



LEAGUE REQUIREMENTS, COMPETITION RULES & DISCIPLINE POLICY

League Requirements

- All member clubs are required to provide a complete developmental pathway consisting of one team at each age group from U13 through U19 (6 teams total DAL).
- Failure to maintain a full pathway will result in league review and may lead to sanctions, including probation, restriction from league competitions, or removal from the league.

Exclusive League Participation:

ALL clubs/teams participating in the Desert Academy League are strictly prohibited from competing in any other league or league-based competition (except Utah based clubs)

- **Violation & Enforcement:**
Any club or team found in violation of this policy will be subject to immediate disciplinary action, which may include:
 - Match forfeitures
 - Financial penalties
 - Suspension of team(s) or staff
 - Loss of league standing or playoff eligibility
 - Termination of club membership for repeated or severe violations

Match Commitment & Scheduling Compliance

- **Mandatory Participation:** All clubs and teams are obligated to fulfill all scheduled league fixtures as assigned. Acceptance into the league constitutes a full-season commitment to compete in all matches.
- **DAL Schedule Adherence:** Once the official schedule is released, all fixtures are considered binding. Requests for changes must be submitted in writing and will only be approved under exceptional circumstances at the discretion of league leadership.
- **Forfeits & Failure to Appear:** Any team that fails to appear for a scheduled match, arrives unable to compete, or forfeits without approved cause will be subject to immediate disciplinary action, including:
 - Automatic match forfeiture
 - Financial penalties (to cover referee, field, and opponent expenses)

- Additional sanctions for repeat offenses
- **Chronic non-compliance:** Clubs demonstrating a pattern of missed matches, late changes, or inability to meet scheduling commitments will be placed under league review, which may result in:
 - Probationary status
 - Removal from league competitions or showcases
 - Termination of DAL membership
- **Minimum Roster Readiness:** Clubs are responsible for maintaining sufficient roster depth to fulfill all scheduled matches. Inability to field a team due to roster shortages will not be considered an acceptable excuse.

Travel & Hosting Responsibilities

- **Travel Commitment:** All member clubs are fully responsible for fulfilling all travel obligations associated with league participation. Clubs must ensure their teams are prepared to travel to all scheduled away fixtures, regardless of distance or location, as assigned by the league schedule. Failure to meet travel obligations will not be considered a valid reason for match cancellation or rescheduling.
- **Hosting Standards:** Clubs assigned as the home team are required to provide a professional and safe match-day environment, including:
 - Regulation-size, properly lined fields meeting league standards
 - Safe and secure facilities for players, staff, and spectators
 - Adequate team benches/hydration and technical areas for both teams
 - Game balls that meet league specifications
 - Scheduled referees (via US Officials)
 Failure to meet hosting standards may result in match relocation, forfeiture, and/or financial penalties.

Weather & Unforeseen Circumstances:

In cases of severe/inclement weather or uncontrollable events, the league must be immediately put into communication from the hosting club with the visiting club.

- ALL decisions regarding postponing or rescheduling will be made with league leadership.
- Unilateral decisions by clubs to cancel or reschedule matches are strictly prohibited.



DAL Competition Rules

Match Timeframe:

- Players can only play in 90 minutes per day across a maximum of 2 matches.
- Players should not appear in more than 2 consecutive matchdays.

Match Ball:

- Size 5 match ball must be used for all U14 – U19 Desert Academy League matches.
- Size 4 Official match ball must be used for all U13 Desert Academy League matches.

DAL U11 and U12:

- Games use a size 4 ball
- Standard heading rules for U11 and U12
- Unlimited substitutions and re-entry
- U11 Games are 9v9 games and 2 x 30-minute halves
- U11 Fields are 70-80 yds long & 45-55 yds wide with a restraining line 30 yds from the goal
- U12 Games 9v9 for the first half of the season and 11v11 for the second half of the season will be an option that is offered.
- U12 Fields 9v9 are 70-80 yds long & 45-55 yds wide with no restraining line
- U12 Fields 11v11 are MLS Next u13 11v11 Size approximately 110 yds x 55 yds
- U12 Game times 2x30 minute halves

Hydration:

- Home club **must** provide adequate hydration for both teams.

Technical Area:

- Home club must provide adequate seating (benches) for both teams.

Athletic Trainer:

- Home club is encouraged but not required to provide a Qualified Medical Professional (QMP) for all venues.

Match Video:

- Video is not required but it is suggested home club film and share film for U13 - U19 age groups to video platform and/or analysis provider by 12pm EST on the Tuesday after matches.

Spectators:

- Home club must ensure there are no spectators/parents in the technical area or that sideline.
- Spectators are across the field from their respective team sideline.
- Each club is responsible for the behavior of their spectators.

DAL League Standings:

- DAL Division winner will be decided by points per match (ppm).

Match Length:

- U13 = 2x35 minute halves, 10 minutes HT
- U14 & U15 = 2x40 minute halves, 15 minutes HT
- U16, U17, U19 = 2x45 minute halves, 15 minutes HT

Warm Up Periods:

- Teams must be provided with an appropriate warm up area 30 minutes prior to kick off.

Kick Off Times:

- No earlier than 9:00 AM without agreement from the opponent
- Time between Matches: Recommended minimum of 18 hours between matches if playing on consecutive days.

Matchday Roster:

- Maximum of 18 players and minimum of 14 players on match day rosters.
- Roster must comply with the club's respective state association's roster rules.

Substitutions:

- Unlimited over 3 moments per half, plus HT.
- U13-U14 – Re-Entry allowed per half.
- U15-U19 - No re-entry per half.
- Exceptions according to Concussion Protocol.

Match Changes:

- Desert Academy League must approve any request for schedule changes.

Referees:

- ALL referees will be assigned by using US Officials.

DAL Discipline Point System/Policy

Discipline

Card accumulation will follow a player and staff member across all age groups.

o **Card Point system for players will be as follows:**

- Yellow Card (YC) = 1 point
- Red Card (RC) =
 - 5 points for non-Violent Conduct
 - 10 points for Violent Conduct
 - Further punishment may be deemed necessary by DAL for more serious offenses.

o **Suspensions will be as follows:**

5 points = 1 match suspension

10 points = 2 match suspension

15 points = 3 match suspension

20 points = 4 match suspension

Players accumulating more than 20 points will be reviewed by the league discipline committee.

o **Card point system for coaches and staff will be as follows:**

- 3 points = 1 match suspension
- 5 points = 2 match suspension
- 8 points = 3 match suspension
- 10 points = 4 match suspension
- Coaches accumulating more than 20 points will be reviewed by the league discipline committee.

Discipline within Fixture

- If a player receives a Yellow Card in two different matches within the same fixture, both cards will count towards their Yellow Card accumulation.
- If a player receives a Red Card in the first match of a split fixture, then they will not be able to appear in the rest of the matches in the fixture.

Fixture:

When two clubs play against each other across multiple age groups over one weekend, then all matches between the two clubs are considered part of the fixture.

Facilities & Training

Field Standards for Matches:

- Expectations for Desert Academy League clubs to provide appropriate, high-quality fields to host matches.

Minimum Field Sizes:

- U13 & U14 = Minimum of 64x105
- U15 & Older = Minimum of 70x110
- Any fields outside of these standards, must be approved by Desert Academy League staff before the season.

Match Locations:

- Clubs can use multiple locations for Desert Academy League Regular Season matches subject to approval.

Training:

- Desert Academy League teams are recommended to train 3 days per week.

Rest Day:

- Individual players must be given at least one day off per week.

DAL League Disclaimer:

Cobalt Sports Holdings and Desert Academy League Leadership reserve the right to modify, interpret, or amend these Technical Standards, Competition Rules, and League Policies at any time when deemed necessary for the operation and integrity of the league.

Any updates or revisions will be communicated to all member clubs and shall become effective immediately unless otherwise stated.

Participation in the Desert Academy League (DAL) constitutes acceptance of all league rules, policies, and future amendments.