

7v7 Men's Open League Rules

General:

The purpose of the Merced United Soccer Leagues is to promote and support adult soccer play in a friendly and family environment in the Merced area. FIFA and USSF rules govern play, except as amended by the modifications below.

It is the intent of Merced United Adult Leagues to:

- Promote the game of soccer in a spirit of teamwork, fair play and sportsmanship.
- Provide coherent competition among area players and soccer teams.
- Develop and foster interest in soccer in the greater Merced area.
- Support youth soccer via donations of any and all extra monies.

MODIFICATIONS TO FIFA / IFAB LAWS OF THE GAME

Law 1: The Field of Play - Games will be played on a standard USSF u12 field; however, Local conditions may mandate use of non-standard or sub-optimal fields.

Law 3: The Players - There will be 7 players on the field, including goalie. Minimum of 5 players to start a game. Carry a minimum of 8 players with no maximum. Unlimited substitutions with previous referee approval.

Law 5: The Referee - A dual referee system will be used.

Law 7: The Duration of the Match - Matches consist of two 30 minute halves, with a five minute halftime. If weather or field conditions mandate, and with the concurrence of both involved teams, matches may be shortened from the normal 30.

ADDITIONAL MODIFICATIONS:

* Slide tackling is PROHIBITED, except by the goalie in the box.

* After the goalie has taken control of a ball, no punts, kicks or throws are allowed past midfield without first touching another player or the ground (does not apply to goal kicks). Not complying with this rule results in an indirect free kick from the center spot at the half line.

ROSTER:

The league will keep an active roster on the fields. All players are required to fill out a Merced United Adult Player Registration Form once, and show a valid government issued i.d. as proof of age to the league before every game. Unregistered players on a team will be the cause of a forfeit to the team in question and result in a \$25 fine and a penalty of minus 1 pt. from their standings.

LEAGUE FEES:

Team entrance fee is 50.00. Player payments can be paid in full, or in payments on the field before the team's games. \$25.00 before the player's 1st game, and the remainder on the following two games. Bounced checks will require cash payment, and a \$25.00 return check charge in addition to the amount of the NSF check. Returned checks will not be re-deposited.

CROSSOVERS:

Players are not allowed to play on two teams in the same division/league. Players are allowed to play in different leagues/divisions during the same season as long as they fulfill the age requirements and complete payments for each League. Example: Can play in Mens 7v7 and in coed, but not mens 7v7 and another concurrent mens 7v7 league.

YELLOW CARDS / RED CARDS:

Yellow cards carry through the season. A player will receive a one (1) game suspension upon receiving their third (3) yellow card in any one season and a Red Card will be recorded for that player. Yellow card accumulation ceases at the start of the playoffs. A red card issued is expected to carry at least an automatic 1-game suspension minimum.

A suspended player may not be reinstated prior to the incident being reviewed by the league's disciplinary review committee (Penalties, Appeals, and Discipline P.A.D)— P.A.D. will confer on any and all red cards on Wednesday nights. Committee decisions are final. A \$10.00 fine will be levied for all red card violations.

Yellow Cards: Players who receive a yellow card must be immediately substituted. They may be substituted back in after a reasonable cooling-off period and the referees' discretion.

MANAGERS MEETING:

The league will conduct one mandatory managers' meeting before the beginning of every season. Managers or representatives from each team are required to be present at this meeting for the entire meeting.

SEASONS:

Merced United Adult Leagues will run as many seasons as possible per year with an end of league year playoff the final week of each league season.

TEAM DIVISION PLACEMENT:

In the given case that there are 2 divisions in the same age group, the Champion and Finalist of the lower division will be moved up to the upper division and the two teams that end in last place of the upper division will be moved down to the lower division. Merced United Adult Leagues reserves the right to change, alter or combine divisions at any time for scheduling or competitive purposes.

LEAGUES:

Merced United Adult Leagues intends to offer the following leagues: 7v7 for men and/or women and/or coed, 11v11 30+ men/18+women, 11v11 Men's and/or Women's Open, and 40+ Men's. Other leagues may be established upon verified interest and field availability.

SCHEDULE CHANGES:

Once a season schedule is published, no changes will be made unless an unexpected logistical problem arises or Acts of God. If this is the case, all managers will be notified of the change(s) electronically. Weather and field availability permitting, all teams will play their full season of games, plus playoffs.

START TIMES, MAKEUP GAMES AND CANCELLATIONS:

Players must be present 30 minutes before the official start of a game for check-in. Referees will allow a ten minute period from the posted start time to field a team. If a match starts late because of player tardiness, time will be removed from each half to trim the game, and the late team may be fined up to \$25. A match is considered official once the 1st half has been completed. If play must be halted after the start of play, but before the half is complete, the scheduler will make every attempt to reschedule the shortened game. However, if field, weather or other situations preclude timely rescheduling, the game may not be replayed. If this occurs, the score standing will be used as the final score of the game.

FORFEIT:

Will result in a \$25 fine and loss of 1 point in the league standings. Failure to have a minimum amount of players' show-up will result in a forfeit for that team. The team that wins by default will get the win and the points, with a 2-0 score.

PLAYER CONDUCT:

Players are responsible for fair, sportsmanlike and polite behavior at all times. No fighting will be tolerated. Foul, vile or vulgar language will not be used on the field either toward other players, referees, or in general. Referees are instructed to card offenders. Any fight will result in an immediate Red Card, suspension, fine, and loss of team point(s) to whoever throws the first punch. All other individuals who get involved in a fight will be also suspended and or penalized and fined.

Referee abuse will not be tolerated. Assault includes the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting at, or on, grabbing, stepping on, or running into a referee; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee, damaging the referee's uniform or personal property. Referee abuse is also defined as a verbal attack or physical approach that implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment. Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Threats such as: "I'll get you after the game" or "You won't get out of here in one piece" shall be deemed referee abuse. Commission of any of the preceding acts will carry a 6 month to lifetime banning determined by the Merced United Adult Leagues committee—all committee decisions are final.

REFEREES:

All decisions made by the referees assigned to matches are final. USSF referees are contracted to referee league games. No appeals will be accepted pertaining to decisions by the referee. No player or individual shall enter the field of play without the referee's express permission except during substitutions.

REFUNDS:

There shall be no refunds once paid. The exception to refunds shall be if a league does not start and dissolves.

CHECK-IN PROCEDURE:

All players are to check in 30 minutes before their game and provide picture government i.d. before every game. Merced United Adult Leagues helper will verify every player before every game and provide colored bracelet to every player. Teams will have different colored bracelet. Players cannot play without having on assigned colored bracelet.

UNDERAGE PLAYERS:

Teams are permitted a maximum of two underage players on their roster, but the players must:

1. Be 17, or turn 17 during the current season's calendar year.
2. Parent sign waiver on the registration form in the presence of a league representative.

UNIFORMS:

All teams are required to wear matching and numbered uniforms in order to play. Shorts and socks do not necessarily need to be of the same brand name or style but have to be of the same color (or very similar). Clashing colors will not be allowed such as wearing green instead of red or orange instead of royal blue. Matching and numbered pinnies are acceptable. A referee shall disallow a player from the field of play until the player is wearing team matching colors. If player refuses to change then he shall not be allowed to play.

Merced United Adult Leagues will have sets of pinnies for rent at \$20.00 per game.

SCORING/ POINT CALCULATIONS:

Games played will be awarded points based on the following system:

- Win- 3 points for winning team
- Tie- 1 point for both teams
- Loss- 0 points to the losing team

SEASON POINT TIE-BREAKERS:

In case of point ties at the end of the season, the tie will be broken in this order:

1. Head to Head winner
2. Total Goal Difference
3. Goals For
4. Goals Against
5. Least amount of red-cards received
6. Coin toss

During semi-finals, teams will go straight to PK's in case of a tie.

During final games, the teams will play (1) ten-minute "golden-goal" overtime half. If there is no winner, teams will go to penalty kicks. If for any reason, lights are being used and they go off, an Act of God occurs, or any other unforeseen circumstance occurs and the game is tied, the game will be rescheduled and decided by PKs. Only players on the field at the time of the outage may participate in the PK's.

* If there is any disagreement with regards to the above rules, it will be the Merced United Adult Leagues representatives that shall have the final word and responsibility to interpret such rules to the parties affected.