

Oklahoma Premier Clubs

Club Handbook – 2017/18 Season



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 quality fields for game us and preferably one field/5 time slots for every 8 teams.

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 20 National Premier Leagues (NPLs), Club and Team based Regional and National Competition platforms that have now elevated to major national prominence in our country. One of the attractions of the US Club model is that it is a more club-driven environment where decisions are made based on player development as the priority over administrative or political reasons.

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. We are also seeing an increase in coach education initiatives from the clubs and US Club Soccer (i.e. La Liga Certification Methodology) of which you will see this area as a focus amongst the OPC clubs.

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 are excited to bring the OPC platform to you, our members, and most importantly, our players. We look forward to an exciting 2017-18 seasonal year!

Thank you, OPC Board

Don Rother, Oklahoma Celtic

Alex Miranda, NEOFC

Brandon Lawless, SLSC

Roger Bush, WSA

Jim Tindell, TSC Hurricane

OPC Mission

The mission of the OPC is to provide innovative, player-centered programming with a constant focus on raising standards and enhancing the player experience in all aspects of the game.

OPC Guiding Principles

Collaboration

We collaborate and unify our soccer community to raise the game

Fun

We celebrate soccer and take fun seriously!

Innovation

Through player-centered programming
A constant focus on raising standards in all aspects of the game

Respect for Diversity

Through unique member clubs
Diverse styles, systems and structures: unified vision and philosophy

Development

Through the daily environment
Coaching development, club development, referee development, player development

Excellence

Across the youth experience
The OPC look, feel and experience

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.

1.1 – 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.

1.3 - 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 for development or 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. There is a maximum of 3 players allowed to CPP for any given match.

1.4 - Team Management

Each team must have a team manager that handles the following responsibilities: scheduling games, 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 that is accessible.

1.5 - 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.

Play up requests and approvals should be submitted through the respective 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 email 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. PrimeTime will attempt to not schedule matches before 10 AM if a team is required to travel more than one hour.

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/team 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 – Rescheduled 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. *Teams must complete reschedule form within 10 calendar days of scheduled game and follow reschedule policy as set forth by PrimeTime.*

2.5 – Rain Outs/Weather Cancellations

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 2 weeks (meaning a rescheduled date is selected). If it is a wide-spread rain out these will be handled by PrimeTime and rescheduled date(s) will be communicated and most likely rescheduled on a published Rain Date.

2.6 - Cancellation/Forfeit Policy

All scheduled games must be played by the season end date as announced by the OPC. 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 – A minimum of 4 Blackout Days (2 weekends) each season are allowed per team to help schedule around tournaments avoiding league reschedules. Blackout dates for OPC club approved tournaments (listed on OPC site) do NOT need to be used as these tournaments are built into the OPC Master Calendar and no regular league matches are scheduled. Blackout dates should be used for all other events outside of OPC.

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 by PrimeTime through each home club's assignor. PrimeTime will also pay the referees directly so there is no need for teams to bring referee pay. Each club is required to have a current year certified USSF Referee Assignor.

Section 4: League Discipline

4.1 - Violating League Rules

The OPC G&D Committee and/or 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 OPC Commissioner, who will then refer it to the OPC Board. Any incidents or breach of the OPC Code of Ethics should be reported through the Board. 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. Any player used during a suspension will be considered an illegal player and the team, coach and club will be punished accordingly.

All game suspensions served shall be noted on the GameCard and verified by the referee.

4.4 - Red Card Procedure

In any game where a Red Card is issued, the referee must note the GameCard and complete the MisConduct Report on line at OKPremierClubs.com. The Home team must also enter the red and yellow cards when they enter the score into GotSoccer. 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. Players serving a game suspension must be noted on the GameCard and initialed by the referee. The GameCards are uploaded on the on-line Post Game Report found on OKPremierClubs.com.

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. Please note the player serving the suspension on the GameCard and have the center referee initial.

Minor Offenses – These include send offs for normal soccer actions, 2nd yellow cards, etc.

Minor offenses will be given suspensions for a number of games within the competition that the red card was received in.

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. These will be reviewed by the League Commissioner.

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

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. *Home team should wear light uniforms while the away team wears dark 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. (This is a FIFA Policy).

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 OPC 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. Most Points
2. If Two Teams are tied, head to head. If more than Two Teams are tied, this tie- breaker shall not apply.
3. Goal Difference
4. Goals For
5. Goals Against
6. Coin Toss

1.4 - Game Details

Age	Game Length	# of Players	Roster Size*	Field Length	Field Width	Ball Size	# of Referees
U8**	4x10 min 5 min half	4v4	12	*Min 30 Max	*Min 20 Max 30	3	1
U9-U10	2x25 min 5 min half	7v7 (min = 5)	14	*Min 47 yrd Max 60 yrd	*Min 30 yrd Max 40 yrd	4	3
U11-U12	2x30 min 5 min half	9v9 (min = 6)	16	*Min 70 yrd Max 80 yrd	*Min 40 yrd Max 50 yrd	4	3
U13	2x35 min 10 min half	11v11 (min = 7)	18	Min 100 yrd Max 120	Min 55 yrd Max 80 yrd	5	3
U14-U16	2x40 min 10 min half	11v11 (min = 7)	18	Min 100 yrd Max 120	Min 55 yrd Max 80 yrd	5	3
U17- Adult	2x45 min 10 min half	11v11 (min = 7)	18	Min 100 yrd Max 120	Min 55 yrd Max 80 yrd	5	3

*Game Day roster size. 11v11 teams may have up to 26 rostered players/9v9 – 18.

** 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. *(Future OPC Programming).*

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 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 Club 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 team with possession
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.

**For U12 and below, substitutions may occur at any game stoppage.*

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 *(All League Matches will end in Ties for 2017-18)*

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.

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 an 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. Two no-shows *may* result in the offending team being terminated 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 League Commissioner, who will rule on the situation or forward to the OPC Board if needed.

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 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.

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 and Club Player Pass Rule

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.

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 for development or 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. There is a maximum of 3 players allowed to CPP for any given 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 Commissioner 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 a period determined by OPC Board, and the team of the illegal player will incur a \$500 fine.

2.7 – Trap Player Rule

Players who are U20 and also high school seniors may be rostered on a U19 team for OPC/NPL league play. However, these players may not be eligible for US Club Regional and National competitions. (See US Club post season competition roster rules.)

Section 3: Game Day Procedures

3.1 - Pre-Game Procedures

Home Team Responsibilities

- Provide properly lined field
- Provide licensed USSF referees
- 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

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 a red card is given, enter the red card (and yellow cards) when entering the score into Gotsoccer

- Post score within 24 hours
- Complete on-line Post Game Report

Visiting team responsibilities:

- Coach or manager 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 4 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 completes the on-line Post Game Report which includes uploading the GameCard 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. ***Please note any player serving a red card game suspension and have the referee initial.***

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 light colors, while away teams wear dark colors.

3.8 – Additional Instructions for Juniors Divisions (Future programming)

1. Players playing in the Juniors Division may be registered with US Club via the Super Rec Registration form.
2. You will not need player passes for the games.
3. All teams will bring a 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 over 20 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 River Valley) are awarded a spot in the US Club National Premier League National Playoffs.

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

- See NPL Rules

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.

1.7 – No re-entry Protocol

See NPL Rules

1.8 – Health Care Professional

See NPL Rules

1.9 - Substitutions

See NPL Rules

1.10 - Incomplete Games

See NPL Rules

1.11 No-Shows/Forfeits

See NPL Rules

1.12 Protests

See NPL Rules

Section 2: Rosters

**2.1 - Personnel on the
Bench**

See NPL Rules

2.2 - Game Roster

See NPL Rules

2.3 - Eligibility

See NPL Rules

2.4 - Guest Players

No Guest Players will be allowed.

2.5 - Illegal Players

See NPL Rules

2.6 - In Season Transfers

See NPL Rules

Section 3: Game Day Procedures

3.1 - Pre-Game Procedures

See NPL Rules

3.2 - Game Day Procedures

See NPL Rules

Required Pre-Game Procedure

See NPL Rules

3.3 - Post-Game Procedures

See NPL Rules

3.4 – Jersey Conflict

See NPL Rules

Section 4: Club Bond, Fines, and Penalties

4.1 - Fines

See NPL Rules

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 3 points for a win, one point for a tie & 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 2nd place and 3rd place team are tied best record vs. 1st 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 Length	# of Players	Roster Size	Field Length	Field Width	Ball Size	# of Referees
U9-U10*	2x25 min 5	7v7 (min = 5)	14	*Min 47 yrd Max 60 yrd	*Min 30 yrd Max 40 yrd	4	3
U11-U12	2x30 min 5	9v9 (min = 6)	16	*Min 70 yrd Max 80 yrd	*Min 40 yrd Max 50 yrd	4	3
U13	2x35 min 10 min	11v11 (min = 7)	22	Min 100 yrd Max 120	Min 55 yrd Max 80 yrd	5	3
U14-U16	2x40 min 10 min	11v11 (min = 7)	22	Min 100 yrd Max 120	Min 55 yrd Max 80 yrd	5	3
U17-U19	2x45 min 10 min	11v11 (min = 7)	22	Min 100 yrd Max 120	Min 55 yrd Max 80 yrd	5	3
Adult*	2x45 min 10 min	11v11 (min = 7)	26	Min 100 yrd Max 120	Min 55 yrd Max 80 yrd	5	3

*Potential Future programming

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 State Cup 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 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 OPCI 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

U15 and up No-Re-entry in a single half.

U13-14 Unlimited substitutions are allowed but OPC reminds all coaches to handle substitutions in a professional manner so as not to detract from the game.

U11-12 Substitutions are allowed during any stoppage of play.

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 State Cup)

- 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 3rd
 - Winners advance to the Final. Semifinal losers play 3rd 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 – Gold and Silver State Cup

- Top 4 teams from league seeded. Remaining teams in OPC Leagues are ranked based on league standings.
- 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.
- Gold – Qualifies for US Club Regionals (Optional)
- Silver - 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 its 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

- 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
- Tournament Committee will post score

Visiting team responsibilities:

- Coach or manager must sign the game sheet following the game

3.4 - Personnel on the bench

A maximum of 4 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 Tournament Committee will post the score on the OPC website within 24 hours of the game.

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 light color uniforms and away teams to wear their dark 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.