

# **PUMA United Development League Rules**

## **1. Eligibility:**

To be eligible for the PUMA UDL a team must be comprised of properly registered youth players and must comply with SC Youth Soccer rules. Teams and clubs shall be in good standing with SC Youth Soccer or your State Association.

## **2. Competition Division and Age Groups:**

The PUMA UDL is comprised of 8U-12U Teams for the Fall Season  
The PUMA UDL is comprised of 8U-12U Teams for the Spring Season

## **3. PUMA United Development League Website:**

[www.uniteddevelopmentleaguesc.com](http://www.uniteddevelopmentleaguesc.com)

## **4. Registration:**

**Fall Season** – July / August

**Spring Season** – December / January

All players/teams must be properly registered with US Youth Soccer prior to playing their first game.

## **5. Dissemination of PUMA United Development League Information to Teams:**

The Club President, or his/her PUMA UDL club designee, will have the responsibility of disseminating all PUMA UDL pre-season information to all eligible teams. During the season the participating teams will receive all communication by e-mail.

## **6. PUMA United Development League Divisions and Applications**

Every team has the opportunity to request their division placement for the upcoming season in their application for the PUMA UDL. This request does not guarantee placement in the requested division, but will serve as the preliminary placement for the team. Based on previous season results and discussions with the club's Director of Coaching this preliminary placement is subject to change by the PUMA UDL Administrator.

### **8U/9U Division Addendum**

If a U8 team is required to play in a U9 division, due to a lack of a U8 division, it is required that there are at least 2 U9 divisions and the U8 team(s) will be placed in the lowest of the divisions. If there is no way to form 2 U9 divisions, in this scenario, the U8 team must send a written statement to the PUMA UDL Administrator accepting their placement in the single U9 division.

## **7. League Fees:**

All league fees must be received **before** you play in the league.

League fees are:

U8-U10            \$400

U11-12            \$450

## **8. Team Bonds**

Not required at this time.

## **9. Team Rosters:**

Teams must have either an official league roster, player /coach passes or digital player/coach passes available at the game site.

## **10. Player / Coaches Passes**

Each player, coach and assistant coach in the PUMA UDL must have either an official US Youth soccer pass (ID card) or digital player/coach pass. The pass shall have the signature of the State Registrar of his / her designee and a current photograph of the player. Players/coaches may not be photographed in hats, sunglasses or headbands. The same requirements apply to the coach and assistant coach.

## 11. Guest Players:

Not allowed.

## 12. Red Card Ejection Form:

### Procedures:

1. On the SCYS website there will be a [Red Card / Ejection Notice Form](#) that will need to be filled out and sent to SCYS and to the PUMA UDL Administrator within 3 days of the Red card.
2. **Submit the Red Card/Ejection Notice to the South Carolina Youth Soccer State Office.**  
Email the PUMA UDL Administrator to let him know a red card has been issued.
3. **Failure to submit the Red Card / Ejection Notice of the match within 3 days** will result in a \$100 fine.
4. **Any team allowing an ejected player / coach** to participate, prior to serving their suspension, shall forfeit that match, forfeit their team's performance bond or pay a fine of \$200 whichever is greater, and may be deemed ineligible for state cup competition. The coach may also be suspended immediately from ALL South Carolina Youth Soccer activities for no less than one (1) year pending a hearing by South Carolina Youth Soccer.
5. **After a suspension has been served, complete the Red Card/Ejection Notice – "Suspension Served" section and submit to the SC Youth Soccer State Office within 3 days.**
6. **Failure to submit the Red Card/Ejection Notice Suspension Served section** of the match within 3 days will result in a \$100 fine.
7. **If a coach/assistant coach/club coach is ejected the same guidelines as above apply, in addition the team will also incur a \$200 penalty.** (Penalties double at the Region level and triple at the National level.) A \$200 check must be mailed before the team can play their next scheduled league match. If the \$200 check is not received before the next scheduled match a forfeit will occur.
8. If a spectator is asked to leave by the referee through the coach and the spectator refuses, then the coach will be ejected. The coach is responsible for his spectators and can be cautioned or ejected for the conduct of his spectators.

### Red Card Player or Ejected Coach:

1. **First Red Card / ejection suspension** - the individual is suspended for the remainder of the current match and their next scheduled match or matches.
  2. Receiving a **second red card / ejection** during a tracking period\* requires a mandatory minimum two match suspension which shall be served in the next two scheduled matches.
  3. Receiving a **third red card / ejection** during a tracking period\*, the individual will be suspended immediately *for 10 months from all SCYSA activities* pending a hearing by South Carolina Youth Soccer.
  4. All Violent Conduct ejections require a mandatory minimum two match suspension.
  5. Red Card / ejection **suspensions are to be served in the "competition" in which they were assigned.**  
However, a suspension assigned in:
    - a league cannot be served in another league, unless a player transfers. (Ex. SCSCCL suspensions cannot be served in a Premier League match.)
    - the last league match, (not served during that league play), shall be served in the next scheduled league or state cup match, whichever comes first.
    - the last tournament match, (not served during that tournament), shall be served in the next scheduled league, state cup match, or Regional/National competition whichever comes first.
  6. **Any league or tournament suspensions not served** from August 1 through July 31 will carry over to the first scheduled league match or matches of the next tracking period\*. (No matter which club he/she played/is playing for.)
  7. **Any state cup, regional or national championship competition suspensions not served** will carry over to the player's first scheduled league match or matches, and their first state cup match or matches.
- \***Note:** Fall tracking period is August 1 through January 31; spring tracking period is February 1 through July 31.

## 13. Medical Release Forms – (Required)

All players are required to have the following Medical Release Form completed prior to playing in any PUMA UDL match.

[SC Youth Soccer Medical Release Form](#)

In case of injury, this form is usually required by a hospital to expedite treatment of the injured player. Please be aware of any medication the player may be allergic to.

PUMA UDL would prefer for teams to travel with a small medical kit.

#### **14. Player Equipment and Uniforms:**

All teams shall wear matching uniforms consisting of jersey, shorts and socks. Every field player shall have a unique and identifiable number attached to his/her jersey. Additional garments may be worn to protect against the elements, but all players must present a uniform appearance and all extra clothing is subject to the approval of the referee. Socks must be pulled up over each player's shin guards. No jewelry of any type may be worn during a match under any circumstances. The referee is the sole judge of whether player equipment, casts or protective or other assistant devices shall be allowed as prescribed in the FIFA "Laws of the Game". In general, hard casts will be allowed only if they are (A) wrapped in their entirety with half inch of foam or other cushioning material and (B) are, in the opinion of the referee, safe. At the first indication that a player with a cast or other protective device is using it in an unsafe manner, or to gain an advantage, the player shall be removed from the match. The player may not return for the duration of the match or until the cast or device has been removed.

#### **15. Field and Goal Sizes**

| Age Division | Minimum Field Size | Maximum Field Size | Goal Size        |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| U8-U10       | 35 x 45            | 45 x 60            | 6 x 18 or 7 x 21 |
| U11-U12      | 45 x 70            | 55 x 80            | 6 x 18 or 7 x 21 |

#### **16. Referee Assignors:**

PUMA UDL will select "local" referee assignors each season/year that will be contracted to manage referee needs for the league.

#### **17. Referee Fees:**

| AGE     | REFEREE     | AR#1        | AR#2        | TOTAL       |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 8U-10U  | \$32 (\$16) | N/A         | N/A         | \$32 (\$16) |
| 11U-12U | \$30 (\$15) | \$20 (\$10) | \$20 (\$10) | \$70 (\$35) |

Numbers in () are per team fees

**Tip:** Place each referees fee in a separate envelope. (Ex. 11/12U have 3 envelopes, \$15 in envelope 1, \$10 in envelope 2 and \$10 in envelope 3.)

Referees are to be paid before the game starts. Each team is responsible for paying half the fees for the referee and assistant referees before each game. (Home and Away) Please note that 8U, 9U, 10U's will only use one referee and OFFSIDE will be called.

#### **18. Schedule**

Initial schedules will be established at a scheduling meeting with clubs/coaches approximately two weeks before the first game of the season. All Blackout dates must be known at the time of the meeting. The official schedule will be posted on the PUMA UDL Website.

#### **19. Rescheduling of League games**

- a. Any match that is rescheduled following the pre-season grace period will incur a **N/A** rescheduling fee. No match may be rescheduled without the approval of the League Administrator.
- b. If a match is rescheduled less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to game time, other than for a reason outside of the control of the team/club (for example, weather), the teams shall also be responsible for the referee fees for that game.

- c. If a match is cancelled due to inclement weather teams will have 72 hours following the cancellation to reschedule their match with no fee.
- d. After 72 hours the \$50 rescheduling fee will be reinstated (split between each team). If, in the view of the league administrator, one of the teams is at fault for this delay (failing to respond, offering unreasonable times/places, etc...), the full amount of the rescheduling fee may be assessed to the offending team. After 72 hours, the league administrator may arbitrarily reschedule the game at a time and place it deems appropriate.
- e. If a team fails to pay their rescheduling fees or has not rescheduled a match one week following the scheduled match time the team may be subject to a forfeiture of their bond or being placed in bad standing.
- f. If a match that is rescheduled for the convenience of any team does not get played (i.e. the rescheduled match is rained out), then a FORFEIT LOSS may be entered against the requesting team for that match.

## **20. Grace Period:**

Teams not ready to play within 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time of any match shall forfeit the match.

## **21. Forfeit:**

Forfeits will be counted as a 4-0 shutout win and the team will be awarded 3 points in the standings.

## **22. Team Cancellation of Scheduled Matches:**

All matches must be played as scheduled. Teams that forfeit a scheduled match will forfeit \$100. The PUMA UDL will review a team who forfeits more than two games in on season.

## **23. Weather Related Cancellations:**

If field related cancellations should occur, the host club must contact the PUMA UDL Administrator, field coordinator and the referee assignor. All cancellation information can be found on the PUMA UDL Website. Do NOT use any hosting club's website to determine the status of a match.

## **24. Home Team:**

The team listed first on the schedule is the home team. The home team shall change jerseys and/or socks if, in the opinion of the referee, there is a color conflict.

## **25. Game Ball: (Required)**

It is the responsibility of both teams to provide a playable game ball to the referee at the beginning of each match.

## **26. Rules of Competition:**

All matches will be conducted in accordance with FIFA's "Laws of the Game" consistent with the following additional requirements of SCYS and PUMA UDL.

- a) No deliberate heading of the ball at any level 8U to 12U of the PUMA UDL.
  - 1. Restart on any infraction of this rule will be an Indirect Free Kick at spot of deliberate header
- b) No Punting is allowed in the 8U to 10U age groups
  - 1. Restart on any infraction of this rule will be an Indirect Free Kick at the spot of the punt
- c) A build-up line will be implemented for all matches in the 8U to 10U age groups
  - 1. All opposing players must retreat behind the build-up line on goal kicks or when the goal keeper has the ball in their hands following a save.
  - 2. Once all opposing players have retreated behind the build-up line the Goalkeeper may then distribute the ball to his or her teammates.
  - 3. Once the goalkeeper distributes the ball the opposing team may cross the build-up line to defend.
  - 4. Restart on any infraction of this rule will be an Indirect Free Kick from the spot where the opponent illegally crossed the build-up line
- d) The build-out line also serves as an offside line. Attackers cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build-out line

## 27. Length of Games: (No overtime)

| Age Division | Minutes per half | Half-time  | Ball Size | Game Size | Minimum Players to Start* |
|--------------|------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|
| 8U-10U       | 30 minutes       | 10 minutes | 4         | 7v7       | 5                         |
| 11U-12U      | 30 minutes       | 10 minutes | 4         | 9v9       | 6                         |

\*=Minimum Players a team needs to play including a GK

## 28. Water Breaks:

It is the referee's discretion whether a water break will be permitted.

## 29. Player Substitutions:

Unlimited substitutions are allowed by both teams at any stoppage in which the player is ready to enter play at mid field.

Substitutions may be made on the following stoppages of play:

Prior to a throw-in

Prior to a goal kick by either team

After a goal by either team

After any injury by either team when the referee stops play (unlimited)

At the beginning of the second half

When the referee stops play to caution a player, only the cautioned player may be substituted prior to the re-start of the game.

## 30. Decorum:

Coaches are responsible for the behavior of all players, coaches, parents, and spectators associated with their team. Coaches and their players shall be located on the opposite side of the field from the parents and fans.

The only persons allowed on the team bench during a PUMA UDL match are those players, coaches and managers listed on the approved Official SC Youth Soccer Roster and coaches with a DOC/club coach pass, with a maximum of four (4) coach/assistant coaches/DOC/club coaches/managers. All players, coaches, DOC's, club coaches and manager (if applicable) shall have approved SC Youth Soccer player/coach/DOC/club coach/manager passes and must be checked in at the field before being allowed on the bench.

The only exception to this rule shall be:

- Any medical emergency requiring additional assistance, and
- During half-time visitors may approach the team bench with approval of the coach.

## 31. League Standings:

Three points are awarded for a WIN, one point for a TIE and zero for a LOSS. In any case, where both teams forfeit, zero points will be awarded. In the case of ties within a division the following tie breaking procedures will be used.

Head to Head competition

Goal differential, with a maximum differential of four goals per game

Fewest total goals allowed in all games

Coin toss

## 32. PUMA United Development League Discipline and Appeals:

All matters involving discipline and appeals within the PUMA UDL shall be in accordance with **SCYS Discipline and Appeals Policy/Procedures**. All protest and appeals shall be filed in writing to the PUMA UDL administrator within seventy-two hours of the game or circumstances that is being challenged. Judgment decisions of the referee are not subject to appeal or protest.