

*As of August 1, 2025*

PDev implemented a fine system in the 2021-22 season to raise the standards of program in its second season.

The fines were designed by the MLS NEXT League Office in coordination with the MLS NEXT Executive Committee with a focus on maintaining the integrity of the competition, improving the administration, standardizing availability of player development resources, and fulfilling commercial obligations.

Any funds collected from fines will be reinvested into player development initiatives with a focus on increasing access to play. Funds will be allocated at the discretion of PDev.

The following fines will be effective immediately in the MLS NEXT Homegrown Division.

## **COMPETITION**

- **Failure to play regular season Matches**
  - \$750 per Match (not fixture)
  - Potential disqualification from Playoffs for all teams at Club at the discretion of MLS NEXT staff (e.g. multiple infractions).
  - **NOTE:** Does not include cancellations for COVID 19, weather, abandonment of match for safety of participants (at discretion of MLS NEXT staff), or other circumstances approved by MLS NEXT staff.
- **Significant change to Match time location by home team (not fixture)**
  - Any change during the Season = \$300 per Match
  - Within 1 week prior to the Match = \$500 per Match with the possibility of additional travel expenses for the visiting team (if impacted)
  - **NOTE:** "Significant change" is any venue location, kick off time, and/or date change (not including changes due to weather) at the discretion of MLS NEXT staff.
- **Failure to submit fixture details during the Fall and Spring Fixture Negotiation Windows.**
  - \$300 fine per Match (not fixture)
- **Failure to attend an MLS NEXT Event and/or play qualifying or playoff matches**
  - Removing your confirmed club or team from an optional MLS NEXT Event after the registration deadline has closed (e.g. MLS NEXT Fest)
    - \$2,000 per club

- Failure to attend a mandatory MLS NEXT Event (e.g. MLS NEXT Flex, MLS NEXT Cup)
  - \$2,000 per qualifying team
- Failure to play qualifying or playoff match (after team is already in attendance at the MLS NEXT Event)
  - \$750 per Match (not fixture)
- Failure to play all matches that are scheduled for your team at an MLS NEXT Event (after team is already in attendance at the MLS NEXT Event)
  - \$750 per Match (not fixture)
- **NOTE:** Does not include cancellations for COVID 19, weather, abandonment of Match for safety of participants (at discretion of MLS NEXT staff), or other circumstances approved by MLS NEXT staff.
- **Failure to upload quality video by 12:00 PM ET on Tuesday after Match**
  - 1st Offense = \$50 per Match
  - 2nd Offense = \$100 per Match
  - 3rd Offense (and after) = \$250 per Match with potential for additional sanctions (*i.e.*, point reduction)
- **Outside Competition/High School Participation**
  - Primary Players that participate in Outside Competition or High School soccer without approval from MLS NEXT staff will result in the fines below:
    - 1st Offense = \$500 per team (minimum of 1 player non-approved participation)
    - 2nd Offense = \$750 per team (minimum of 1 player non-approved participation)
    - 3rd Offense = \$5,000 fine for the Club, regardless of the number of non-approved participants. In addition, other potential sanctions for the Club and the player, including removal from MLS NEXT Homegrown Division.

## **PARTNER OBLIGATIONS**

- **Partner obligations: patches, adidas ball, etc.**
  - 1st Offense = \$100 per Match
  - 2nd Offense = \$250 per Match
  - 3rd Offense (and after) = \$500 per Match with potential for additional sanctions
  - Please contact Emilio Gulati if you have not received any of the above items or you will not be able to fulfill any of these responsibilities.
- **adidas Event Footwear Compliance (MLS Academies Only)**

- Club's 1st Offense = Written Warning
- Club's 2nd Offense = \$250 per player
- Club's 3rd Offense = \$500 per player
- Club's subsequent offenses = \$250 increments up to \$1,000 per player

## **PLAYER MOVEMENT PROTOCOL**

- Up to \$5,000

## **QUALIFIED MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL**

- All home clubs must provide a Qualified Medical Professional (QMP) for all matches as outlined in the MLS NEXT Homegrown Division Safety & Wellbeing Policy.
- Failure to provide a QMP= Up to \$1,000 per Match