

SOUTH FLORIDA



RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Title

1.1. The **South Florida Men's U23 Soccer League** is a *US Club affiliate league* and shall be governed by the following rules.

2. Administration

1. 2.1. The South Florida U23+ Club League shall establish a South Florida U23+ Club League Committee to manage the South Florida U23+ Club League as directed.
2. 2.2. The South Florida U23+ Club League Committee shall have the authority to rule on any matter pertaining to this league. The South Florida U23+ Club League Committee shall deal with protests, misconducts, or any other competition related incident. The South Florida U23+ Club League Committee may also increase automatic minimum game suspensions. The decisions of the South Florida U23+ Club League are final.
3. 2.3. The current IFAB Laws of the Game will govern all games as amended by South Florida U23+ Club League Rules and Regulations, and these competition rules.

3. Team Eligibility

3.1. A team entering the South Florida U23+ Club League shall meet the following eligibility requirements:

3.1.1 The team will pay the \$250.00 registration at the time of completing the online application.

3.1.2. The team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered amateur players with US Club Soccer.

3.1.2. The team must be in good standing with the South Florida U23+ Club League and must be in compliance with, and have not violated, any of the rules of the South Florida U23+ Club League.

3.1.4. The team has not violated directives of the U.S. Soccer or is not on suspension terms with US Club Soccer and the South Florida U23+ Club League.

Every team shall have a team roster and will present a US Club Soccer game roster and player cards for every South Florida U23+ Club League game. The South Florida U23+ Club League may have an unlimited number of players on their roster at all times but the game day roster shall have a maximum of twenty-two (22) players per game.

3.1.5.

LEAGUE	TEAM ROSTER MAX.	GAME DAY ROSTER MAX.	SUBSTITUTIONS
South Florida U23+ Club League	Unlimited	Twenty-two (22)	Unlimited

3.1.6. There is a roster freeze for each game. Each team must have their roster updated on the game card 24 hours prior to kick off. The roster is to be frozen once we hit this deadline.

3.1.7. Teams must enter their application for the South Florida U23+ Club League via the GotSport registration link no later than the date set by the South Florida U23+ Club League. All entries must be posted electronically by 11:59 pm on this date. Acceptance to the South Florida U23+ Club League after this deadline is at the discretion of the South Florida U23+ Club League committee.

3.1.8. Teams wishing to withdraw (drop) from the League after applying to the League must notify the South Florida U23+ Club League in writing to info@daviesharks.com of their desire to withdraw (drop). Teams withdrawing prior to the schedule release date will have their entry fee refunded. Teams withdrawing after the schedule release date shall forfeit their entry fee.

3.1.9. A master schedule will be released on the schedule release date. Teams are then able to adjust their schedule accordingly in their club GotSport accounts. New dates, times, locations of games must be approved by both the home team and visiting team via the GotSport chat.

3.1.10. The electronic signature of the team's representative on the online application form and South Florida U23+ Club League Team/Game Roster form acknowledges the team has complied with the above requirements. An electronic entry will be considered to have been signed, the same as a paper application.

4. Player Eligibility

1. 4.1. Players must be of valid amateur status properly registered and on the roster of their team at the time it submits its South Florida U23+ Club League roster for each game. Teams must ensure that all former professional players must have their Amateur Status Reinstated by the US Soccer Federation.
2. 4.2. International player clearances are required per rule 7.15. U.S. Soccer International Clearance Request Form (ITC 5-11) must be filed by player and cleared by US Soccer Federation by the South Florida U23+ Club League Game day Roster Freeze Deadline to be eligible for the game.
3. 4.3. A player may play for only one team in each South Florida U23+ Club League. A player who wishes to move to a different South Florida U23+ Club League club/team can do so for the next new season.
4. 4.4. A player has not violated rules of the USSF or is not on South Florida U23+ Club League suspension.

5. 4.5. A player who has been suspended may play after the player's term of suspension has expired.
6. Players born in **2007** are permitted to participate in the South Florida U23+ Club League 2023.
7. Teams can roster as many overage players to their roster up to and including birth year **1990**.
8. Teams are allowed **ten** (10) overage players up to and including birth year **1990** on the game day roster.

5. Form of Competition

1. 5.1. The South Florida U23+ Club League competition shall be offered in the following divisions for men and women: Under 23.
2. 5.2. Teams will be awarded points for games:

Win	3 points
Tie	1 point
Loss	0 points

3. 5.3. Should teams be level at the end of the League season the following tiebreaker rules in order:
 1. 5.3.1. Goal differential (Max of 8 per game).
 2. 5.3.2. Most goals scored.
 3. 5.3.3. Least goals allowed.
 4. 5.3.4. If teams are still level a play-off game will determine the winner.

5.4. Home teams shall provide a safe playing surface and regulation size field (minimum of 110 yards by 68 yards to host home games. Game locations may be modified by the South Florida U23+ Club League Committee to ensure participant safety and field dimensions.

6. Precedence of Games

6.1. South Florida U23+ Club League games shall take precedence over all other sanctioned and unaffiliated league or tournament games.

7. Playing Rules

7.1. Duration of game:

DIVISION	GAME LENGTH	BALL SIZE
South Florida U23+ Club League	Two 45 Min. Halves 15 Min. half time	5

7.2. The home team shall have choice of team bench and shall supply the game balls.

7.3. Prior to each game, each team must present to the referee the completed South Florida U23+ Club League roster and the team's South Florida U23+ Club League player and Team Officials passes.

7.4. Team officials may review the game roster and player passes of his/her opponent only at the time the match officials check credentials.

7.5. A fifteen (15) minute grace period is allowed from the scheduled starting time of the game. In the event both teams are more than fifteen (15) minutes late for the game, both teams will be deemed to have forfeited the game. Seven (7) game rostered players constitute a team ready to play.

7.6. Each team is responsible for one-half of the match official's game fees. The teams must pay the match officials on the field prior to each game.

DIVISION	TOTAL FEES	CENTER OFFICIAL	ASSISTANT OFFICIAL 1	ASSISTANT OFFICIAL 2
South Florida U23+ Club League	\$180.00	\$90.00	\$45.00	\$45.00

7.7. Substitutions

7.7.1. The number of player substitutions allowed per game will be unlimited. A player who has been substituted may re-enter the game.

7.8. Substitutions may be made, with the approval of the referee, at any stoppage in play.

7.9. IFAB Law 4-Safety

"A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous.

All items of jewelry (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewelry is not permitted." The determination of whether a player may or may not play will be made by the referee in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

7.10. All spectators shall be positioned on the spectator area, opposite side of the team benches. It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. Team officials shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of the spectators from their respective teams. At no time shall foul or abusive language be permitted. All artificial noise makers such as drums, air horns, etc. are not permitted.

7.11. Only four (4) credentialed accredited Team Officials with South Florida U23+ Club League passes and listed on the Game Roster will be allowed in the technical area. A maximum of four (4) Team Officials in the technical area must be listed on the South Florida U23+ Club League Game Roster. Team Officials may be added to the team roster after the roster freeze deadline up to a maximum of four (4) per team.

7.12. Coaching from the touchline (giving directions to one's own team on points of strategy and positioning) is permitted.

1. 7.12.1. No mechanical devices are used, cell phones included.
2. 7.12.2. The tone of voice is informative and not derogatory.
3. 7.12.3. Each team official, substitute, or substituted player must remain within 10 yards on either side of the halfway line.

7.12.4. No team official, substitute, substituted player, or player shall make derogatory remarks or gestures to the match officials, other coaches, players, substitutes, substituted players, or spectators.

7.12.5. No team official, substitute, substituted player, or player shall use profanity.

7.12.6 No team official, substitute, substituted player, or player shall incite in any manner or demonstrate disruptive behavior.

7.13. Illegal drug, use alcohol, or possession of a weapon is not permitted on the fields at South Florida U23+ Club League games or events.

7.14. During the competition, if the South Florida U23+ Club League Committee has questions on the eligibility of any player or team, the committee has the authority to require the team/league to furnish proof of eligibility to continue the participation in the competition. Failure to furnish the requested proof within forty-eight (48) hours may result in the disqualification of a player and/or team from the competition.

7.15. INTERNATIONAL CLEARANCES – (USSF Rule)

The Federation and FIFA have international clearance requirements and procedures for players coming to United States to play soccer. A player age 10 or older requiring international clearance must receive approval from the US Soccer Federation prior to being registered.

7.16. ADULT GAMES (USYSA Rule)

7.16.1. A youth player may play an unlimited number of adult games without losing his or her youth eligibility. The youth player must notify his or her youth coach or other authorized team official of the player's intention to play adult games. The youth player shall request, in writing, (1) eligibility clearance from the Youth State Association through which the player is registered,

and (2) permission from the appropriate Adult State Association. When the clearance and permission have been granted, the Adult State Association has sole discretion in permitting a youth player to play adult games and will be responsible for establishing the procedures under which the youth player will be allowed to play. In the event of a conflict between an adult game and a youth game, the youth game shall take precedence. A youth player who is required to sign an adult form, shall retain youth eligibility.

7.17. Minor Player Release Form. Players under the age of 18 may not participate in a South Florida U23+ Club League game without an Adult Player Registration (Minors) & Parental Release Form, with wet signature signed by a parent or guardian.

8. Check-In

1. 8.4. All teams shall check-in with the referee prior to every South Florida U23+ Club League game and present the player pass and their official game roster. All Team Officials must have at each game and present to the referee prior to each game their South Florida U23+ Club League passes. Failure to present passes or official game roster makes the Player or Team Official ineligible for the game.

9. Player passes, Game Roster Forms, and Uniforms.

9.1. Passes/Cards

9.1.1. It is the responsibility of Team Officials to obtain South Florida U23+ Club League passes before the first South Florida U23+ Club League game and that the passes are correctly prepared with player photo and lamination. (Hand written cards will not be accepted).

9.1.2. Game Roster. Prior to the game Team officials shall present to the referee an official South Florida U23+ Club League game roster for each game to be played.

9.1.3. Uniforms. Each player must have a number listed on the game roster and each shall wear a shirt with the same number and sleeves. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player must wear a shirt with a different number. Goalkeepers must wear colors that are distinguishable from the other players and the match officials.

9.1.4. All teams shall have a light and dark colored uniform for each game.

9.1.5 The home team is to wear the light-colored uniform and the away team is to wear the dark colored uniform.

9.1.6 The visiting team shall change jerseys if the referee decides there is a color conflict.

10. Match Officials

10.1. The appointment of match officials shall be the responsibility of the Home team Referee Assignor (SRA). Match officials shall be USSF certified.

10.2. Complaints regarding match officials must be in writing and sent to the South Florida U23+ Club League Committee with copies to the SRA.

10.3. The referee shall have the power to decide as to the conditions of the field in all matches. In other respects, the duties of the match officials are as defined in the IFAB Laws of the Game.

10.4. The match officials appointed to officiate in any South Florida U23+ Club League game shall be neither a past nor present member nor be related to a member (member to include players, team officials) of either of the competing teams. Match officials accepting games that violate this rule shall be reported to the referee disciplinary committee for possible disciplinary action.

10.5. In the event the referee appointed fails to appear and where assistant referees have been appointed, one of those assistant referees shall assume the responsibilities of the referee.

10.6. The referee will give to both Head Coaches after the game, all game rosters from the completed game. The referees shall (a) mark the game roster appropriately, (b) complete the South Florida U23+ Club League no-show report when one team fails to appear for a game within the required time, (c) complete the referee supplemental report for all red cards shown.

11. Misconduct and Breaches of the Rules

11.1. Player Sent Off/Team Official Expelled:

11.1.1. If a player, substitute, or substituted player is sent off or a team official is expelled from the game, the referee shall retain their pass, prepare a supplemental referee report, and submit them to the Head Coaches after the game. Team Officials expelled from the game shall spend the remainder of the game away from the field of play as instructed by the referee. The game can be suspended until the team official leaves the site. The Team official that has been expelled from the match may not be replaced by another credentialed team official on the roster or technical area.

11.1.2. Any player, substitute, or substitute player sent off from one (1) South Florida U23+ Club League game shall be ineligible to participate in his/her team's next South Florida U23+ Club League game/games (games forfeited to that team do not count as games played). Unserved suspensions will carry forward to the next year's South Florida U23+ Club League where he/she is listed on a South Florida U23+ Club League Game Roster.

11.1.3. In the case of a Team Official being expelled, the Team Official will be ineligible to participate in any South Florida U23+ Club League game for the next game(s) for the team from which he/she was expelled. If the team from which he/she was expelled is no longer playing in the South Florida U23+ Club League, the Team Official will sit out the next game(s) where he/she

is listed on an South Florida U23+ Club League Game Roster as a Team Official of a team still competing in the South Florida U23+ Club League. Unserved suspensions will carry forward to the next year's South Florida U23+ Club League competition.

11.1.4. The South Florida U23+ Club League Committee has the authority to increase game suspensions at its own discretion.

11.1.5. South Florida U23+ Club League game suspensions shall apply and carry over to subsequent South Florida U23+ Club League games.

11.1.6. The sent-off of a player, substitute, or substituted player or the expelling of a team official is not subject to protest.

12. Suspension Guidelines for Players

12.1. The South Florida U23+ Club League Committee shall act on all disciplinary matters and shall have discretionary powers in determining disciplinary action applied to team officials and players. Game suspensions listed below are to be regarded as minimums for the charged offenses. Depending on the findings of the South Florida U23+ Club League Committee, penalties may be increased according to the gravity of the offense. When sent off from the field of play and shown the red card for an offense against the Laws of the Game, players, substitutes, and substituted players shall be disciplined by additional game suspensions as follows:

12.1.1. Serious Foul Play

A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality must be sanctioned as serious foul play.

Any player who lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side or from behind using one or both legs, with excessive force or endangers the safety of an opponent is guilty of serious foul play.

Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game.

12.1.2. Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language and/or Gestures

The referee should judge offensive, insulting, or abusive language according to its content, the extent to which the language can be heard by others beyond the immediate vicinity of the player, and whether the language is directed at officials, opponents, or teammates.

Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to, words uttered in frustration and, in the referee's opinion, loud enough to be heard outside the field of play; words or actions directed towards any person.

Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game. Second Caution Offense

Second yellow card in the same match. Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game.

12.1.3. Second Caution Offense

Second yellow card in the same match.

Suspend for a minimum of one (1) game.

12.1.4. Violent Conduct

12.1.4.1. A player uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball, or against a team- mate, team official, match official, spectator or any other person, regardless of whether contact is made.

Suspend for a minimum of two (2) games.

12.1.4.2. Pushing in an act of aggression, kicking, spitting on, striking, or attempting to strike a match official.

Suspend from the remaining of South Florida U23+ Club League competition in the current year and the next year's South Florida U23+ Club League competition with review by the South Florida U23+ Club League Protest, Appeals, and Disciplinary (PAD) Committee for further review and disciplinary action.

12.1.4.3. Any player, substitute, substituted player, or team official who refuses the referee's request for his/her name or gives a false name while the referee is gathering data to report about an offense of the Laws of the Game involving him/her, shall have one game added to the suspension that would normally be levied by the South Florida U23+ Club League Committee.

13. Expelled Team Officials:

13.1. During the game suspension(s), there can be NO contact of any kind or by any means between the team and the coach from thirty (30) minutes before the game until the conclusion of the game. Additionally, the coach must not be involved in unacceptable conduct (defined to include coaching his/her players or harassment of opponents/players or referees). The South Florida U23+ Club League Committee has the authority to suspend an expelled coach from more than one (1) South Florida U23+ Club League game.

13.2. Any team found guilty of using an ineligible player is not eligible to compete further in the South Florida U23+ Club League in the current seasonal year. Any team official found guilty of knowingly using an ineligible player is not eligible to compete further in the South Florida U23+ Club League in the current and subsequent seasonal year. A player found guilty of submitting

falsified birth information is prohibited from competing further in the South Florida U23+ Club League in the current and subsequent seasonal year.

13.3. An expelled coach or sent off player from any South Florida U23+ Club League game must leave the technical area and the field of play area. The officials have the authority to suspend the game until the expelled coach or player has left the technical area and field of play area.

13.4. Team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained in this policy, including cautions, send offs, expelling, and standard suspension. Other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team, such as relatives and spectators, are also subject to the jurisdiction and authority of the South Florida U23+ Club League. Any team official shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual at any game that, in the opinion of the referee, is a supporter of that team.

13.5. Team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained herein, including cautions, ejections, expelling, and standard suspensions.

13.6. Team officials shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual(s) at any match that in the opinion of the referee is a supporter of that team.

13.7. Expelled team officials and sent off players who in their last South Florida U23+ Club League game did not sit out their suspension(s), shall have the suspension(s) carried forward to the subsequent year's South Florida U23+ Club League.

14. Protests

14.1. The South Florida U23+ Club League Committee shall have the authority to rule on any matter pertaining to this competition.

14.1.1. The South Florida U23+ Club League Committee shall deal with protests, misconduct, or any other incident arising from a State Cup game.

14.1.2. The South Florida U23+ Club League Committee has the authority to assess suspensions for more than one game.

14.2. Protests based on violations of the rules and regulations are eligible to be considered by the South Florida U23+ Club League Committee. Protests based on referee judgment calls as defined by the IFAB Laws of the Game are not eligible for protest.

14.3. Filing a protest:

14.3.1. A written copy of the protest, citing the rule that has been violated along with supporting documentation must be emailed to the South Florida U23+ Club League Committee at

info@daviesharks.com no later than two (2) hours following the conclusion of the game in which the alleged violation occurred.

14.3.2. The written protest must be accompanied by a two hundred-dollar (\$200) fee.

14.4. The protest fee shall be non-refundable.

15. Forfeits for Failure to Compete

15.1. Teams wishing to withdraw (drop) from the South Florida U23+ Club League after applying must have their head coach or team manager notify the South Florida U23+ Club League in writing (e-mail will suffice) of their desire to withdraw (drop). Teams withdrawing prior to the schedule release date will have their entry fee refunded. Teams withdrawing after the schedule release date shall forfeit their entry fee.

15.1.1. Teams failing to appear for a scheduled game without notifying the opponent at least 24 hours prior to kick off will also be assessed a minimum \$200 fine. The South Florida U23+ Club League Committee may suspend the team from future South Florida U23+ Club League.

16. Forfeits generally

16.1. Any team found guilty of violating any of the rules of the South Florida U23+ Club League shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include disqualification from the South Florida U23+ Club League and forfeiture of one or more games. Forfeited games in the competition shall not be replayed.

16.2. All forfeit games will reported as 8-0 scores.

17. Cancelled, Terminated, or Abandoned Matches

17.1. Officials and the South Florida U23+ Club League Committee may declare a match cancellation.

17.2. Every attempt shall be made to play the match irrespective of how long the delay. Postponements shall be considered only in extreme situations, such as those that are beyond the control of the participating teams or could endanger the safety of the participants and spectators.

17.3. If a match is cancelled because of weather or other act of God, a rescheduled date shall be determined and replayed as quickly as possible.

17.4. If a match is terminated after the end of the first half of a match, but before the end of the second half with one of the teams winning, and the termination is not due to the conduct of one of the teams, the match is considered complete and the team winning at the time of the termination shall be declared the winner.

17.5. If a match is terminated prior to the end of the first half or is otherwise tied at the time of termination, and the termination is not due to the conduct of one of the teams, the match shall be replayed in its entirety. A rescheduled date shall be determined and replayed as quickly as possible.

17.6. If a match is abandoned because of the conduct of a team in the match, the opposing team shall automatically be awarded a forfeit (8-0) win and the team engaging in the misconduct shall be awarded a loss. If a game must be abandoned due to the misconduct of both teams, the referee will file a complete report and the status of the game will be decided by the South Florida U23+ Club League Committee.

18. Suspension of Game due to weather or unforeseen events

18.1. In the event of inclement weather, the teams shall assume that the game will be played unless official notification is given.

18.2. The South Florida U23+ Club League Committee, may arrange for an alternate field site on the day of play. In the case of bad weather, teams shall be notified at the earliest opportunity, which may be the morning of play. Providing the authority that has control of the field in question has not refused permission to use the field, the referee shall have the sole authority to decide whether a game shall be played or suspended due to inclement weather.

19. Appeals

19.1. The Disciplinary decisions of the South Florida U23+ Club League Committee may be appealed to the South Florida U23+ Club League Protest, Appeals and Disciplinary (PAD) Committee. Appeals must be submitted in writing within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of notification from the South Florida U23+ Club League Committee. The written appeal must be accompanied by a two-hundred-dollar (\$200) fee, sent via Venmo to (@DavieSharks). The appeal fee is non-refundable.

19.2. The Non-Disciplinary decisions of the South Florida U23+ Club League Committee may be appealed to the South Florida U23+ Club League Appeals Committee (SCAC). Appeals must be submitted in writing within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of notification from the South Florida U23+ Club League Committee. The written protest/appeal must be accompanied by a two-hundred-dollar (\$200) fee, sent via Venmo to (@DavieSharks). The appeal fee is non-refundable.

19.3. Filing an appeal shall not stay South Florida U23+ Club League.

19.4. All decisions of the South Florida U23+ Club League Committee are final and as such no further appeals will be heard.

20. Appendix: Definitions

Except as otherwise provided, the following definitions apply to this policy:

Add - the addition of a player to a team's roster.

Board of Directors - the Board of Directors of the South Florida U23+ Club League.

Eligibility to Play – player registered and not under suspension.

Federation – the United States Soccer Federation, Inc.

Game Roster – means the list of players who will participate in a game.

Registration – submitted South Florida U23+ Club League registration form online with intent to play, coach or act as a team official with South Florida U23+ Club League.

Rostering - assignment of a registered player to a team.

Suspension –the temporary withdrawal of rights and privilege, such as the right to play, coach, or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in soccer, and the suspension is for the entire term of the suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.

Team - a group of soccer players playing on the same side in soccer games.

Team Roster – means a list of registered players eligible to play for a team.