



PRE-ECNL

OHIO VALLEY

ORL PRE-ECNL OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE

Game Minimum Standards and Requirements

The Pre-ECNL is a player's and family's first potential competition experience in the ECNL platform, and often their first exposure to the ECNL brand and what it represents. As such, this "first impression," both on-the-field and off-the-field, must match the professionalism, standards and expectations that are set in the ECNL and ECNL Regional League at older ages. All Pre-ECNL Leagues must meet these minimum standards of operation, and must also require and ensure that all participating clubs and teams meet them as well.

Minimum Standards: *The following are the minimum standards expected for all Pre-ECNL games, and all clubs are required to provide a game-day environment compliant with these standards.*

- **Player Registration:** All players on a Pre-ECNL roster must be registered and carded with US Club Soccer through the league's designation sanctioning process in GotSport & Athlete One.
- **Digital Game Day Experience:** All Pre-ECNL Leagues must utilize the league's digital game day experience, including without limitation, the digital game reports and score reporting.
- **Branding:** Only approved branding, compliant with the ECNL Brand Standards, may be used in marketing and promoting the Pre-ECNL.
- **Scheduling:** Participating teams must prioritize the Pre-ECNL schedule over other competitions in which they participate.
- **Top Class Playing Field:** The playing field must be among the best fields in the geographic area, and must allow the ball to run smoothly on the surface. Turf or natural grass is acceptable.
- **Corner Flags and Lining:** The playing field must have 4 corner flags and be appropriately lined per FIFA requirements.
- **Team Area and Benches:** Team benches must be provided for both teams. Tents are optional.
- **Game Balls:** Two (2) Size 4 (7v7 & 9v9) or Two (2) Size 5 (11v11) Quality Game Balls should be provided by the home team for every Pre-ECNL Match. All Game Balls should be Nike if possible.
- **Restrooms/Port-A-Let:** Every Field Complex must have clean restrooms or port-a-lets available to players and spectators.
- **Referee Procedures:** Every Club is expected to be diligent in obtaining the best referees in the area through their local referee assignors. The home club is responsible for making sure referees are assigned for all home games.



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- **General Communication Protocol:** The host club must provide the visiting club with the following facility information a minimum of three (3) days prior to competition:
 - Address of the facility
 - Field Numbers and any other unique game-day protocol for the facility
 - Parking Restrictions and fees if any
 - Restroom information
 - Type of playing surface (Grass or Turf)
 - Any expected weather related issues
 - Expected uniform colors to be worn
 - Main contact for questions or changes
- **Certified Athletic Trainer:** A Certified Athletic Trainer or other similarly qualified individual is NOT required for Pre-ECNL games.
- **Scheduling and Player Restrictions:** Pre-ECNL teams can play in no more than two (2) Pre-ECNL matches per day. Pre-ECNL players can play in two (2) Pre-ECNL matches per day, or in one (1) Pre-ECNL match and one (1) ECNL/ECNL RL/N1 match per day.
- **Uniform Colors:**
 - In a one-game weekend (teams will confirm uniform colors with each other)
 - Home Team - light shirt, light socks, any shorts | Away Team – dark shirt, dark socks, any shorts
 - In a two-three game weekend (teams will confirm uniform colors with each other)
 - Game Day #1: Home Team - light shirt, light socks, any shorts | Away Team – dark shirt, dark socks, any shorts
 - Game Day #2: Home Team – dark shirt, dark socks, any shorts | Away Team – light shirt, light socks, any shorts