible for the match.

### **2.5 – Guest Players**

No Guest Players will be allowed.

### **2.6 – Illegal Players**

Any player who does not appear on the official OPC Game Card and have a valid US Club Soccer player pass issued by the same club shall be considered an illegal player.

Any team using an illegal player shall forfeit the game, the coach of the team using the illegal player will be suspended from the OPC League and all of it's events for one year, and the club of the illegal player will incur a \$500 fine.

### **2.7 – “Cup Tied”**

Players may only compete for one team per age group in the OPC State Cup. A club may place players on more than one 26-player team roster but players may not play on

two different teams in the same age group. A player may play up in an older age group while competing in their true age group. Once a player plays for a team in a specific age group that player is “Cup Tied” to that team in that age group. The player may not play for any other team in that age group for the remainder of the State Cup.

### **2.8 – Emergency Player Rule**

Teams that drop below 12 players for U13 and up, 10 players for U11-U12 and 8 players for U9-U10 may request, from the OPC, the ability to add uncup-tied players that were registered with their club prior to the roster freeze date, but were not on the State Cup roster. This rule may also be used to add a goalkeeper.

## **Section 3: Game Day Procedures**

### **3.1 - Pre-Game Procedures**

Home Team Responsibilities

- Contact away team to ensure proposed game time works for both teams
- Schedule and post agreed game time on the OPC website
- Provide properly lined field, properly sized goals and corner flags
- Provide and pay current year licensed USSF referees
- Provide OPC Game Card (with both teams rosters) to center referee
- Provide referee with current year US Club Soccer player passes for each player and team official.

Visiting team responsibilities:

- Provide referee US Club Soccer player passes for each player and team official
- Have a copy of official OPC Game Card if needed by center referee

### **3.2 - Game Day Procedures**

Each manager should have the following at every game

- OPC Game Card
- US Club Medical Release forms
- US Club Soccer roster of team
- US Club Soccer passes for its players and team officials

### **3.3 - Post-Game Procedure**

Home team Responsibilities:

- Coach or manager sign the game sheet following the game
- If no red card is given, the home team holds onto the game report until the end of the season
- If a red card is given, see red card procedure above – this requires immediate action from the center referee and manager
- Post score within 24 hours
- Fill out OPC Game Report

online Visiting team responsibilities:

- Coach or manager must sign the game sheet following the game
- Fill out OPC Game Report online

### **3.4 - Personnel on the bench**

A maximum of 3 team officials are allowed in each team's technical area. Team officials must have a US Club pass in order to sit in the technical area. It is recommended that teams have several credentialed coaches or managers with passes for the team just in case something happens to the head coach. A US Club pass makes a person eligible to coach any team in the club for which that coach or manager is credentialed.

### **3.5 - Score reports**

The home team will post the score on the OPC website within 24 hours of the game. The home team will keep and file the game card for possible future reference.

### **3.6 - Game Card**

Both teams must have a copy of the OPC Game Card. The home team will supply the Game Card to the match officials before the match. The away team should have a copy of the Game Card in case it is needed. Following the match, the Officials and each coach need to sign the Game Card. The home team will keep and file the Game Card for future reference.

### **3.7 – Jersey Conflict**

If there is a conflict in jersey colors, it is the home team's responsibility to change colors. OPC encourages home teams to wear their dark color uniforms and away teams to wear their light color uniforms.

## **Section 4: Fines**

### **5.1 - Fines**

- Team dropping from event after schedules posted - \$250 per team. In addition, could forfeit registration fee as well.
- Forfeits, no-shows or Cancellations less than 96 hours notice - \$300
  - o Game will still need to be played.

All fines are imposed and collected by OPC.

## New Club Membership



## **Club Admittance**

### **Criteria**

Individual teams will not be considered for OPC membership. New potential club would need to meet the following criteria as evaluated and agreed to by all founding members:

- 1) Player development philosophy
- 2) Quality of facilities
- 3) Size of club, quality of Competitive teams and Juniors program
- 4) Quality of leadership and coaching staff
- 5) Administrative capabilities
- 6) Club structure, vision and philosophy
- 7) Geographic consideration and associated impact to current OPC clubs

### **Process**

Interested clubs should apply on line. The OPC Board will evaluate the applications based on a posted deadline for clubs each season. All new members must be unanimously approved by the OPC Board.