

GBYSL Select

Handbook

2023-2024 Season



A US Club Soccer Sanctioned League



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GBYSL Select Mission

We strive to elevate soccer in our community by providing a fair place to play, learn, and have fun.

GBYSL Select Values

Collaboration

We collaborate with our soccer community to make the best decisions.

Passion

We celebrate soccer and all that it offers to players, coaches, officials, and fans.

Impact

We make a meaningful difference.

Integrity

We strive to do what's right.

Competition

We believe that healthy competition is essential to progress.

Education

We are committed to bringing learning and development tools to players, coaches, and referees.

Guided by our Mission and Core Values, GBYSL Select's purpose is to set the highest standards in-order to provide players and coaches the opportunity to compete against the region's best club and independent teams in a single league featuring multiple age groups with divisions and brackets for various levels of play.

Membership in GBYSL Select is considered to be an automatic acceptance of our rules, policies, and procedures. Our competitions are governed by regulations approved by the League Committee and written in this handbook. The League Committee shall rule on all disputes and issues pertaining to GBYSL Select competitions. The League Committee may overrule stated rules, policies, or procedures in this handbook if it is determined to be for the good of the game. Additionally, all participants in GBYSL Select events are members of US Club Soccer and, therefore, must adhere faithfully, both to the letter and to the spirit, of US Club Soccer's stated bylaws, rules, and policies.

GBYSL Select's Handbook and Code of Ethics must be adhered to at all times by all teams within a GBYSL Select Member Club, regardless of the specific league a team may participate in. When GBYSL Select's rules and policies are in direct conflict with the rules of another league or governing body, GBYSL Select may be restricted from implementing certain rules.

Definitions

As used herein, the following terms shall have the following definitions:

Adult: Any Coach, Director of Coaching, Trainer, Manager, Official, (Team) Parent, or other individual 18 years of age or older affiliated with a Club and having access to a Player, the Player's parents, or the Player's contact information that is not available publicly.

Club: Any entity (such as a Club or academy) admitted as a member of GBYSL Select.

Coach: Any individual engaged in Coaching or training Players on behalf of a Club, whether in a paid or voluntary, permanent, or temporary capacity.

Director of Coaching: Any individual employed by or volunteering for a Club as a Director of Coaching, Executive Director, Technical Director, General Manager, or as an assistant to any of the above-listed roles and all Adults filling similar roles regardless of title. The Director of Coaching is responsible for having oversight of each team in their Club and for each team's involvement in GBYSL Select.

Field or Facility: Any Facility or Field used by a Club to conduct tryouts, Training Sessions, or games (other than tournament games).

League Committee: Any individual employed by or volunteering in any capacity for GBYSL Select, including, but not limited to, employees, staff, and committees.

Player: Any Player holding a valid Player pass from US Club Soccer and currently playing for a GBYSL Select Team/Club.

Recruiting:

- Outside the NorCal Region 6/GBYSL Select Tryout Window: "Recruiting" refers to making any contact or communication with a Player who is registered with another GBYSL Select Club, in which the Player is asked or allowed to join a Club, attend a tryout or Club training session, or play or guest play for another Club, without first receiving permission from the Director of Coaching of the Player's Club.
- Inside the NorCal Region 6/GBYSL Select Tryout Window: "Recruiting" refers to making an initial or first contact or communication with a Player who is registered with another GBYSL Select Club, in which the Player is asked or allowed to join a Club, attend a tryout or Club training session, or guest play for another Club, without first receiving permission from the Director of Coaching of the Player's Club.

Referee: Any Referee licensed by the United States Soccer Federation for the current year.

Training Session: Any Club sanctioned or private training session or practice.

Code of Ethics

As a GBYSL Select Member, your adherence to the Code of Ethics signals your commitment to adhering to the basic laws of the organization and thus upholding the basic moral standards of the soccer community at large.

For All Members

- A. Know, respect, and follow the letter and spirit of the [Laws of the Game](#).
- B. Treat others with respect and courtesy.
- C. Treat all Match Officials with respect at all times - pre-game, during the game, and post-game.
- D. Adhere to the rules and policies of GBYSL Select, [US Club Soccer](#), and [US Soccer](#).
- E. Recognize the rights, dignity, and worth of all – regardless of gender, ability, cultural background, or religion.

For Clubs

- A. Require sportsmanlike conduct at all times.
- B. Required to provide a safe playing environment.
- C. Address issues with other Clubs in a professional and timely manner.
- D. Ensure that all Adults and Players in your Club are familiar with the rules and expectations of GBYSL Select.
- E. Respect the Facilities used by other Clubs.
- F. Actively uphold the Recruiting, Tryouts, and Player Transfer Policies (see Section 4)

For Coaches

- A. Place your Players' physical, mental, and emotional development and well-being ahead of all else.
- B. Continuously seek education on sound Coaching techniques.
- C. Model and teach good sporting behavior.
- D. Coaches are held responsible for the actions of their team's spectators.

For Players

- A. Participate for your own enjoyment and development.
- B. Take responsibility for your sportsmanship and conduct.

Section 1 - Club Policies and Administration

1.1 - Club Definition

In order for a Club to be considered a member of GBYSL Select, the following conditions must be satisfied:

1. All teams participating in GBYSL Select must have a common Club name, logo, and uniform (which should be unique to their Club) and should practice/play games in the same geographical area of operation.
2. All teams participating in GBYSL Select must operate under a single technical structure/plan and report to a single Director of Coaching.
3. All Players participating in GBYSL Select must be registered under a single US Club Soccer sanctioned Club.

**Independent teams shall be considered a Club*

1.2 - Required Club Contacts

Each Club's GotSport account must be kept up to date with the correct contact information. Please remember that this is the primary method by which GBYSL Select communicates with your Club. Failing to have the correct contact information may result in your Club missing vital league communication. Each Club shall maintain the following contacts with a current email address:

1. Coaching/Technical Director (previously called DOC) AND/OR Executive Director (Head Coach for independent teams)
2. Registrar (Manager for Independent teams)
3. President (Head Coach for independent teams)

1.3 - Home Field

Clubs should have at least one game-quality Field (5-time slots) per eight teams. Teams may ask that they play all away games. In the event of a complaint about the quality of a Field, the League Committee shall determine if a Field is game quality.

1.4 - Club Pass Rule (Club "Guest Player")

Each US Club Soccer Player pass can be used for any age-appropriate team in the issuing Club. Thus, Players can move up and down within their Club, allowing individual teams to make changes from game to game due to illness, injury, vacation, or other conflicts for a maximum of 4 players.

It is considered unethical for teams to move Players to teams in a lower-level division within the same Club to create a competitive advantage. If it is determined by GBYSL Select that a Club has moved Players into a lower-level division to create a competitive advantage, and this has impacted the integrity of the competition, a sanction may be imposed against the Team and/or Club. This could include but may not be limited to the game being declared a forfeit.

Section 2 - Team Policies and Administration

2.1 - Team Management

To compete in GBYSL Select, each team must have at least one team manager whose duties may include but are not limited to scheduling games, payments, travel arrangements, reporting of scores, and communication with appropriate league officials. All team managers must have access to a current email address that is checked daily, and a telephone number connected to a 24-hour answering system during the season.

2.2 - Communication

Communication between teams is essential for GBYSL Select. Teams must have at least two different contacts listed on their GotSport page (Manager and Coach) and ensure that both contacts have a current email address and phone number listed. All team scheduling communication must be done through the GotSport [chat system](#) to have a 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 and may result in a fine if a forfeit or no-show occurs.

Please contact the League Committee for assistance if team communication breaks down.

2.3 - Match Scheduling

GBYSL Select will provide dates for all matches and scheduling deadlines. *Teams are expected to be available to play any time on the game dates provided with the following exceptions:*

- Schedule games before 10 AM if a team is required to travel more than one hour.
- Scheduled games for older ages (U15 and up) before 3 pm on SAT/ACT test dates.

All games must be scheduled (time and location) by the deadline provided by GBYSL Select. Teams unwilling or unable to attend games will forfeit the game. Any unplayed games will be documented by league officials and may result in a Club being removed from GBYSL Select.

Please Note - If the GBYSL Committee 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.

There is a 15-minute grace period for kick-off if a team arrives late. GBYSL encourages games to be completed, but a late-game start should not impact the subsequent scheduled game(s). If it is necessary for a game to be shortened due to a late start, both teams and the Referee shall agree on having two equal shortened halves.

2.4 - Rescheduling Games/Rainouts

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

Game reschedules must be requested at least two weeks prior to the scheduled match. Failure to do so can result in a forfeit.

In the event of a forced reschedule (i.e., rainout), the home team must reschedule the match. All

weather related and/or “Acts of God” variables must be rescheduled within one week of the original match date.

An air quality (AQI) through the website, Purple Air at purpleair.com of 125 or higher will constitute an automatic cancellation and/or rescheduling of all matches and practice sessions.

2.5 - Cancellation/Forfeit Policy

Teams must give their opponent a 96-hour warning if forfeiting any match, or they must pay Field and Referee costs.

1. **Forfeit** - 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 for the team, not at fault. The forfeiting team will be fined \$400 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 or “Act of God” should immediately notify the opponent and the League Committee. The League Committee will review and rule on the situation in these circumstances.
2. **No-Show** - A no-show occurs when a team willfully does not attend a game agreed to by the teams. The penalty for a no-show shall be a forfeit to the opposing team with a 0-3 score and a fine of \$400 imposed on the team. Any no-show from a team may result in the offending team being removed from the competition by the League Office.
 - a. A no-show from the home team will result in the rescheduling of the game and the loss of the home Field.
 - b. 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.
 - c. A no-show at a GBYSL Select match will result in a \$400 fine.

The following is a list of common excuses teams cite for wanting to reschedule or cancel a game. These are not valid rationales to reschedule or cancel a game after the scheduling deadline and may result in a forfeit or re-assigning the home team by the League Office. We recommend the following solutions to frequently posed problems.

1. 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 the correct age. In league matches, please use lower team Players or Players from younger teams within your Club to fill out your roster.
2. Missing Coach - Any Adult with a valid pass for your Club can Coach any team in that Club. If your Coach has several commitments, teams should have an assistant Coach or another Adult from the Club available to cover games.
3. Tournaments/other games – GBYSL Select understands that teams may play in a tournament during the league. Please plan your schedule well in advance so your schedule does not become so full that you cannot fulfill your league commitment.

2.6 - Fines

GBYSL Select may impose the following fines:

1. A team drops out of the league after the final brackets are posted: \$250
2. Illegal Player: \$500
3. A team drops out of the league after 1st game is played: \$100 per game missed.
4. No-show/Forfeit within 96 hours of a scheduled game: \$400

5. Any Club/Team that does not complete payment within 60 days will be subject to a late fee of 15% (club payment only)

2.7 - Play-Up Guidelines

For teams who wish to request to play up an age group, GBYSL Select will use the following criteria to determine if a team needs to play up:

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

Play-up requests (registrations) must be submitted by the published deadline. GBYSL Select has the final say on all play-up decisions.

Section 3 - League Discipline

3.1 - Violation of League Rules

The GBYSL Select Protest, Appeals, and Discipline Committee (“PAD”) and the GBYSL Select Committee shall have the authority to suspend, fine, disqualify or otherwise impose sanctions on Players, team officials, or competing Clubs for violating GBYSL Select Rules, Policies & Code of Ethics, or for any action or conduct not in the best interest of soccer or GBYSL Select.

Repeated violations may result in stricter penalties up to and including expulsion from GBYSL Select. Violating decisions of the PAD Committee will also result in a stricter penalty.

Incidents that involve mass confrontations, spectators entering the field of play, Coaches entering the field of play without a Referee’s permission, and/or other behavior deemed sufficiently severe to warrant further review will be the subject of a PAD Committee Hearing. Clubs involved in such incidents are expected to timely respond to requests for information from the PAD Committee. A Club representative with insight or background on the incident and someone who was present at the incident must attend the hearing. After the hearing, the PAD Committee will issue a decision outlining any resulting penalties.

3.2 - Red Cards

If a Red Card is shown, it will result in a minimum of one (1) game suspension. This includes a Red Card as a result of two cautions. If a Player is sent off during the weekend, they may not play in any GBYSL Select match for the remainder of the weekend. Games on the same weekend the card was issued will count against the suspension. Any Player used during a suspension will be considered an illegal Player, and the team, Coach, and Club will be punished accordingly.

3.3 - Reporting Process

1. Any breach of GBYSL Select Rules outlined in this Handbook should be reported to the League Office. Any incidents or breaches of the GBYSL Select Rules, Policies & Code of Ethics should be reported to the GBYSL Committee. All reports of violations may only be reported by a Club’s Director of Coaching, President, Head Coach (for Independent Teams), or a Match Official (for games that they officiated)
2. In any game where a Red Card is issued, the Referee must complete a Report within 24 hours.
3. The Referee report must show the infraction, the Player’s name, and ID number.

3.4 - Suspensions

It is the team’s and/or Club’s responsibility to ensure their Red Carded Player/Coach serves the minimum 1-game suspension. They are also responsible for ensuring that their Player/Coach serves any additional suspension determined by the GBYSL Committee.

There shall be two types of suspensions:

1. Minor Offenses include send-offs for normal soccer actions, 2nd yellow cards, etc. Minor offenses will be given suspensions for a number of games.
2. Major Offenses include send-offs for violent actions. Major offenses will incur suspension for an amount of time.

Suspensions for both minor and major offenses, for both Players and Coaches, shall be served immediately in upcoming GBYSL Select matches. The Player/Coach shall serve the suspension with the

team with which the violation occurred. Players may not compete for another team in their Club in GBYSL Select matches until their suspension is served in full. However, Coaches may Coach another team in their Club during their suspension but must serve their suspension in full, with the team with whom the violation occurred only if the suspension is a fixed number of games (as opposed to a period of time). A suspended Coach may not have any contact with their team for 1 hour prior to kick-off and until after the game is completed.

The GBYSL Select Committee has the ability to postpone or re-allocate suspensions in the best interests of the game and the integrity of the competition. Forfeits do not count toward suspensions being served.

Suspension Tables

A Player or Coach shall be dismissed and may incur additional suspensions if they commit any of the offenses described in the tables below. Where a Player or Coach is dismissed by a Referee, the following range of suspensions will be applied. The PAD Committee reviewing the case may, based on the weight of evidence presented, impose further sanctions on the Player, Coach or Club, as described above.

In the case of an alleged referee assault, the Player or Coach will be indefinitely suspended for all USSF, GBYSL Select and US Club affiliated games pending final sanction determination by US Club Soccer.

PLAYER SUSPENSION TABLE

Name/Description of Misconduct	Suspension Length	Considerations	Commentary/ Examples
Serious Foul Play	Two games		Plays on or around the ball that occur within the flow of the game such as slide tackling from behind with disregard for safety of the opposing player and high tackles.
Violent Conduct	Two games		Violent Conduct often takes place away from the ball or when the game is stopped.
Striking or trying to strike an opponent in the face or above the shoulder area.	Two games		For example, elbowing a Player in the face.
Severity of the injuries that the sent off player caused to the opponent.	Three games		Fouls with such excessive force that a bone is clearly broken.
Spitting at an opponent or any other person.	Three games		
Denying Obvious Goal-Scoring Opportunity to Opponent Moving Towards Goal by Offense Punishable with Free Kick or Penalty Kick.	One game		

Denying Obvious Goal-Scoring Opportunity by Deliberately Handling Ball.	One game		
Using Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language towards oneself or as an outburst.	One game		Cussing at oneself for making a mistake.
Using Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language towards an opponent or any other person.	Two games		Directing offensive, insulting or abusive language (cussing, but not a racial slur) towards any other person (teammate, opponent, Referee, Coach or spectator).
Using Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language towards an opponent or any other person after being dismissed.	Two games		
Using a racial slur towards an opponent or any other person.	Three games		Directing a racial slur at any other person (teammate, opponent, Referee, Coach or spectator).
Using racial slur language towards an opponent or any other person after being dismissed.	Three games		
Approaching the referee crew after the conclusion of the match to insult the referees.	Three games		
Approaching the referee in an aggressive manner and having to be restrained by teammates.	Three games		
Instigating and challenging the opponents to fight.	Three games		Assessed to an individual who starts a fight, whether a mass confrontation ensues or not.
Contribution towards mass confrontation.	Two games		Additional suspensions will be levied for being a player (3rd, 4th, 5th, etc.) who joins into an altercation.
Making threatening remarks towards an opponent or any other person after being dismissed.	Three games		This includes challenging or attempting to provoke a violent confrontation, threatening to meet someone in the parking lot or after the game.
Receiving Second Caution in Same Match.	One game		
Prior red cards within the previous 12 months.	One to two games	Factors considered include: the length of time from previous send-offs, the severity of the previous and current send-off,	

		the total number of send-offs a player has accumulated.	
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COACH SUSPENSION TABLE

Name/Description of Misconduct	Suspension Length	Considerations	Commentary/Examples
Irresponsible Behavior	Two games	Referee has exhausted the ask, tell, dismiss protocol (except that the severity of the behavior may eliminate the need to follow the protocol.)	Continuous questioning of the Referee's decision.
Excessive disrespect towards the referee crew by using Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language	Two games		
Instructing players to injure opponents	Three games		Comments can include "put him under," "break his arm/leg," "hit them harder," "foul them".
Failure to control the behavior of players	Two games		For example, failing to act to prevent a mass confrontation or fight, failing to stop repeated offenses by the same player.
Failure to control the behavior of the spectators	Two games		Asked to assist by a match official and failing to assist that official in controlling a team's spectators.
Entering the field without the permission of the referee	Two games		For example, entering the field to argue a call or participate in a physical confrontation.
Prior red cards within the previous 12 months	One to two games	Factors considered include: the length of time from previous send-offs, the severity of the previous and current send-off, the total number of send-offs a Coach has accumulated.	
Not leaving the area when asked by the referee after the dismissal.	Two games		Sent-off individuals need to entirely vacate the premises - they must go far enough that they cannot be seen or heard or have any effect upon the match.
Aggressive and/or threatening behavior towards the referee after dismissal.	Three games		

Coaching and instructing players after the dismissal.	Two games		This includes providing instruction to the replacement coach by phone or text as well as sitting with spectators and coaching from that location.
Returning after being dismissed and confronting the referee crew.	Three games		
Coaching while suspended.	Three games		This includes sending instruction or direction by phone or text, coaching from the spectator area, and participating in the warm-up, or pre-game or halftime talks. If coaching while suspended, the game in which the coach was coaching will not count towards fulfillment of the suspension.

PAD Disciplinary Matrix

3.5 - Suspension Appeals

1. Clubs may appeal the suspension length for any suspension given to a Coach or Player.
2. Coach and Player suspensions may be put on hold pending a filed appeal.
3. Suspension appeals must be received before 10 am on Friday.

3.6 - Clearing a Suspended Player or Coach

GotSport will automatically clear and confirm that suspensions have been served. Players and coaches do not need to be present at games used to serve a suspension.

3.7 - Pending Legal Action

For any matter with an open criminal investigation or a pending civil lawsuit, the GBYSL Select Committee will stay any ruling until the criminal and/or civil cases are resolved. However, GBYSL Select retains the right to suspend an individual indefinitely if the GBYSL Select Committee or Board of Directors believes that an indefinite suspension is in the best interests of the game and or the safety of the participants.

3.8 - Use of Video in Disciplinary Proceedings

The standard when using video as evidence in PAD investigations or appeals is that the evidence is clear and convincing. When sending the GBYSL Select Committee video for an appeal, the entire video and time marks for the incident in question will be required. If the video is edited in any way, it will not be reviewed.

Section 4 - Recruiting, Tryouts, and Player Transfers

4.1 - Open Tryout Window

1. The period when any Player, regardless of Club affiliation, may try out with any Club without requiring permission from their current Club DOC. The Tryout Window applies to all teams within all GBYSL Select/US Club member Clubs.
2. The Open Tryout Window shall start concurrently with NorCal Region 6 tryout dates.

4.2 - Winter Recreational Tryout Window

1. Period for Clubs to hold open tryouts to add Players not currently registered with a competitive team in GBYSL Select (in any league). This is to ensure that Clubs can continue to provide a pathway from recreational soccer to competitive Club soccer at the end of a Player's typical recreational season.
2. The Winter Recreational Tryout Window shall open on the first Monday of November and remain open through the first weekend of February.
3. Competitive Players currently registered in other GBYSL Select Clubs are not permitted to attend a tryout at this time. The only time that this is permitted is during the Open Tryout Window. All marketing for a Club's Winter Recreational Tryout should include language to reflect this.

4.4 - Recruiting

1. All rules pertaining to Recruiting shall be strictly observed by all Adults as well as all official and unofficial team representatives. Unofficial team representatives include all parents of Players.
2. Adults must never encourage Players or other Adults to violate GBYSL Select/NorCal recruitment, eligibility, or other rules and policies.
3. Adults shall not attempt to entice a team or Player to leave a Club to come to another Club.
4. It is unethical for a Team or groups of Players to be Recruited from one Club to another Club by an Adult working in the Team's present Club, an Adult from another Club, or any Adult or representative from inside or outside the Club.
5. Inviting a Player to guest play without first submitting the proper US Club Guest Player Form shall be considered Recruiting.
6. It is unethical for a Player to be recruited from any outside program, including but not limited to PDP, IDP, ODP, High School, or the US Soccer Training Center, either by a Coach working for such program or any other Adult, Player, parent, or Official present at said event.
7. It is inappropriate to Recruit Player(s) unless the Director of Coaching of the Player's current Club provides written permission in advance of the initial approach to the Player. If a Player or parent of a Player initiates contact with any Adults of another Club expressing intent to move to that Adult's Club, it is the responsibility of that Adult or the Adult's Director of Coaching to inform the Director of Coaching of the Player's current Club.
8. When discussing the advantages of his/her Club with a Player or a Player's parent, the Adult has an obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other Adults, Teams, and Clubs.
9. It is unethical for any Adult to make a statement to a prospective Player which cannot be fulfilled, illegal to promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play, and immoral to deliver the same.

10. It is unethical for adults to attend Tryouts for other Clubs for the purpose of promotion or recruitment unless invited by the Club conducting the Tryout in writing or to have Players attend Tryouts at other Clubs to Recruit Players from the Club conducting the Tryout.
11. Clubs will not accept any Player or Team from any other Club if that Player or Team has outstanding fees with another Club or League. Unpaid fees shall include fees for services already rendered and shall not include, by way of illustration, fees for services not rendered, reimbursement for scholarships given, or penalties.
12. In accordance with US Club Soccer policy, Clubs will release Players who request their release from the Club.

Section 5 - General Competition Rules

5.1 - Playing Rules

All games under league jurisdiction shall be played according to the rules and regulations recognized by the GBYSL Select, which shall be the same rules set by FIFA/U.S. Soccer (USSF) except for those exceptions authorized by FIFA or USSF.

5.2 - Equipment

1. Player Uniforms

Opponents must wear colors that distinguish them from each other, and also the Referee and the assistant Referees. It is recommended that the home team wears 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).

- a. If there is a conflict in the uniform color, the home team shall change uniforms.
- b. Player numbers must be affixed to the back of the uniform shirt. Each Player on a team shall wear a unique number.
- c. If undershirts or shorts are worn, they must match the jersey's or shorts' primary color. 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.

2. Safety

A Player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to themselves or another Player.

- a. **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.
- b. **Jewelry** - Absolutely no jewelry, including rings, chains, watches, jewelry, hair clips, bobby pins, earrings, bracelets, rubber bracelets, or excessively long fingernails, may be worn while participating in any GBYSL Select matches. 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.
- c. **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.
- d. **Braces** (e.g., knee, elbow) - For the safety of the Player, it is strongly recommended that a Player does not wear a brace during GBYSL Select matches. 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 adequately 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.
- e. **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.

5.3 - Game Details

	U9-U10†	U11	U12	U13-U14	U15	U16-U19
Field Size (yds)	55/65 L 35/45 W *	70/80 L 45/55 W	70/80 L 45/55 W *	100/120 L 50/80 W	100/120 L 50/80 W	100/120 L 55/80 W

Number of Refs	3	3	3	3	3	4
Number of Players	7v7	9v9	9v9	11v11	11v11	11v11
Minimum # of Players	5	6	6	7	7	7
Goalkeeper	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Playing Time	2x25	2x30	2x30	2x35	2x40	2x45
Half-Time	5 mins	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins
Ball Size	4	4	4	5	5	5
Goal Size (ft)	6.5x18.5-7x21	6.5x18.5-7x21	6.5x18.5-7x21	8x24	8x24	8x24
Offside	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fouls (free kicks) and Substitutions	Indirect & Direct Free Kicks					
Free Kick clearance	8 yd	8 yd	8 yd	10 yd	10 yd	10 yd
Throw-in	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Penalty Kicks	Yes (mark at 10 yds)	Yes (mark at 10 yds)	Yes (mark at 10 yds)	Yes (mark at 12 yds)	Yes (mark at 12 yds)	Yes (mark at 12 yds)
Penalty Area (yds)	12x24	14x36	14x36	18 x 44	18 x 44	18 x 44
Goal Area (yards)	4x8	5x16	5x16	6 x 20	6 x 20	6 x 20
Heading	Not Allowed		As per the Laws of the Game			
Build-Out Line	Yes	None				

†[US Soccer Player Development Initiatives](#)

* Use of cones for lines allowed

5.4 - Match Officials

Match officials must be current-year USSF licensed Referees. The match officials shall consist of the Referee and two assistant Referees. U13-U16 age groups (non-NPL) may use one Referee and two Club Linesmen, or one Referee, one Assistant Referee, and one Club Linesman. A dual referee crew may be

used if a third referee is not available. All 11v11 games must have a Primary and 2 Referees/2 Guest Referees (1 from each team).

5.5 - Assignment of Match Officials

Match officials shall be assigned and paid by GBYSL Select each match.

5.6 - 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 match card. Protests regarding using illegal Players may be made before or after the match and be clearly written on the match card. Specific Referee decisions cannot be protested. All protested games should be sent to the League Committee.

5.7 - Point System

All GBYSL Select matches shall operate under a point system. The point system shall award three points for a win, one point for a tie, one point for a shut out, and no points for a loss.

5.8 - League Standings

Official standings of teams, the keeping of which is the responsibility of GBYSL Select, are tabulated based upon the input of the referees at the end of each match and displayed on the "Game Schedule" section of the GBYSL website.

5.9 - Ties

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

5.10 - Tie Breakers

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

1. "Head to head" points (win/lose/draw) between teams
2. Overall Goal Differential (up to 6)
3. Goals for (up to 6)
4. Goals against (up to 6)
5. Most shutouts
6. Fewest red cards

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 the previous criteria if one team is eliminated.

In a situation where a season/group cannot be completed due to exceptional circumstances and teams have played an unequal number of games, GBYSL Select may use Points Per Game (PPG) to decide standings.

5.11 - 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 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 Penalty Mark per FIFA rules 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.

5.12 - Incomplete games

If a game cannot be completed, the game will stand if at least half 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 GBYSL Select Committee. 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 GBYSL Scheduler and Assignor. Referees are required to submit an incident report for all matches that end early.

5.13 - 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. Exceptions: a) if the deliberate header is committed by a Player within their own goal area, 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, b) if the deliberate header is committed by a Player within the opponents' goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken from anywhere in that goal area. 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.

5.14 - No Re-Entry Protocol (for Head Injury and SCA)

In accordance with the US Club Soccer return to play guidelines, any Player removed from the Field for a suspected head injury or SCA (sudden cardiac arrest) will not be allowed to return to the Field of play unless cleared by a Licensed Healthcare Provider, an individual who is trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and is acting within the scope of the provider's practice for evaluation and management of concussions or other head injuries and/or an individual who is trained in the evaluation and management of cardiac conditions and is acting within the scope of that provider's practice for evaluation and management of sudden cardiac arrest, fainting, and shortness of breath.

5.15 - Substitutions

As per FIFA guidelines, unlimited substitutions are allowed in all age groups. However, teams may substitute only with the Referee's permission. Substitutes must wait at the halfway line (off of the Field of play) until the Field Player has left the Field of play and/or the Referee has indicated the substitute may enter the Field of play.

Substitutions by either team are allowed at any stoppage of play with the permission of the Referee. Referees will be instructed not to allow substitutions that are deemed "excessive" or of a "time-wasting" nature. Please be respectful of the integrity of the game and do not use the free substitution rules as a means to disrupt the match.

Section 6 - Rosters

6.1 - Player Registration

Players shall be registered through GotSport according to [US Club Soccer](#) rules.

6.2 - US Club Soccer Player Pass

US Club Soccer Player Pass

All Players and Coaches must present their US Club Soccer pass to the Referee prior to the match. If the individual picture is not on the ID card and the card, the individual will not be eligible for the match (Digital ID Cards are acceptable). A director of coaching may coach any of his or her games with proper credentials.

6.3 - Forgotten US Club Player Credentials

If a team forgets their US Club Player passes for a GBYSL Select game, the game should be played under protest. Any Players that wish to play must have a picture taken prior to the game by the protesting team and submitted to the League to verify that the Players were eligible to participate. If this is a continuous issue with a team or Club, the GBYSL Select Committee may remove the team from the league.

6.4 - Game Roster

Each team must create an official GBYSL Select roster in their GotSport account. Only Players who are listed on the official Game Card will be eligible to play in League matches. If any Player is not listed on the Game Card, he/she must be added electronically to the roster before the Player is eligible to play. Names from an electronic Game Card may be handwritten by the Referee. GBYSL Select Team rosters may contain up to 22 Players for U16-UP, 20 Players for U13-U15 Players, 18 Players U12-U11 Players, 16 Players for U9-U10, that are active in the team's Club and are not on another Club's Roster. No matter how many Players are listed on a team's roster to include Club Guest Players; only 18 Players for U13 and up (11v11), only 16 Players for U11-U12 (9v9), and 14 Players for U9-U10 (7v7) may be used for GBYSL Select matches. All other players sitting on the bench shall not be dressed out.

Team Rosters shall be frozen at the start of each season. Any changes, additions, replacements, or removals need to be requested from the GBYSL Select office. Club Guest Players (normally Club Pass Player) will be updated on the match roster 1 week or more prior to scheduled match unless there are special circumstances that will be approved on an individual basis.

Players may not play for two teams in the same division of play (a division of play is a combination of age group and level, i.e., two teams from the same Club may not share Players if they're playing in the same set of division standings).

Players rostered on a higher division in their age group can only guest play up in age division in any bracket.

Players playing up and rostered on an upper age division as their primary team can guest play down to their age division/group at the highest bracket.

A coach holding a valid US Club pass card may coach ANY team in the club for which they hold the card. It is not required that they be printed on the match card.

6.5 - Guest Players

Eligible "Club Guest Player" is allowed. No Guest Players from outside the Club are allowed.

6.6 - Illegal Players

Any Player who does not appear on the official GBYSL Game Card or hold 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, or attempting to use, an illegal Player shall forfeit the game, the Coach of the team using the illegal Player will be suspended from all GBYSL competitions for at least one season, and the Club will incur a \$500 fine.

Section 7 - Game Day Procedures

7.1 - Pre-Game (ALL Comps)

Home Team Responsibilities:

1. Provide a copy of the Game Card to the center Referee.
2. Provide a US Club Soccer Player pass for each Player and non-Player in the technical area. All other players must sit outside of the technical area.
3. Change jersey colors if there is a color conflict (GBYSL Select encourages home teams to wear their dark colors, while away teams wear light colors).
4. Provide game balls.
5. The home team is responsible for setting up corner flags.

Visiting Team Responsibilities:

1. Respond to any communication requests from the home team in regard to match scheduling within 24 hours.
2. Have a copy of the Game Card in case it is needed.
3. Provide a US Club Soccer Player pass for each Player and non-Player in the technical area. All other players must sit outside the technical area.

7.2 - Post-Game (ALL Comps)

Following the game, a representative from each team and the referee should gather to review and sign the match card. Additionally, each representative should take a photo of the signed match card for their records.

Home Team Responsibilities

1. Coach or manager must sign the Game Card following the game.
2. The home team is responsible for removing corner flags and placing them in the lock box.

7.3 - Field Set-Up

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 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.

7.4 - Technical Area

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