



# TRANSFER POLICY

**The SOCAL Player Transfer Policy goes into effect July 1 of the current year.**

**Policy Revised 6/18/25 and effective July 1, 2025**

## **BEFORE July 1:**

Any player that has signed, paid, practiced, or played with a team CAN release and transfer to any other club/team without being in violation of the policy and without having to adhere to the requirements of the policy.

Example: Suzie's mom signs a Player Agreement with Real Madrid on February 20th and pays 1/2 of the club dues for the upcoming season. Suzie practices and plays a few tournaments with Real Madrid but decides that the team may not be a good fit for her. So, on June 15th, Suzie joins Manchester United. Even though Real Madrid already registered Suzie in GotSport as a player in their club, the club must release the player so that she can join Manchester United because it's before July 1st. Real Madrid **cannot** enforce the transfer policy because it's prior to 7/1. Either the Real Madrid Registrar or a SOCAL league official may release the player so that she can join Manchester United.

## **JULY 1 UNTIL THE END OF COMPETITION, INCLUDING STATE CUP, FOR THE OUTGOING TEAM:**

Same situation as above only Suzie decides to leave Real Madrid on July 15th to join Manchester United. Since it's after July 1st, Real Madrid MUST release Suzie because, per US Soccer Federation rules, a club must release a player that asks to be released. HOWEVER, the Player Transfer Policy is now in effect so 2 things must occur:

**Step 1. The player must be PAID IN FULL per the player agreement signed with the outgoing club**

**AND**

**Step 2. The outgoing DOC MUST approve the transfer.**

**All decisions made by the outgoing DOC are final and are not subject to league intervention.**

**To clarify - no club can refuse to release a player.**

**After the July 1st date, BOTH Steps 1 AND 2 above must be met in order for a player to TRANSFER to another SOCAL team prior to the end of competition for the team the player wishes to leave.**

The transfer policy prevents a player from leaving one SOCAL team to join another SOCAL team without meeting the criteria of BOTH paying in full AND obtaining DOC permission from the outgoing club.

The incoming DOC MUST communicate directly with the outgoing club DOC. Approvals are not valid if obtained by coach, manager, Registrar, Club Admin. Approval can ONLY be granted by the Director of Coaching for the outgoing club.

**NOTE: The SOCAL Player Transfer Policy can only be enforced with players moving between SOCAL teams. SOCAL has no jurisdiction over other leagues and their policies.**

- **A player on a SOCAL club members team that plays in leagues outside of SOCAL that want to transfer to a SOCAL team IS covered by the Transfer Policy.**
- **A player leaving a SOCAL team for another outside league IS covered by the Transfer Policy because it involves a player that was on a SOCAL team.**
- **A player leaving a GA team for an ECNL team is not covered by the SOCAL policy. OR, a MLS Next player wants to transfer to an ECNL team, this is not covered by the SOCAL policy.**

Anything that happens prior to July 1 must be allowed and cannot be contested.

Anything that involves a player transfer from July 1st and beyond must be in compliance with the Transfer Policy. The Transfer Policy ends when the team is done playing for the 2025/26 season. That can be at the end of the league season if the team isn't playing State Cup OR if the team plays State Cup then the Transfer Policy applies through the end of State Cup for the team.

**Any player requesting to be released MUST be released** but the outgoing club controls but can not transfer to another club until BOTH Steps 1 and 2 are completed.

NPL is not considered an outside league as it is part of the SOCAL programming.

