



Florida Premier
League

Rules & Regulations

2018-2019
Season

Florida Premier League

Rules and Regulations

The Florida Premier League (“FPL”) is a player development platform for eligible boys and girls youth soccer clubs in the Florida. These Rules and Regulations (the “Regulations”) provide the requirements and rules for FPL Competition (as defined below). Clubs/teams shall consult US Club Soccer’s bylaws, policies and player rules documents, as necessary. These documents can be found at the members-only section of www.usclubsoccer.org

1. Definitions

- 1.1 “FPL” means the Florida Premier League.
- 1.2 “FPL League Office” consists of the FPL Administrator and FPL League office director.
- 1.3 “FPL Administrator” is the administrator of the FPL
- 1.4 “FPL Club” means a member club of the FPL as provided in by these Regulations.
- 1.5 “FPL Competition” means a FPL game played during the FPL Regular-Season.
- 1.6 “FPL Game Report” means the official game report that must be completed for all FPL Competitions as provided in Section 4 of these Regulations.
- 1.7 “FPL Registered Player” means a player on a FPL Team’s FPL Roster. FPL Registered Players must be registered with US Club Soccer.
- 1.8 “FPL Roster” means the US Club Soccer roster of a FPL Team during the FPL Season when playing in a FPL Competition. An FPL Roster shall only be used for FPL Competitions. FPL Rosters apply to the U-13, U-14, U-15, U-16, U-17, U-18 and U19 age groups.
- 1.9 “FPL Season” means the competitive season beginning August 1 of each year and ending July 31 of the following year.
- 1.10 “FPL Team” is the team of a FPL Club that participates in FPL Competition in the U-13, U-14, U-15, U-16, U-17, U-18 and/or U19 age groups.

- 1.11 “Incident Report” is a form for reporting disciplinary incidents during FPL Competitions.
- 1.12 “Game Change Request Form” is a form used for submitting a request a change to the FPL schedule by the FPL Primary Contact and/or field scheduler only.

2. **FPL Roster Rules**

- 2.1 **FPL Roster Maximums.** For the U-13, U-14, U-15, U-16, U-17, U-18 and U19 age groups, a maximum of twenty-six (26) players may be rostered on any FPL Team’s FPL Roster.
- 2.2 **Player Registration.** All players on a FPL Roster must be FPL Registered Players.
- 2.3 **FPL Game Day Roster.** A maximum of eighteen (18) FPL Registered Players from a FPL Team’s FPL Roster will be eligible for each game in FPL Competition (the “FPL Game Day Roster”). These “active” players for the FPL Competition must be identified on the FPL Game Report.
- 2.4 **No Drops.** No FPL Registered Players may be dropped from a FPL Roster during an FPL Season, unless approved by the FPL Administrator.
- 2.5 **Roster Freeze Date.** Players may be added to the FPL Roster until May 1 of each year.
- 2.6 **Player / Club Tie.** A player may only be rostered to one (1) FPL Club each FPL Season.
- 2.7 **Initial Roster Submission Date; Roster Add Periods.** No FPL Roster will be accepted prior to July 1 of each FPL Season. Additional players may be added to the FPL Roster of each FPL Team as provided in the attached **Exhibit B**.
- 2.8 **Younger Players Playing Up.** A FPL Registered Player may play for any FPL Team in the FPL Club for which the player is age eligible. Younger players on a FPL Team may play on the older FPL teams within their FPL Club, and shall not count towards the roster limit for such older FPL team. Age eligibility is determined by **Exhibit A** of these Regulations. Notwithstanding the foregoing, every FPL Registered Player may only play on one (1) FPL Team per day, and play in one (1) FPL Competition per day. A FPL Registered Player may play on different FPL Teams within her FPL Club from game-to- game during the FPL Regular Season.
 - 2.8.1 An FPL Registered Player that will “play-up” on an older FPL Team in his FPL Club for a FPL Competition must be handwritten onto the FPL Game Report for that FPL Competition.

2.8.2 For purposes of clarification, no player may be handwritten onto the FPL Game Report at the Under-13 age group. In order to participate in FPL Competition at Under-13, the player must be on the Under-13 FPL Roster and must be a FPL Registered Player.

2.9 Club Loyalty Rule.

2.9.1 Rule 2.9 applies to all FPL Registered Players except for the enumerated exceptions provided in Rule 2.9.3. After being registered as a FPL Registered Player for a FPL Season, a FPL Registered Player may only participate in competitions for that FPL Club for the duration of the FPL Season. (For purposes of clarification, the FPL Registered Player may appear in any competition in which the FPL Club participates during the FPL Season.) If a FPL Registered Player plays in a competition for a different club besides the FPL Club to which the player is registered as a FPL Registered Player after the date the player became rostered as a FPL Registered Player (“Multiple Club Rostering”), the eligibility of the FPL Registered Player will be reviewed by the FPL League office. If it is determined by the FPL League Office, at their sole discretion, that the FPL Club to which the FPL Registered Player is registered was aware of the Multiple Club Rostering, US Club Soccer may take any or all of the following actions: (i) declaring the FPL Registered Player ineligible for the remainder of that FPL Season; (ii) declaring all games in which the FPL Registered Player appeared on the FPL Roster as forfeits by the FPL team on which such player was rostered; and / or (iii) recommending immediate revocation of the FPL Club’s membership in the FPL.

2.9.2 Rule 2.9.1 applies to any FPL Club with franchises in or within multiple states, affiliates in or within multiple states, or with agreements licensing use of the trademarks of the FPL Club to youth soccer clubs in multiple states (such FPL Club a “Franchise Club”). Each franchisee of the Franchise Club, affiliate of the Franchise Club, or licensee of the Franchise Club, shall be considered a separate and independent club for purposes of Rule 2.9.1. Approved merge/affiliate clubs at the Florida premiership level may with permission of the FPL League office roster players to an approved FPL merge/affiliate team.

2.9.3 Rule 2.9.1 does not apply to FPL Registered Players that participate in a tournament as a guest player with another club, provided that: (i) the Director of Coaching of the FPL club gives prior approval to the requesting DOC for the guest player to participate in the event; and

(ii) the tournament takes place over no more than four (4) days.

2.10 **Recruiting; Try-Outs; Registration.**

2.10.1 **Recruiting; No-Tampering.** FPL Clubs may recruit players for participation on FPL Teams from any geographic region at any time during the year (subject to these Regulations). Notwithstanding the foregoing, FPL Clubs may not train or tryout a player from a FPL Team of another FPL Club during the FPL Season until May 15th 2017, except pursuant to Rule 2.10.2 below. *Note: FPL coaches and administrators may be subject to the rules of other U.S. Soccer organization members regarding recruiting.*

2.10.2 **Try-Outs; Registration.** The month of June shall be considered an “open” month for player movement between FPL Clubs. During this month, players from one FPL Team may train or try-out with teams of another FPL Club. No roster for any FPL Team for the upcoming FPL Season will be accepted by US Club Soccer prior to July 1st.

3. **Competition Rules**

3.1 **General.** Unless otherwise provided in these Regulations, all FPL Competitions shall be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game in force at the time of competition as provided by the International Football Association Board.

3.2 **Scheduling Competitions.** The FPL League Office shall identify the dates and locations of all FPL Competitions for each FPL Season.

3.3 **Number of Competitions.** The FPL League Office shall determine the total number of FPL Competitions during the FPL Season. An FPL Team may only play one (1) FPL Competition per day.

3.4 **Cancelled Competitions.** If a FPL Competition is suspended by weather and at least the first half was played, the game will be considered a full game. If any FPL Competition is cancelled, the participating clubs shall attempt to reschedule the FPL Competition. If the participating clubs cannot agree on a reschedule date, the FPL League Office shall recommend if and how such FPL Competition shall be rescheduled.

If the FPL League Office finds that it is impossible to reschedule such cancelled FPL Competition, the FPL League Office shall recommend that the FPL Competition shall be considered a non-played game, and neither team shall be awarded any points. In the event that any games are cancelled pursuant to this Rule 3.4, the FPL League Office shall alter the method by which FPL standings are determined for impacted age groups (for

example to change to a point-per-games basis).

- 3.5 **Competition Scheduling.** The location and time for all FPL Competitions must be agreed upon by the opposing FPL Clubs and reported to the FPL Administrator no later than August 1 of each FPL Season. Any changes to FPL Competitions after August 1 must be agreed upon by both FPL Clubs and then submitted for approval using the Game change request form 14 days prior to the scheduled date of play. No changes to FPL Competitions may be made, except due to bad weather or as permitted by the FPL Administrator. Any unauthorized changes to the FPL schedule may result in removal from the FPL.
- 3.6 **Competition Referee Assigning.** It is the responsibility of the home club to contact and pay the club's referee assignor(s) to schedule referees for all FPL Competitions. For neutral venue sites the referees will be assigned through the League Administrator
- 3.7 **Competition Referee Fees.** Referee fees for each FPL Competition will be paid by the home/host club. Clubs playing competitions at neutral venues will be invoiced for the referee fees
- 3.8 **Competitions in Conjunction with Other Events.** In the event that FPL Clubs agree to play an FPL Competition in conjunction with a tournament or other non-FPL competition they may do so under the following conditions: (i) there shall be no entry fee paid for the FPL Competition except a fee that covers the cost of the referees per the FPL referee pay scale (if agreed to by the visiting teams); and (ii) all FPL Competition rules related to roster limits, game length, substitutions, etc., must be followed.
- 3.9 **Deadline for State Competitions.** All FPL Competitions must be played by May 1st of the FPL Season. The FPL Administrator may extend this date under extreme circumstances at the FPL Administrator's sole discretion.
- 3.10 **Substitutions.** Substitutions are allowed at the referees discretion. Once an FPL Registered Player is substituted in one half of any FPL Competition, such FPL Registered Player may not re-enter the game for the duration of the half. Once an FPL Registered Player is substituted in one period of overtime of any FPL Competition, such FPL Registered Player may not re-enter the game for the duration of such overtime period. There shall be a maximum of seven (7) substitutions in any half or in any overtime period of any FPL Competition. In accordance with the USSF Head Injury Guidelines, a substitution for a suspected head injury will not count against re-entry rules.
- 3.11 **Yellow and Red Cards (Players).** Any FPL Registered Player receiving a red card in a FPL Competition will be suspended for the remainder of that FPL Competition and also for the next FPL Competition played by the FPL Club at all age groups. For purposes of

clarification, if a FPL Registered Player receives a red card in a FPL Competition, the FPL Registered Player will not be eligible to participate in the next FPL Competition for any team within the FPL Registered Player's FPL Club.

- 3.12 **Yellow and Red Cards (Coaches).** Any coach receiving a red card in a FPL Competition will be suspended for the remainder of the FPL Competition and for that FPL Team's next FPL Competition.
- 3.13 **Yellow and Red Card Carryover.** Red card suspensions will carry over into subsequent FPL Seasons if the red card is received in the final FPL Competition of the current FPL Season.
- 3.14 **Accumulation.** There shall be no yellow card accumulation policy for FPL Competitions.
- 3.15 **Points.** In each FPL Competition during the FPL Regular Season, teams shall be awarded three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss. A forfeit (due to misconduct or ineligibility or as deemed by the FPL League Office) shall be considered a 3-0 loss for the forfeiting team and a 3-0 win for the non- forfeiting team.
- 3.16 **Standings.** The standings in each age group shall be determined at the end of the FPL Regular Season (the "Regular Season Standings").
- 3.17 **Tie-Breakers.** The following tie-breakers will be used for resolving ties between FPL Teams in determining the Regular Season Standings, in the following order:
1. Most Points
 2. If Two Teams are tied, head to head. If more than Two Teams are tied, this tie-breaker shall not apply.
 3. Goal Difference
 4. Goals For
 5. Goals Against
 6. Coin Toss

There shall be no cap on goal difference in any FPL Competition.

- 3.18 **Game Length.** FPL Competitions shall be played with the following game lengths:
- U-13: 2 x 40 minutes
 - U-14: 2 x 40 minutes
 - U-15: 2 x 40 minutes
 - U-16: 2 x 40 minutes
 - U-17: 2 x 45 minutes
 - U-18: 2 x 45 minutes

4. Game Day Procedures

- 4.1 An official FPL Game Report must be completed for each FPL Competition. The FPL Game Report must be provided by the home team. Both FPL team Game Day rosters must be printed on the game report to be a valid game.
- 4.2 The home club is responsible to ensure all player cards and USCS rosters are valid and this information confirms all players listed on the FPL game report.
- 4.3 The referee uses the game report and passes to check the players prior to game start. The referee notes all goals and cards on the FPL game report as well as referee names.
- 4.4 The FPL Game Report must be completed in full, signed by both teams, and submitted by the home club into the proper Google Doc club designated folder within twenty-four (24) hours of completion of the FPL Competition. Any double yellows and red cards must be identified and reported on the Game Report. All red cards incidents and injuries require ALL documentation (game report, two rosters, supplemental and/or incident report) to be submitted as well as emailed to admin@floridapremiership.org and FLPremiership@gmail.com
- 4.5 Referee fees and assignor fees are paid by the home club (exhibit C.) Games involving Clubs playing at a venue (“neutral”) site will be assigned by the league, clubs will be responsible for paying for referees fees for their neutral site games www.sportsoperationservices.com at least one week prior to the game.
- 4.6 All game day procedures provided by the FPL League Office must be followed.
- 4.7 Referee and scheduling policies must be followed (exhibit D)

5. Miscellaneous

5.1 Disciplinary Matters. Any disciplinary matters brought before the FPL League Office through submission of an Incident Report shall be addressed and responded to at the discretion of the FPL League Office. Before any disciplinary action is taken by the FPL League Office the impacted coach, player, or administrator will be provided the opportunity for a hearing, either in person or via teleconference. Testimony will be allowed by principal parties, eyewitnesses, and authorities on the subject at hand

5.2 Protests and Appeals. Any protest or appeal must be put in writing to the FPL League Office. There will be no protests or appeals of decisions made in FPL Competitions or by the FPL League Office.

5.3 Matters Not Provided For. Any matter not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by the FPL League Office. All such decisions are final.

Exhibit A:
FPL Age Group Eligibility

Age groups for the 2018-19 FPL Season are provided below:

U-13 Age Group: Players born on or after January 1, 2006

U-14 Age Group: Players born on or after January 1, 2005

U-15 Age Group: Players born on or after January 1, 2004

U-16 Age Group: Players born on or after January 1, 2003

U-17 Age Group: Players born on or after January 1, 2002

U-18 Age Group: Players born on or after January 1, 2001

U-19 Age Group: Players born on or after January 1, 2000**

Players may play for their own age group and for "older" age groups.

**Each FPL club is allowed to add up to three (3) "trapped" U20 players to their roster. "Trapped" players are those that are still in high school but fall into the U20 age group.

Exhibit B:

Registration; Player and Staff Passes; Roster Add Process

Types of Player and Staff Passcards for FPL Clubs and FPL Competition

US Club Passcards are Passcards validated by US Club Soccer on the US Club Soccer website, and then printed and laminated by the NPL Club for use in NPL Competition and other US Club Soccer competition.

Player Add Process

FPL Competition: F P L Registered Players may be added to a FPL Roster for FPL Competition at any time, provided that they appear on the official NPL Roster prior to the game. No player may participate in NPL Regional Competition without a pass.

Player and Staff Fees and Expiration Dates

Player Passes: For the 2018-2019 FPL Season, individual player fees for players registered to FPL Clubs (at any age group) shall be found at:

<https://usclubsoccer.org/registration/player/>

Staff Passes: Staff passcards for any staff member in a FPL Club shall be issued for a two-year period. For staff registration purposes, all coaches who will coach a FPL Team, as well as the F P L Team manager, shall be required to have a staff passcard. All staff shall submit to a background check every two years.

<https://usclubsoccer.org/registration/staff/>

***In addition, approximately every two years, staff members registering with US Club Soccer also need to:

1. Complete a [background screening](#)
2. Complete the [Sideline Sports Doc-US Club Soccer online course](#)

These are Player Health and Safety initiatives being implemented as part of US Club Soccer's Players First philosophy ahead of the 2018-2019 registration year. Beyond the Sideline Sports Doc online course, the standard of background screening is being substantially increased. For details, please visit the [Staff Registration page](#).

Registration fees are paid annually, with the exception of the staff passcard (competitive), which is valid for up to two years based upon the [Staff Passcard Issue/Expiration Date Matrix \[.pdf\]](#).

Player passcard prices are based on the player's date of birth at the time the passcard is requested. Fees are non-refundable.

Exhibit C:
FPL Competition Referee Pay Scale

The suggested pay scale for FPL Competitions in the 2018-2019 FPL Season shall be as follows:

For U-13 and U-14 FPL Competitions:

Center Referee:	\$60
Assistant Referee:	\$25
Assistant Referee:	\$25

For U-15 through U-16 FPL Competitions:

Center Referee:	\$60
Assistant Referee:	\$30
Assistant Referee:	\$30

For U-17 through U-19 FPL Competitions:

Center Referee:	\$70
Assistant Referee:	\$35
Assistant Referee:	\$35

Fees for referees are paid by the FPL Clubs as specified in these Regulations.

For FPL Competition, it is the responsibility of the home club to contact and pay their club's referee assignor(s) to schedule referees.

Neutral venue sites will be controlled at the League Admin level

Exhibit D

Referee and Scheduling Policies

1. All game day procedure is to be followed. Home clubs will be responsible for assigning and paying referees.
2. All neutral site venues will be assigned by the League Administrator/ referee assignor and the clubs playing at the neutral sites will be invoiced for the referee fees.

Scheduling Policies

3. **Schedule changes should be avoided.** However, in the event of an emergency, any and all requests for schedule changes must be made using the Game Change Request Form via the leagues GCRF Google Form
 - 3.2.1 Requests are to be handled by the DOC's, or designated schedulers, from the two clubs and cannot be initiated by any club member who cannot verify fields and referees. A contact list has been provided on the league's Google Docs
 - 3.2.2 Once date venue and referees have been confirmed the DOC must submit the GCRF via the Google Form. The completed form must be sent at least 14 days in advance of the currently scheduled game.
 - 3.2.3 Any rescheduling of a game less than 96 hours prior WILL result in the referee fees being charged to the club(s) and possible venue fees.
 - 3.2.4 Communication for reschedules of neutral venue sites MUST be addressed/ copied to all the following contacts:
 - (a) Opposition (per contact list)
 - (b) Host club/venue email (available upon request)
 - (c) League Field Scheduler (FLPremiership@gmail.com)
 - (d) League Administrator (Admin@Floridapremiership.org)
 - (e) League referee Assignor Justin Lauer (refereejustin@yahoo.com)
 - (f) Failure address all may result in referee fees and venue fees of the original game date and times.
4. Any field changes due to weather or availability (date remains the same) must immediately be relayed to all parties.