

Referee Manual

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Section 1: Introduction

The US College Club Soccer League (USCCS) is the national league for college club soccer. The USCCS is sanctioned by the United States Specialty Sports Association as an affiliate of the United States Soccer Federation (US Soccer). The competition is organized into four distinct regions, East, Midwest, Central, and West. All matches are sanctioned by US Soccer and are played under the IFAB Laws of the Game with modifications for approved Rules of Competition.

The USCCS is the first and only National Organization whose purpose is to unite and develop college club soccer teams,its student-athletes and match officials. The USCCS strives to standardize and elevate the level of play across the nation.

Competition Structure

The US College Club Soccer year round with 2 distinct seasons culminating into a post season tournament. Divisions with a second or third tier have promotion/relegation implemented.

Fall Season: August to early November
- Qualifications to National Tournament weekend before Thanksgiving

Spring Season: January to early April
- Qualifications to corresponding Post Season Conference Tournament in mid April

Conference & Divisions

The league consists of 4 conferences: West, Central, Midwest, East

West Conference:
Men: Big Sky, NorCal, NorCal II, Oregon, SoCal, SoCal II, Utah, Washington
Women: NorCal, NorCal II, Northwest, SoCal, SoCal II

Central Conference:
Men: Rocky Mountain, Rocky Mountain II, Southwest, Southwest II
Women: Rocky Mountain, Rocky Mountain II, Southwest, West Divide

Midwest Conference:
Men: Midwest North, Midwest South, Great Plains
Women: Midwest, Midwest II

East Conference:
Men: AL/MS, Baltimore, DC, FL North, FL South, Georgia, Hudson Valley, KY/TN, New England North, New England Central, New England South, NC East, NC West, NYC, Philly, Virginia
Women: DMV, Florida, New England, Philly

Section 2: Memo to Match Officials

Welcome, and congratulations on your selection to officiate US College Club Soccer for the Fall of 2026 and Spring of 2027.

The USCCS works in coordination with the league leadership, Conference Commissioners, and US Soccer Licensed Assignors to support Licensed US Soccer match officials across USCCS competitions. Our objective is to provide clear standards, consistent expectations, and resources necessary for referees to carry out their assignments in a professional, prepared, and confident manner.

This Referee Manual is intended to serve as your primary reference for pre-match preparations, match administration, and post-match reporting responsibilities throughout the season. Officials are expected to be familiar with the procedures and requirements outlined in this document prior to accepting and officiating any USCCS match.

For matchday concerns, assignment questions or administrative issues, referees should contact the appropriate assignor or conference commissioner as listed in the Matchday Contacts section of this manual. Officials are reminded to communicate only with the assignor or administrator responsible for their specific assignment platform, unless otherwise directed.

On behalf of the USCCS, we thank you for your commitment and professionalism. We wish you success throughout the Fall 2026 season and appreciate your role in maintaining the integrity and quality of competition within the USCCS.

Section 3: USCCS Contact List

East Conference Commissioner	Central Conference Commissioner
Luciano Parrotta luciano@collegeclubsoccer.com 609-477-3215	Jordan Grindeland jordan@collegeclubsoccer.com 303-913-4638
West Conference Coordinator	Midwest Conference Commissioner
Brian Yip brian.yip@collegeclubsoccer.com 510-432-4991	Kevin Manson kevin@collegeclubsoccer.com 847-917-1574

Section 4: USCCS Pre-Game

Assignments

All assignments will be made by US Soccer's National Assignor. Assignments are typically made one month in advance and should be checked and accepted or declined promptly. Officials should keep their availability up-to-date on the assignment web page.

Pre-Game Contact

Contact must be made between all officials before the game. Whether by e-mail or by phone, the following items must be discussed: arrival time (45 minutes before the match), transportation, time and place of pre-game meeting

Game Day Necessities

The following officiating necessities must be brought to the game by the officials: Current IFAB Laws of the Game, USCCS Referee Handbook, Assistant Referee (AR) flags, and US Soccer approved uniforms of various colors. Radio communication devices if possible are approved and encouraged to be used in all matches when available.

Bench Personnel

A maximum of fourteen (14) individuals are permitted in the technical area - limited to coaches, managers and substitutes. A maximum of five (5) non-playing personnel is allowed on each team bench. This must not be exceeded. Please note that Athletic Trainers and University staff do not count towards the 5 non-playing bench personnel.

Player Check-in

A maximum of twenty-five (25) players may be selected for match-day. Each player and coach must be listed on the Digital Match Report (DMR). If a player or coach is not listed on the DMR they are not eligible to play or stand in the technical area. There may be a school affiliated administrator on site who may be doing a "check-in". Officials are still required to perform check-in procedures

Procedure

Login to https://usccs.matchofficials.org with your account

Select Check-In Roster select the checkbox next to the players name, and then enter their jersey number in the text box

Players must provide:

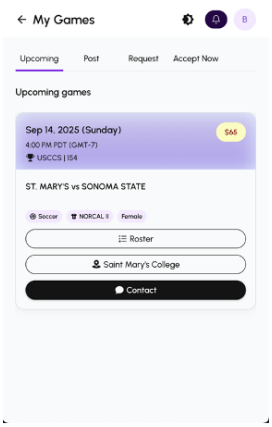
University photo ID OR

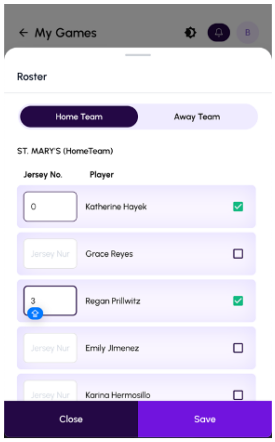
Digital university card AND Valid Drivers License

Coaches must provide:

Valid Drivers License

****Immediately return the IDs after check-in**





- Click, save, and select the other team and repeat.
- **IF A PLAYER IS NOT LISTED ON THE DMR, they are NOT ELIGIBLE TO PLAY**
- **If player does not appear on the DMR, you can double check by going to https://www.collegeclubsoccer.com/page/show/9116924-teams if they appear on the website roster they satisfy the DMR requirement and referees are to note in their report the name of the player and the discrepancy**

Team Uniforms

Each team must travel with two sets of uniform of predominantly light color (shirt and socks) and other uniform predominantly dark. In case of conflicting uniform colors, the visiting team MUST change. The tape on socks must match the predominant color of the sock. Undergarments must be the same color as the uniform. No jewelry is permitted.

Numbers must be ironed on or drawn on to the jersey, tape on a jersey is not allowed. If a team utilizes a jersey with tape as a number, the league will consider the team to have fielded an ineligible player and said team will forfeit the game.

If there are more players than available jerseys with unique numbers, only players with a unique jersey number will be eligible to play. Ie. there are 18 jerseys, but 20 players on the DMR. 2 players on the DMR will not be eligible for the game.

Game Balls

- Home team is to provide a minimum of 3 game balls of the same make and style
- One home ball behind each goal for use in the game
- Balls should be inflated to at least the minimum PSI listed on the ball

Section 5: The USCCS Game

Duration of Match

Each match consists of ninety (90) minutes, divided into two forty-five (45) minute halves, plus added time determined by the Center Referee. Halftime duration is fifteen (15) minutes. [Reminder that these games are classified US Soccer sanctioned Adult Games for referee development and evaluation purposes.]

For Playoff Matches (Fall Nationals and Spring Conference Finals), if the score is tied at the end of regulation:

- The winner will be decided by penalty kicks.

Substitution

- Substitutions are allowed at any stoppage
- There are NO restrictions on re-entry of substitutes

Dismissals

Any player or team official dismissed by the Center Referee **must leave the field area immediately,** outside the facility, and may not return.

If a dismissed player or team official fails to leave within five (5) minutes, the match will be terminated, and a forfeit will be awarded to the opposing team.

Spectator Behavior

- Spectators must sit on the opposite sideline of the teams
  - If games are played in a stadium, no spectators are allowed at field level.
- Spectators are expected to behave according to their academic institutions policy. If the referee is informed of or witnesses such inappropriate behavior, they are to contact the site/academic administrator and inform them such behavior must be stopped. If the behavior continues, the Referee is to suspend the match until such person(s) is removed from the facility.

Discriminatory Behavior

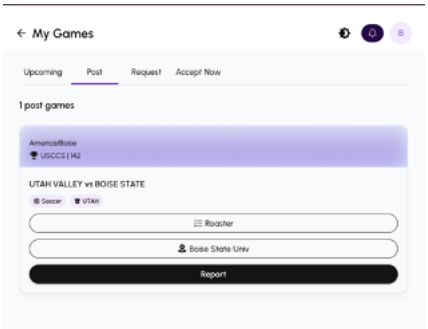
- Once informed of an allegation, relay information to all members of officiating crew
- Ensure participant making allegation is given time/space to fully explain what he/she is alleging. If the official(s) is not familiar with the word or action, as for clarification. A Second match official should be present during this conversation for purposes of corroboration.

- Communicate with colleagues to establish if they witnessed alleged conduct, if so take appropriate action per the Laws of the Game
- The referee should speak with the alleged offender to make him/her aware of allegations being made, and a second match official should be present during this conversation for purposes of corroboration. Officials encouraged the team captain or another teammate to help facilitate communication.
- Officials speak with both captains and both coaches at the same time to inform them of what is happening. Role is to share information which has been presented, including specific word(s) or action(s) reported.
- Game should only be re-started once above steps have been taken, and be vigilant throughout the remainder of the game
- Post Game – provide immediate notification to your assignor
- Match report should include detailed account of the full circumstance

Section 6: Post Match Reporting

Referee Team Duties

USCCS uses the Match Officials (MO) web/mobile app to check in the players, coaches, and managers before the match. The MO app is also used to report on the match after its conclusion. Login to https://usccs.matchofficials.org The Match Report must be completed the same day as the match no later than 11pm local time



- Select ‘Post’ and then Select ‘Report’ for your game
- Fill out the score and remaining info, and select `Save & Add Report` to enter misconduct and send offs. Please add any additional supplementals under incident report such as field standard issues, uniform standard issues etc.

Required Match Report Items

All the following must be included (automatically requested in MO app)

- Final Score
- Full Names of goal scorers and times of goals
- Cautions and send-offs
- Serious injuries
- Supplemental Report (if applicable)

Reporting Issues or Technical Problems

If the Center Referee experiences technical issues or any delay in submitting the Match Report, the must contact Brian Yip at brian.yip@collegeclubsoccer.com with the required match report items and information on why they are unable to submit the match report on MO. Do not wait until after the reporting deadline to communicate issues.

Section 7: Match Officials Cancellation Policies

Match Cancellation & Compensation Policy

Administrative (Non-Weather) Cancellation

- More than 4 days prior to scheduled match
  - **No referee payment** is due
- 4 days or less of scheduled match
  - Referees receive **full scheduled match fee**

Weather/Field-Condition Cancellation

- Notified within 24 hours of game
  - Referees receive full schedule match fee
- Referees Arrive on Site
  - Referees receive full schedule of match fee

Travel Policy

There are no travel reimbursements for US College Club Soccer