



USYS League America 2025-26

ELIGIBILITY, FORMAT AND PLAYING RULES

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1. LEAGUE AMERICA NAME & FORMAT

Section 1.1 Name

League America is the name of a recreational league administered by IYSA for boys and girls ages U12 to U16.

1.2 Format

League teams will play games against each opponent within their division. No scores or standings will be kept in League America. Each team will be scheduled a minimum of 7 league games whenever possible.

2. GOVERNANCE/ TEAM APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

2.1 Club Eligibility and Application

2.1.1 League America authorized by Idaho Youth Soccer Board of Director's to operate as an official recreational league of IYSA. All policies, rules, and guidelines will be approved by Idaho Youth Soccer, Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), US Soccer, and US Youth Soccer policies and rules.

2.1.2 Any Club registered with Idaho Youth Soccer and in good standing may apply for entry into League America and is open to IYSA Recreational registered players only. Any team containing both boys and girls is considered co-ed and will be placed in the boys division.

2.1.3 All applications for participation in League America must be received by the deadline established by Idaho Youth Soccer for each playing season.

2.1.4 Fees are due at the time of registration through GotSport and will be collected at the time of/ before acceptance.

2.2 Team Eligibility

2.2.1 Any team registered with Idaho Youth Soccer and in good standing may apply for entry into the League America.

3. SCHEDULING

3.1 Scheduling

3.1.1 The event "play dates" for each season are established by IYSA. Games scheduled outside of the event play dates must be scheduled outside of IYSA facilities and with permission of the host club.

3.2.2 League games are scheduled through GotSport.

3.1.3 Schedules will be written to follow US Soccer PDI. In the event a team has elected to play two (2) games in one day, every effort shall be made to provide for a minimum of three (3) hours between game kickoffs.

3.1.4 Games can be rescheduled to alternate time and "play date" if both teams are from the same district, agree to the change, and is within the guidelines of the Reschedule policy and done through the GotSport reschedule process as outlined on the IYSA website.

4. TEAM ROSTERS AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

4.1 Rosters and Eligibility

4.1.1 League America teams must establish and submit their State Association approved Team Roster and State Association approved Club Pass Player Roster per Idaho Youth Soccer and US Youth Soccer rules prior to the first League America game for each season.

4.1.2 All players must be current US Youth Soccer members and have member passes that have been approved by IYSA. During a League America season, a player may be listed on one Team Roster. Players listed on a Team Roster may also be listed on a Club Pass Roster(s) on team(s) within the same US Youth Soccer affiliated club as approved by the team's State Association.

4.1.3 All players must be rostered according to their birth year. Rosters **MAY NOT** be rostered as school year for the 2025-26 season.

4.1.4 NO competitive players may participate in league games.

4.1.5 Players from other clubs may not be used in league or friendly games.

4.2 Identification

4.2.1 One of the following methods are permissible at check in with the referee(s) for League America games in this order:

- GotSport photo match card (entire team must be included) – maybe checked at the request of the referee.
- Official Player Pass – must have photo affixed and be laminated – may be checked at the request of the referee.
- Electronic Roster (last resort)

4.2.2 NO electronic check in of teams will be permitted

4.2.3 All team officials (Head Coach, Assistant Coach, DOC, Team Manager) are required to be listed on the photo match card to be eligible to be in the technical area. This is to ensure they have met all requirements.

4.3 Playing Up/ Down

4.3.1 In all divisions players will not be allowed to play down from their designated birth year/ age group

4.3.2 For 9v9 and 11v11 players are allowed to play up a maximum of 1 year from their designated birth year.

4.3.3 For 9v9 and 11v11 players are allowed to play up a maximum of 2 years from their designated birth year **with approval from IYSA Executive/ Technical Director**

4.6 Transfers/ Releases

4.6.1 Please refer to the IYSA Registration Rules and Guidelines regarding the transfer/release of players located under the Bylaws and Rules section of www.idahoyouthsoccer.org.

4.7 Playing of Ineligible Player

4.7.1 A team that plays an ineligible player shall be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but not be limited to:

- forfeiture of the match; and
- suspension of the team's coach from League America.

Additional disciplinary action could include:

- expulsion of the team from the League America and/or
- any further action(s) as determined by the IYSA League America Disciplinary Committee.

5. PLAYING RULES

5.1 Laws of the Game, Field of Play

5.1.1 All games shall be played in accordance with FIFA/ IFAB Laws of the Game, except as modified by these rules.

5.1.2 Nets and Flags will be provided by the teams participating in the match

5.2 Alternate Jersey

5.2.1 The home team will wear a light-colored kit. The visiting team will wear dark colored kit. The team in the incorrect color will have to change. The referee has the authority to remedy the situation as he/she sees fit.

5.4 Players Equipment

5.4.1 Every field player shall have a unique and identifiable number added to his/her jersey. That number must match the roster credentials provided at check in.

5.4.2 Matters of safety are left up to the discretion of the referee. Equipment which may be considered unsafe includes the following but not limited to: jewelry (including taped/ untaped earrings, nose rings, watches), head, arm, thigh or hip pads containing sole leather, fiber, metal or any unyielding material, hard casts of any material and knee braces made of hard unyielding material and may be made safe by applying an appropriate amount of padding. The dangerous use of any equipment previously approved by the referee during the game may be cause for removal of the player from the game until the equipment is made safe. Players can receive approvals for equipment from the State Youth Referee Administrator; however, the match official must approve the safety of the equipment.

5.4.3 Prior to the start of the game, the referee shall make sure that all goal nets and corner flags are properly installed, and field has proper markings. Goals must be securely anchored.

5.5 Duration, Ball, Format, & Minimum Players

5.5.1 The length of games will be as listed below:

Age	Half Length	Ball Size	Game Format	Minimum Players to Start/ Continue
U12	30	4	9v9	6

U13-14	35	5	11v11	7
U15-16	40	5	11v11	7

5.5.2 No extra time, overtime, or tie breaking kicks will be used to break ties. All games should end in a tie, if that is the result after full time.

5.6 Substitutions

5.6.1 Any unlimited number of substitutions will be permitted at any stoppage of play at the referee’s discretion.

5.7 Field Size

5.7.1 9v9 US Soccer Standards

- Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.
- Length: minimum 70 yards maximum 90 yards
- Width: minimum 45 yards maximum 55 yards
- Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of eight (8) yards is marked around it.
- The Goal Area: 6 yards out from the goal line x 6 yards wide of each goalpost.
- The Penalty Area: 14 yards out from the goal line x 14 yards wide of each goalpost. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made ten (10) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.
- Corner Flags: Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- The Corner Arc: Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- Goals (6x18): Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line **and securely anchored.**

5.7.2 11v11 US Soccer Standards

- Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.
- Length: minimum 100 yards maximum 120 yards
- Width: minimum 55 yards maximum 80 yards
- Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of Ten (10) yards is marked around it.
- The Goal Area: Six (6) yards from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play, joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
- The Penalty Area: Eighteen (18) yards from the goal post and eighteen (18) yards perpendicular to the goal line. Penalty mark: Twelve (12) yards parallel to the goal line centered between the goal posts.
- Corner Flags: Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- The Corner Arc: Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- Goals (8x24): Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line **and securely anchored.**

5.8 Inclement Weather/ Official Game Policy

5.8.1 The IYSA Environmental Policy will be applied in all games. Link to the policy can be found [here](#).

5.8.2 In the event that a game is abandoned due to inclement weather, the following procedures will be followed:

- *If the game had at least reached half time, then the score stands as is.*
- *If the game had not reached half but one team was 3 or more goals ahead then the score stands as is*
- *If the game had not reached half and there was less than a 3 goal difference then, the teams can elect to play again with a new referee crew or the score can be recorded as no contest.*

4.8.3 The League America Administrator has full discretion over rescheduling due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

5.9 Delayed Game Start

5.9.1 Any team delaying the start of a scheduled game by more than fifteen (15) minutes, without the sanction of the League America Administrator, shall forfeit the game to the opponent by a score of 4-0.

5.9.2 In the event both teams do not show up for a scheduled game and the referee rules the ground playable, then both teams will be assessed with a No Score. No Points will be awarded to either team. The teams will pay the referee fees for the game. IYSA will consider the game an automatic forfeit and fine a \$250 forfeit fee to both teams and Full referee fees.

5.9.3 Failure to present valid credentials for check in process with the referee will be addressed with the following procedure:

- 1st offense – written warning notification to team and club
- 2nd instance of not providing roster or passes for a game - \$50.00 fine.
- 3rd instance of not providing roster or passes for a game - \$75.00
- 4th instance of not providing roster or passes for a game - \$100.00
- Not providing a roster after 5th instance, 100.00 each infraction.

5.9.4 If a team official is not present at game time, a forfeit will be declared after the 15- minute grace period.

5.10 Host Team & Responsibilities

5.10.1 The host team is defined as the team whose home club is the site being used for the games if outside of Simplot Sports Complex. The host team is defined as the team who appears first on the schedule.

5.10.2 The host team is responsible for the condition of the field and field markings if the home field is not at Simplot.

5.10.3 Both teams must ensure that all their designated goals are properly secured, nets in good condition, and corner flags are properly placed. If field setup is provided by the host club, then the previously mentioned is the responsibility of the host club.

5.10.4 Host clubs with field locations outside of Simplot Sports complex must notify IYSA and opponent(s) if net and flags are not provided by the host.

5.11 Coaching from the Technical Area

5.11.1 Coaching from the technical area (giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy and position) by a coach or assistant coach is allowed in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game. No mechanical devices are permitted, and tone of voice shall be informative and not lengthy or aggressive in nature.

5.11.2 Any rostered coach that will provide tactical instruction during the match, must do so from the technical area. A rostered coach may not give tactical instruction from anywhere other than the technical area, including but not limited to the spectators sideline, behind either goal. Violation of 5.11.2 is a cautionable offense, for unsporting behavior.

6. SCORING/STANDINGS

6.1 Scores and standings will not be posted in League America games to promote development over results

6.2 Blowouts will not be tolerated, as this is a recreational league. If a six-goal difference is reached by either team, at the coach's discretion they may modify the game to help create balanced play. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Adding or taking players off the field
- Mixing teams to play with each other
- Implementing scoring requirements (6 touches)

7. TEAM BREACHES OF RULES

7.1 Player Send Off

7.1.1 A player that has been sent off during a match must remain in the team bench area until the conclusion of the match. Players that remain with their credentialed team rep. in the technical area must remove their player's jersey. If a sent off player continues to be disruptive or a distraction to anyone in the bench area, the game can be:

- suspended to allow for removal
- terminated

7.1.2 Any ejected player who has been asked to leave the game by the referee will automatically be suspended for the next game. Each incident and suspension can be reviewed by IYSA Staff and the Appeals and Discipline Committee.

7.1.3 All players are subject to the penalties listed in the US Soccer Referee Abuse Program:

<https://www.ussoccer.com/rap> These penalties may be applied by the League Appeals and Discipline Committee.

7.1.3 The League Administrator has the right to modify and change the player sendoff policy/rule at any time during league.

7.2 Team Officials Send Off

7.2.1 A **team official** that has been sent off during a match must leave the immediate sight and sound vicinity of the playing field. Non-compliance with immediate exit of sight and sound will be reviewed by the League Administrator who may increase the suspension and/or refer the matter to the IYSA JEC.

7.2.2 **Team officials** sent off the field for an infringement of the "laws of the game" shall be suspended for the next game and fined \$150. "Club" coaches or coaches listed on multiple rosters who are suspended will serve their suspension during the next scheduled game(s) involving the team they were coaching at the time of their suspension. Each incident and suspension can be reviewed by IYSA Staff and the Appeals and Discipline Committee.

7.2.3 All team officials are subject to the penalties listed in the US Soccer Referee Abuse Program: <https://www.ussoccer.com/rap>. These penalties may be applied by the League Appeals and Discipline Committee.

7.2.4 When serving a suspension, a team official shall not attend nor be involved in any manner with the game being played. This includes any form of communication with the team immediately prior to or during the game. If the coach or team official should show up at the game site, and in any way attempt to participate in the game, his or her team will automatically forfeit the game.

7.3 Accumulated Misconduct

7.3.1 Any coach, player, or team official receiving a second red card in a season, will receive a three (3) game suspension. Any coach or team official will also receive a fine of \$300 to the club.

7.3.2 Any coach or team official receiving a third red card in a season will receive a two-season suspension to serve the next two consecutive seasons. Any coach or team official will also receive a fine of \$500 to the club.

7.3.3 Any coach, player, or team official receiving a 5-7 yellow cards in a season, will receive a three (3) game suspension to start the following season. Any coach or team official will also receive a fine of \$300 to the club.

7.3.4 Any coach, player, or team official receiving 8-10 yellow cards in a season, will receive a five (5) game suspension to start the following season. Any coach or team official will also receive a fine of \$500 to the club.

7.3.5 Any coach or team official receiving 10 or more yellow cards in a season, will receive a two-season suspension to be served the next two consecutive seasons (season = Fall/Spring or Spring/Fall) Any coach or team official will also receive a fine of \$500 to the club.

7.3.6 The accumulative game penalty and fine may be increased at the determination of the Appeals and Discipline Committee. Accumulation is based across all rosters listed during the seasonal year.

7.3.7 Send-offs received in League America must be served with the same team of the red card and in League America games.

7.4 Referees Jurisdiction and Reporting

7.4.1 The referee's judgment regarding the physical condition of the field and its acceptance for play, to the actual happenings and occurrences related to the conduct of the game, and those prerogatives granted to him/her by the Laws of the Game as published by FIFA, will not be challenged.

7.4.2 The referee's jurisdiction, per the laws of the game is from arrival to departure at the game site

7.4.3 Referee shall verify and record all misconduct on the game day roster and the Referee report. Reports must be submitted to IYSA via GotSport and USSF Supplemental Page 2 emailed to rjones@idahoyouthsoccer.org within 48 hours of the completion of the game.

8. SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT, DRONES, WEAPONS, & TERMINATED GAMES

8.1 All participants must adhere to the IYSA Code of Conduct, US Youth Soccer Code of Conduct, IYSA referee abuse policy, IYSA Zero Tolerance addendum, and Boise Parks and Rec Code of Conduct Policy.

8.2 Unsportsmanlike behavior, by participants or spectators, including dissent towards referees or opponents, will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. Please refer to IYSA's Referee abuse policy and Zero Tolerance policy.

8.3 **NOISE-MAKING DEVICES (I.E. DRUMS, HORNS, COWBELLS, TRUMPETS, ETC.) AND WEAPONS OF ANY KIND ARE PROHIBITED.**

8.4 Drones of any kind are not allowed at Simplot Sports Complex without a proper permit. This permit must be on hand with the operator. Drones must also be flown outside the perimeter of the field at all times. Drones can also not be flown over the top of people.

8.5 If a referee terminates a game for reasons other than weather or field conditions, the Appeals and Discipline Committee will decide the results of the game.

9. IYSA/ BOISE PARKS & REC CONDUCT POLICY

12.1 Per the License agreement between IYSA and Boise Parks & Rec, all spectators must also abide by the following conduct policy. While it is impossible to list every type of conduct that is unacceptable, the following are examples of behavior that violate this policy:

- Harm or threat of harm to any City employee, member of the public, City government, or City property, *regardless of location.*
- Physical violence against persons or property.
- Sabotage of City property or processes.
- Theft or unauthorized removal or possession of the City's property or another person's property from City premises.
- Speech or conduct with the public that violates commonly accepted standards and that, under present circumstances, has no redeeming social value, including the use of profane, indecent, or abusive language.
- Speech or conduct deemed rude, disrespectful, aggressive, intimidating, harassing or otherwise inappropriate when conducting licensee's business.
- Making malicious, vindictive, false, and/or harmful statements about others or engaging in verbal abuse, altercations or outbursts.
- Any conduct that obstructs, disrupts, or interferes with City business, service, work environment or administrative functions, including City sponsored events.
- Untruthfulness related to use of the license which could hinder or jeopardize the City's interests.
- Use, possession, distribution, or sale of illegal drugs, paraphernalia, or controlled substances not prescribed to the user by a physician, on City property or at City sponsored events, including the use of alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances while working in accordance with the license.

10. PROTEST AND APPEALS PROCEDURE

10.1 The Appeals and Discipline Committee, explained in rule 11 of the rules, shall hear all protests and appeals arising from the competition and shall serve as a discipline committee and as a credentials committee, if necessary. All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, interpretation of the rules, suspension, dispute, or protest shall be referred to the Committee. Decisions of the Committee can be appealed to the IYSA Judicial and Ethics Committee.

10.2 A plea of ignorance of the rules and regulations of this competition is not sufficient ground for appeal or protest. Any protest relating to the grounds, goal posts, bar or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained only if a written objection has been lodged with the referee and the opposing coach prior to the start of the game.

10.3 Judgement decisions of the referees are not subject to protest.

10.4 Notice of intent to protest activity that occurred during a match must be filed in writing to the IYSA Executive Director within 48 hours after the completion of the match.

10.5 Appealing of any disciplinary action communicated by the ISL Disciplinary Committee must be filed in writing to the IYSA Executive director within 24 hours of receipt of the written committee decision.

10.6 All Protests or appeals filed through the IYSA Complaint Form must be accompanied by a certified check in the amount of \$250.00 made out to IYSA. This fee is refundable if appeal is found to be valid and enforceable.

10.7 The Protest Administrator shall compile the necessary information to hear the protest from all available sources before the protest is heard. This shall include, but not limited to, coaches, field marshals, referees, assessors, witnesses, if necessary, etc. All materials will be treated with confidentiality.

11. APPEAL AND DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE AUTHORITY

11.1 The Appeals and Discipline Committee will have full authority on making decisions regarding interpretation of these rules. The IYSA Appeals and Discipline Committee will also have full authority to make decisions as they see fit, in instances where the rules do not cover a given situation.

11.2 The Committee must operate in the best interest of all parties to find solutions to any issue that falls in line with IYSA and USYS policies.

11.3 Members of the Appeals and Discipline (IYSA Event) Committee will be one of each of the following:

- IYSA Staff Member
- Idaho State Referee Committee (ISRC) Member
- IYSA Board Member

12. PLAYER SAFETY, MEDICAL, & CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

12.1 When **IYSA assigned medical personnel are available**, all players who are suspected are suffering a head injury will have to be evaluated and cleared **by IYSA's assigned personnel prior to returning to play**.

12.2 When IYSA assigned medical personnel are **not** available at the game site, all players who are suspected are suffering a head injury will have to be evaluated and cleared by **licensed healthcare professional prior to returning to play.**

13. MATTERS NOT ACCOUNTED FOR AND USE OF THE COURT SYSTEM

13.1 IYSA reserves the authority to make decisions and resolve conflicts in all matters not specifically provided by in this copy of the ISL Rules.

13.2 US Youth Soccer Bylaw 704, Section 1 states that, “No member of US Youth Soccer, official, league, club, team, player, coach, administrator, or referee may invoke the aid of the courts of the United States or of a state without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organizations, and as provided within US Youth Soccer.”