

River City Youth Soccer League Board Meeting
Wednesday July 16th, 2025 - 7:00 pm
Mountain Mike's 1319 Fulton Ave, Sacramento 95825

Attendees:

- A. Call to Order –
- B. Guest Speaker –
- C. President's Report –
 - 1. D6
- D. Club Manager Hot Topics –
- E. Officer's Reports
 - 1. Vice President/Sportsmanship/PAD –
 - 2. Secretary –
 - i. a. Approve June minutes
 - 3. Treasurer –
 - 4. Registrar –
 - i. a. [medical] play down request(s)
 - ii. b. Registration numbers
 - 5. Referee Coordinator –
 - i. a. Referee Clinic 8/9 & 8/17 @ Larkspur
 - 6. Coaching Coordinator –
 - 7. Scheduling Coordinator –
 - 8. Webmaster –
- F. Old Business –
 - 1. US Club & NorCal U14^ Affiliation
 - 2. U8 format (see attached notes)-- update
- G. New Business –
- H. Good of the Game –
- I. Adjournment –

Proposal: U8 Format Pilot for RCYSL Fall 2026

Overview

RCYSL is exploring a pilot program to introduce a more developmentally appropriate and challenging format for U8 players. The objective is to better align play with player development standards and to prepare athletes for the transition to higher levels of competition.

Pilot Key Elements

- **Target Participants:** All second year U8 teams, ideally those with more experienced players and stable coaching staff.
 - **Format Changes:**
 - Modified field size and game format
 - New goal dimensions (equipment purchase required)
 - Potential for referees trained in new rules
 - **Implementation Timing:** Tentatively proposed for Fall 2026.
 - **Alternative Considerations:**
 - Mid-season play date or mini-tournament to test the format
 - Trial during seeding tournament
 - Split pilot by age (6s vs 7s), acknowledging challenges with mixed teams
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Board Representatives – Discussion Guide for Club Review

Key Questions to Ask Your Club Boards, Coaches, and Families

1. **Interest & Readiness**
 - Do we have interest from players & families for this change?
 - Survey families (suggestion) What is the appropriate timing for this?
 - Are coaches open and prepared to adapt to the proposed changes?
 - Survey coaches (suggestion) What is the appropriate timing for this?
2. **Resources & Equipment**
 - Can we procure and store the required new goal sizes?
 - Do we have the field space and capacity to support the format? This includes fields designed for first year U8 in addition to second year U8.
3. **Refereeing & Rule Management**
 - Would we be able to identify and support referees trained under a different U8 rule set?
 - Are we concerned about confusion caused by having two sets of U8 rules in the same season?
4. **Community Impact**
 - How might this change be received by families?
 - What level of communication and education would be necessary?
5. **Pilot Logistics**

- Would a mid-season tourney or seeding tournament be a better time to trial this?
- Are we open to implementing this fully by Fall 2026 based on these considerations?

6. Evaluation Metrics

- What would success look like for this change?
- How will we gather feedback from participating clubs, players, coaches, and referees?

RCYSL U8 Format Change – Planning Road map (June–November 2025)

Goal: Informed vote by November 2025 for possible Fall 2026 implementation

June 2025: Board-Level Awareness & Communication Kickoff

✅ **Finalize proposal and distribute to club board reps**

✅ **Distribute discussion guide and FAQs**

- **Action:** Clubs begin review and collect initial feedback
- **Deliverable:** Initial club responses shared at July RCYSL meeting

July 2025: Feedback & Readiness Check

- Clubs report on coach/family feedback
- Share a **Readiness Checklist** (goal needs, referee availability, coach interest)
- **Deliverable:** RCYSL aggregates responses and identifies club readiness trends

August 2025: Demo Planning (Optional)

- Plan optional U8 play date or mini-tournament to test format
- Appoint subcommittee for demo logistics (coach, ref, scheduler reps)
- **Deliverable:** Confirm club interest and schedule demo if feasible

September 2025: Demo Execution & Debrief

- Host demo event (if approved)
- Survey participants (coaches, refs, parents)
- **Deliverable:** Debrief summary of key outcomes and feedback

October 2025: Consolidate Input & Final Proposal Update

Compile all feedback from clubs, participants, refs

- Refine pilot proposal based on lessons learned
- **Deliverable:** Share updated version with clubs for final consideration

November 2025: Final Vote

- Conduct league-wide vote on Fall 2026 implementation
- **Deliverable:** Final decision with follow-up planning timeline if approved