



CALIFORNIA REGIONAL LEAGUE

LEAGUE RULES

SECTION I. - INTRODUCTION

1.01 Name Of League

The name of the league shall be the California Regional League

1.02 Mission

To provide interplay of teams and clubs affiliated in good standing with California State Soccer Association-South

1.03 Management of League

The CRL will be managed and supervised by Coast Soccer League.

1.04 Rules, Policies, and Procedures

Coast Soccer League will have authority, subject to provisions in the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of Cal North and Cal South, to promulgate all league rules, policies, and procedures reasonable and necessary for the administration and growth of CRL.

1.05 Matters Not Provided For

The CSL Board shall have final authority in all matters not specifically provided for by the policies or rules.

1.06 Precedence of Games

US Youth Soccer National Championship Series competition will have priority over CRL matches.

1.07 Club | Team Rights and Privileges

Any club | team in the CRL shall have the same rights and privileges those accorded to any club | team playing in a league within their respective US Youth Soccer state association. Team participation in the CRL will meet the requirements of the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series.

SECTION II. - CLUB | TEAM APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

2.01 Club | Team Eligibility

CRL will be an invitational conference open for clubs | teams to apply whose players are registered with US Youth Soccer through their State Association.

Teams may be denied entry (or later removed from the CRL) based on past or present: (1) disregard for rules; (2) failure to abide by rulings from CRL or higher authority (US Soccer, USSF); (3) failure to fulfill monetary or game schedule obligations; (4) record of violence and/or abusive behavior. All teams must participate annually in an **Approved State Cup Competition**.

2.02 Club | Team Annual invitations

The CRL will be an invitational Competition. Teams will be invited annually based upon their previous seasons **State** Tournament Results or CSL and CRL Standings in the U12 – U19 age divisions.

2.03 Application Process

Team Applications to participate in the CRL must be completed on-line at <https://crlsoccer.com>

2.04 Acceptance of Clubs | Teams

Teams | Clubs approved to participate in the CRL Divisions will be notified by the CRL Commissioner.

2.05 Team Roster

Every **team** shall have a team roster.

2.06 Acceptance of Rules

All teams applying to play in the CRL, agrees to accept, abide by, and comply with all Standards, rules, policies, and decisions by the CRL and further agrees to pay all fees that are due.

2.07 Fees and Other Expense

Each club| team playing in the CRL will pay the fees established by the CRL Commissioner. The CRL is not responsible for expenses incurred by teams through travel, housing, coaching, uniforms, and other related team operating costs.

2.08 Return of CRL Fees

The Commissioner shall return any fees paid to the CRL for any team that is not admitted.

2.09 Player Retention

A team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the previous years' State/National Cup State Tournaments competitions and their current season State approved roster by maintaining a minimum of nine (9) players from within their Club and roster of the team. A team with the same Club/Team name with a minimum of nine (9) players can claim the automatic qualifier slot.

2.10 Team Transferring from One Club to Another

In the event a qualifying Team does not meet the player retention criteria as outlined in rule 2.01 the is no longer eligible for the automatic qualifying slot. The slot remains eligible for a team that has transferred to a new Club, in the event the following criterion has been met. A team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the previous years' State Tournament /National Cup competitions and their current season State approved roster by maintaining a minimum of twelve (12) players common to the roster of the team.

2.11 Final Authority

The CRL shall have the final authority and right to refuse admittance of any team based upon the team's prior performance. These factors include but are not limited to failure to play CRL matches as scheduled; failure to comply with CRL rules; conduct detrimental to the Conference and/or failure to pay assessed CRL fees or fines on time.

SECTION III. - TEAM AND GAME ROSTERS

3.01 Game Rosters

All teams shall have a Game Roster for every game played. The game roster shall be prepared by the team and submitted to the CRL game referee prior to each scheduled game in CRL competition. The game roster shall have a maximum of 18 players and a minimum of seven (7) players. Up to four (4) coaches/administrators shall be listed on the game roster with coach(s) having a minimum of an "E" coaching license.

3.02 Club Pass

Teams will be permitted to use younger or actual age group players that are rostered to ***their club*** in league games as a club pass player with a limit of five (5) club pass players per game. If a player plays as a club pass player, he/she may not compete with any other team on that play date (with the exception of the Goalkeeper who can play a second game but not with in the same age group). At no time shall a player play for more than one team within the same age group. Players may play "down," if they are age appropriate.

3.03 Player's CRL Participation on a Daily Basis

At no time may a player play for more than one CRL team in any one day.
(With the exception of the Goalkeeper who can play a second game but not with in the same age group)

3.04 Player's Rostering Limitation within an Age Group

At no time may a player be on a Team Roster for more than one team within the same age group.

SECTION IV. - MATCHES & OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

4.01 Player Eligibility

Player eligibility will be governed by the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series rules. A player may not be listed on the Team Roster of more than one CRL team; however, a player who holds a current State Association member pass may play via the Club Pass on a team in a different age group from within the same State Association affiliated club.

4.02 Member Passes

Valid US Youth Soccer/State Association member passes, or approved picture rosters or digital id cards will be used for CRL play. All State Association member passes must be valid for the current season, have a current player photo and be laminated. Coaches must be licensed with CalSouth; which must be indicated on his/her coaches' pass. Prior to the start of the game, each team is required to present to the referee a completed Game Roster sheet showing name, number, of each player participating in the game. Each participating player, coach, and team administrator shall present an identification pass to the referee or photo on the game roster. The coaches' pass must indicate his/her license level. The referee shall check each player's pass and assure the picture on the pass matches the player and the name on the pass matches the name on the game roster sheet. All passes must conform to their State Association requirements. If a player does not have a pass, THAT PLAYER SHALL NOT PLAY. The coach shall sign the game roster sheet attesting to its accuracy and to the eligibility of all players on the sheet. Failure to sign the game roster sheet may result in a disqualification of the game or other disciplinary action.

4.03 Age Designations

Team Age Groups will be based on age designations using the **Jan 1- Dec 31** rule.

4.04 Age Groups

The CRL will have teams in the following age groups: U12-U19 for boys and girls.

NOTE: the U12 age group will play 11v11; not 9v9.

4.05 Maximum Players

The maximum number of players per team for U12U is (16), the maximum number of players per team U13U - U19U is (22). (Rule 205 Section 2 US Youth Soccer Policy on Players and Playing Rules)

4.06 Scoring Method

The standings of teams within divisions/sub-divisions are based upon the number of points earned. Teams earn points as follows:

- Three (3) points for a win, One (1) point for a tie, No (0) points for a loss

Based on total number of points credited to the team as follows: WIN-(3) points, TIE-(1) point. LOSS-(0) points. If two (2) or more teams are tied at the end of the league season, the tiebreaker criteria listed shall be used in the order shown until one team is advanced, or one team is eliminated, or both. If remaining teams are still tied at this point in the tie-breaking process, they will then be compared beginning again with step 1 until another team is either advanced or eliminated or both.

1. The winner in head-to-head competition
2. Least goals allowed
3. Most goals scored
4. Shut out wins (forfeits not counting)
5. FIFA kicks from the penalty mark

4.07 Game Day Procedures

If games are not hosted by CRL then;
Home team shall provide game balls for competition.
Home team will be responsible for:

- Posting the score
- Forwarding the Game Rosters for all home games during the CRL season to the address on the Game Roster Form.

Conference hosted sites:

1. Certified Athletic Trainer
2. Benches for Each Team
3. Opportunity to Video Games/Live Stream

Both teams will be responsible for:

- Updating their own online game information including:
 - Players that participated in the game for their team.
 - Yellow and red cards issued to their team.
- Signing Game Reports at the end of the game and verifying information on the Game Report is accurate.

4.08 Uniforms

All game jerseys numbers and registration ID numbers must be listed on the Game Roster.
Teams playing in the CRL will be supplied with CRL Patches.

4.09 Number of Games

Each team will be scheduled to play a minimum number of games in a season. The scheduled number of games shall be determined by the CRL Commissioner based on the number of teams in a division and any play-off process.

4.10 Scheduling of CRL Games

All CRL games will be scheduled by the CRL Commissioner or his/her designee.

4.11 Match Schedule and Rest Periods

All matches will be played as scheduled unless weather conditions dictate. It is the intent of the league to play only one match per day; however, when circumstances dictate, no more than two matches a day will be scheduled. Every effort will be made to provide a maximum amount of rest between matches.

4.12 Schedules

It is expected that teams will follow the schedule. If a game cannot be played due to acts of God (weather, field conditions, etc.) or actions of individuals or agencies not under the control of the teams, it shall be rescheduled per Section 5.14. The CRL Commissioner or his/her designee has general authority to resolve scheduling problems.

4.13 Re-Scheduling

Teams may request a re-schedule of a game for “**exceptional circumstances**” only by submitting a written request, no later than the 14 days prior to date of game. Requests are not guaranteed to be granted. Teams will re-schedule games at a mutually agreed upon date and time. All games must be re-scheduled within 7 days and shall be played prior to the original date. If agreement cannot be reached, the CRL Commissioner shall select a time and place for the game. Games ***shall not*** be re-scheduled due to non-availability of a **specific coach or player(s)** unless it is due to a previously approved affiliated event (i.e., ODP tryouts, tournaments, etc.). If a team needs to re-schedule a game so that it may compete in a CRL Event, it must submit a written request to the CRL Commissioner for approval **30** days in advance of the game.

4.14 Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, teams will assume that games will be played unless notified by CRL. It is the home team’s responsibility to the CRL Commissioner and the opposing teams of field closures immediately upon closure by phone and email.

4.15 Uneven Number of Games

If the teams in a Division/Sub-Division do not play the same number of games due to unforeseen circumstances, not including games that teams refuse to play (i.e., forfeits), the Final Standings may be determined by using the percentage of points earned versus the maximum points the team could have earned. The CRL Commissioner will also determine any tie-breaking procedures that may need to be applied.

SECTION V. - RULES OF PLAY

5.01 Laws of the Game

Games will be played under the applicable rules of US Youth Soccer. Teams are responsible for obtaining and being familiar with the U.S. Soccer Official Administrative Handbook and the FIFA Laws as they govern play subject to the modifications noted herein.

5.02 Substitutions

In all age groups, substitutions shall be unlimited except where specified otherwise in the rules and regulations for a special competition.

Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage in play. (US Youth Soccer Rule 302 Cal South Rule 2.9)

5.03 Match Length and Ball Size

| Age Group | Length of Half | Ball Size |
|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| 17U and 19U | 45 min. | 5 |
| 15U and 16U | 40 min. | 5 |
| 13U and 14U | 35 min. | 5 |
| 12U | 30 min. | 4 |

5.04 Field Size

Fields should conform to FIFA Law 1, subject to availability and local conditions. The home team is responsible for ensuring that the fields are marked and set-up for play on game days. If games are played at a CRL hosted site, the CRL will be responsible for ensuring that the fields are marked and set-up for play on game days.

5.04.1 Field Marking

All fields must be properly marked, have corner flags, regulation goals, and a technical area. Home team is responsible for field set up. The playability of fields will be determined by the referee. If a field is declared not playable due to rain or other unforeseeable Acts of God and games cannot be played, the game will be rescheduled by the CRL Commissioner.

5.05 Official Match

A match shall be considered official after one full half of play is completed (the second half does not have to start). If less than one-half is completed and the match is abandoned, the entire match must be replayed. If a match is abandoned in the second half of play due to inclement weather, the final score will be the score at the time the match is abandoned. If a match is abandoned for any other reason including but not limited to gross misconduct, the CRL Commissioner will decide the disposition of the match score following review of all information available.

5.06 Forfeits-Lack of Appearance

A twenty-minute (20) delay in the start of a game due to a team's lack of appearance is permitted for scheduled matches before the match is abandoned. A willful failure to appear for a game will result in the offending team being dropped from the CRL and all prior played games will be declared **NO GAME**. The offending team will be subject to further disciplinary action including fines.

5.07 Disqualification

A match shall be declared a disqualification if any of the following occur: (1) If a team has less than **7 eligible** players within **20 minutes** after the scheduled game time, (2) a team arrives without valid player passes, (3) if no team administrator is present with a valid administrator pass. The match shall be scored a 1-0 loss for the offending team. The CRL Commissioner will adjudicate all games that are not played as scheduled.

Only Approved US Youth Soccer events that conflict with the CRL announced schedule will be considered to be rescheduled i.e., USYS National League, Cal South National Cup

5.08 Anchored Goals

The match referee crew should inspect the integrity of the goals to ensure they are secure and suitable for play. Matches shall not begin until both goals have been firmly secured.

5.09 Player Passes/Rosters/Game Rosters

Each team must bring their laminated US Youth Soccer or State Association member passes, two copies CRL Game Roster, no more than 18 players from a team may appear on the Game Roster as eligible to play in any single game. Referees are to collect the US Youth Soccer or State Association issued Player Passes for any non-participating player that is sitting on a team's bench for the match prior to the match to ensure that such players do not participate in the match. Such Player Passes are to be returned to the team following the match.

5.10 Game Roster Accuracy

A player listed on the roster, unless crossed off, shall be considered a participant under the name and number listed. Team Administrators and/or coaches are responsible for the accuracy of the Game Reports. Accuracy of the players listed on the Game Roster is not the responsibility of the referee.

5.11 Playing of an Ineligible Player

A team that plays an ineligible player shall be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to forfeiture of the match, suspension of the team's coach from CRL competition, or expulsion of the team from the CRL.

5.12 Availability of Team Rosters

Upon request, copies of CRL Game Rosters must be provided to the opposing team coach/manager prior to the start of each game.

5.13 Uniform Colors

The home team shall wear a **DARK** Colored jersey, shorts and socks and the visitor team shall wear **Light**- colored jersey, shorts, and socks. If the referee decides that jerseys are not of a distinct difference, the home team is required to change and assure a distinct difference between the teams. Failure of the home team to have a suitable alternate jersey is a protestable item and the CRL Commissioner may impose a fine to the team.

5.14 Coaching from Sidelines

Limited coaching from inside the team's respective Technical Area is permitted. Coaches may not leave their team's Technical Area or enter the field of play without permission from the Referee.

5.15 Team Bench Supervision

A coach, manager, or team official must always supervise a CRL team at the Team Bench Area. Coaches, managers, and team officials are required to provide the Referee with a pass, as provided by US Youth Soccer/State Association, certifying that the coach, manager, or team official is currently rostered with the team/club. If by send off or emergency, a team does not have a coach, manager, or team official to supervise the team, then the game shall be declared a disqualification.

SECTION VI. - MATCH CONTROL

6.01 Three Person System

Matches should be officiated by the three-person FIFA/USSF Referee System. In the event, the assigned officials fail to appear (within 10 minutes of the match time); an attempt to secure certified officials to officiate the match should be done. In the event certified USSF officials are not available, the Referee may appoint Club Assistant Referees. Club Assistant Referees shall be limited to decisions only on touchlines and possession as specified by FIFA/USSF Referee Guidelines.

6.02 Game Officials

Game officials will be assigned under the authority of the CRL working with the Cal South State Referee Administrator. The Cal South State Referee Administrator or his/her designee is responsible for assigning referees for all league and Showcase games. A minimum of three (3) referees is required to play a match. Referees shall use the FIFA system of diagonal control. All referees must be USSF certified.

6.03 Payment of Referees

Referee fees for CRL team Division games shall be paid by each team paying one-half of referee fees prior to the scheduled match.

6.04 Termination of Matches

Referees may terminate matches for lack of crowd control, poor team behavior or other unsportsmanlike circumstances. Each coach is responsible for the behavior and conduct of his/her players. Upon request by the Game Officials, coaches are responsible to assist in the control of parents, fans, and spectators. The Referee will report the termination of any match to the CRL Commissioner within 24 hours. The CRL Trial Board shall ascertain the facts and determine appropriate disciplinary action that may include:

- (a) Reprimand,
- (b) Forfeiture and/or disqualification of game as appropriate.
- (c) Suspension from future CRL matches or
- (d) Recommendation to the State Association PAD committee of a more severe penalty.

If play is stopped at any time due to, one of the teams (by action of players, coaches, administrators, spectators) adjudged to be at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the CRL Commissioner whether the game is to be replayed or declared a disqualification.

6.05 Filing of Referee Match Report

If a match is terminated the game Referee must file a Referee Report with the CRL Commissioner within 24 hours of the match. In the event that red or yellow cards are issued during the match, the Report must be filed within 12 hours of the match. Filing shall be defined as providing pertinent match information via e-mail or other electronic transmission. Original copies of all paperwork must be postmarked within 48 hours of a match.

SECTION VII. - SEND OFFS AND DISCIPLINE

7.01 Red Cards

If the referee ejects a player or dismisses an administrator, the referee will not retain the pass. The referee shall complete a referee report describing the events leading up to the ejection and give it to CRL Representative at the match site. Any player receiving a red card, as a minimum, will not be allowed to participate in the next CRL game (see following paragraphs). All ejections will be reviewed by the CRL Commissioner, assignment of mandatory penalties, or referral to a Trial Board. The Trial Board, particularly if the ejection was for violent conduct, may issue punishment, as it deems appropriate. If a player, coach, or team official who is sent off (red card) a second time in a season regardless of if it is with the same team, the player, coach or team official will be suspended for the next three (3) CRL matches.

7.02 Yellow Cards

Cautions will be noted by the referee on the roster sheet.

7.03 Violent Conduct by a Coach (Conduct detrimental to the game)

- Physical contact with a Referee or Assistant Referee
Sent directly to State Association PAD. Coach suspended till outcome of hearing.
- Physical contact with Player or Coach
- Any racial verbiage, excessive use of profanity or verbal abuse
- Threatening behavior
- Spitting
- Fighting
 - First Offense = 2 game suspension with additional review from PAD, and possible extended penalties
 - Second Offense = Dismissal from league

7.04 All verbal or physical assaults are to be reported to the CRL in writing.

7.05 Coach Suspension Guidelines

The coach must be out of sight and sound prior to, during, and after the games in which he is suspended. Any coach that is found guilty of coaching while on suspension will be subject to Trial Board review, possible fine and additional period of suspension. A coach that is dismissed/sent-off from a game cannot coach in another CRL game until the suspension has been served for the team that the coach was coaching when the dismissal/send-off occurred.

7.06 Violent Conduct by Player (Conduct detrimental to the game)

- Physical contact with a Referee or Assistant Referee
- Sent directly to State Association PAD. Player suspended till outcome of hearing.
- Physically striking another Player, or Coach
- Any racial verbiage, excessive use of profanity or verbal abuse
- Spitting
- Fighting

- First Offense = 2 game suspension with additional review from CRL Commission, and possible extended penalties.
- Second Offense = Dismissal from league

A PLAYER ejected by the Referee for all other non-violent conduct infractions will be automatically ineligible to participate in the next scheduled game with that team, or any team within the club. It is the responsibility of the Coach/Manager to ensure that the ejected Player sits out his/her next CRL match.

1. First Offense = 1 game suspension
2. Second Offense = 2 game suspension + additional review from CRL Commissioner.
3. Third Offense = 3 game suspension + additional review from CRL Commissioner.

7.07 Fines/Suspensions

CRL may fine or suspend any member club, team, or individual that:

1. Violates any of the provisions of the posted rules.
2. Refuses or neglects to fulfill any of their obligations to the league; or
3. Fails to submit any documents on time that are requested by the CRL.

Any disciplinary situation not listed above shall be referred to the CRL Commissioner for action or resolution. Any inquiry regarding CRL Rules & Regulations not addressed above shall be referred to the CRL Commissioner.

SECTION VIII. - TRIAL BOARD

8.01 Trial Board

The CRL Commissioner will appoint a three-person impartial panel to act as the Trial Board. No one whose home club is involved in the complaint shall sit on the Trial Board. The CRL Commissioner shall review all misconduct reports.

A Trial Board may be convened to review any ejection, report of misconduct, or similar significant event for which action may be necessary. The Trial Board may impose penalties (including game bans, suspensions, or fines, etc.), as it deems appropriate. All procedures shall be in accordance with State Association procedures. Notification shall be by E-mail.

SECTION IX. - PROTESTS AND APPEALS

9.01 Definition of a Protest

A *Protest* is a formal written objection of any violation of established rules, policies, or procedures related to a specific match. Only the registered head coach and team manager of those teams directly involved in a match (i.e., the two competing teams) are permitted to protest a game result. Third parties, i.e., coaches from other teams, state administrators, parents, and players cannot file protests on a specific game.

9.02 Definition of an Appeal

An *Appeal* is a request to transfer the matter from one jurisdiction to another for re-examination of the decision made by the lower body. Appeals arise as the result of an adverse decision from an administrative action or disciplinary action at a lower level. Only those parties to the original action, who are adversely impacted by such decisions, shall be allowed to appeal.

9.03 Filing Procedures

A Protest or Appeal must be filed in writing and must include:

- (a) The nature and specifics of the complaint
- (b) A listing of the rules, policies, or procedures that have been violated.
- (c) A statement of the desired resolution
- (d) Copies of all documents relevant to the Protest or Appeal
- (e) The filing fee for a protest or appeal is \$500.00 (certified check or money order — made payable to California Regional League)

All Protests and Appeals must be filed with the CRL Commissioner. The original document of the Protest or Appeal, along with all supporting documents, must be sent by Registered or Certified U. S. Mail — Return Receipt Requested.

9.04 Return of Filing Fee

In the event that a Protest or Appeal is upheld then the filing fee shall be returned to the entity filing the Protest or Appeal; otherwise, the filing fee is non-refundable.

9.05 Notification of Parties

The CRL Commissioner shall notify all parties involved, no later than three (3) business days from receipt of an Appeal or Protest, that an Appeal or Protest has been filed.

9.06 Protests of Games Played

Notice of intent to Protest activity that occurred during a match must be registered with the CRL Commissioner within 24 hours of completion of the match. All Protests must be submitted in writing with the appropriate fee to the CRL Commissioner. The Protest must be postmarked no later than three (3) business days from match completion in accordance with the Filing Procedures listed in Section 11.03. The Referee is the final authority on the field of play. All decisions of the referees with the respect to matters of fact, including judgment matters are final. The CRL Commissioner is authorized to settle disputes which arise in the course of a CRL match. The CRL Commissioner, in accordance with the disciplinary policies and procedures of State Association, will hear the Protest, investigate and adjudicate all allegations of misconduct by teams, coaches, players or others involved related to such match and may impose appropriate sanctions for any violation found. A decision on a Protest must be made within thirty (30) business days from the receipt of a Protest. Decisions shall be reduced to written form and shall be sent to the principal parties no later than three (3) business days from the conclusion of investigation and adjudication (Sundays and holidays excepted). When an Appeal of a CRL Commissioner's decision is authorized, the Appeal will be made to the appropriate State Association PAD Committee.

The CRL Commissioner, in accordance with the disciplinary policies and procedures of Cal South, will investigate and adjudicate the Appeal. A decision on an Appeal must be made within thirty (30) business days from the receipt of an Appeal.

Decisions shall be reduced to written form and shall be sent to the principal parties no later than three (3) business days from the conclusion of investigation and adjudication (Sundays and holidays excepted). When an Appeal of a CRL decision is authorized, the Appeal will be made to the appropriate State Association PAD committee.

9.07 Appeal of Administrative Matter

The CRL Commissioner is authorized to hear Appeals that are administrative in nature. The CRL Commissioner, in accordance with the disciplinary policies and procedures of State Association, will investigate and adjudicate all allegations of misconduct by teams, coaches, players or others involved related to such matter and may impose an appropriate sanction for any violation found. A decision on an Appeal must be made within thirty (30) business days from the receipt of an Appeal. Decisions shall be reduced to written form and shall be sent to the principal parties no later than three (3) business days from the conclusion of investigation and adjudication (Sundays and holidays excepted). When an Appeal of a CRL Commissioner decision is authorized, the Appeal will be made to the appropriate State Association PAD committee.

9.08 US Youth Soccer Bylaw 704, Section 1

In accordance with State Associations, US Youth Soccer Bylaw 704, section 1 states that: "No member of US Youth Soccer, official, league, club team, player, coach, administrative, or referee may invoke the aid of the courts of the United States or of a state without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organizations, as provided

within US Youth Soccer." Additionally, for violation of US Youth Soccer Bylaw 704, the offending party shall be subject to suspension and/or fines, and shall be liable to the CRL and US Youth Soccer for all expenses incurred by the CRL and its officers and members of the Board of Directors in defending each court action, including the following: (a) court costs; (b) attorney's fees; (c) reasonable compensation for time spent by the CRL officials and employees in responding to and defending against allegations in the action, including responses to discovery and court appearances; (d) travel expenses; and (e) expenses for holding special meetings by the CRL or USYS necessitated by court action.

