

# Tournament Rules

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## A. Registration

1. All teams must be state affiliated clubs, a member of US Club Soccer, or affiliated with their national organization (non-US teams).
2. The following items must be presented to the tournament committee at the time of registration:
  - a. A copy of official roster from their governing state organization, US Club Soccer, or their national organization (to submit)
  - b. Valid player passes from governing state organization, US Club Soccer, or national organization
  - c. Medical release forms for each player
  - d. Out of state teams must have their Permission to Travel forms if required by their state organization.
3. All games in which an ineligible player participates will be forfeited.
4. Any team fielding an ineligible player is subject to disqualification from the tournament.
5. The tournament has the right to inspect all player and coaches passes before or during every game. If you do not have a player's pass, the player will not be allowed to play.

## B. Team Size

1. U8-U10 (7v7): maximum of 14 players including 4 guest players.
2. U10-U12 (9v9): maximum of 14 players including 4 guest players.
3. U13-U19 (11v11): maximum of 22 players including 5 guest players.

## C. Ball Size

1. U8-U10 (7v7): size 4 ball
2. U11-U12 (9v9): size 4 ball
3. U13-U19 (11v11): size 5 ball

## D. Game Duration

1. U8-U10 (7v7): 50 minutes
2. U11-U12 (9v9): 60 minutes
3. U13-U19 (11v11): 70 minutes

## E. Substitutions

1. Unlimited substitution with the permission of the referee:
  - a. After a goal
  - b. At half-time
  - c. On goal kicks
  - d. Throw-ins per the following stipulation:
    - 1) When a team (A) is awarded a throw-in in their favor, the opposing team (B) may also substitute at the same time should team (A) request a substitution.

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- 2) If team (A) does not take advantage of the substitution opportunity in their favor, team (B) may not substitute player(s).
- e. Injury – unlimited substitution
- f. Cautioned player (Yellow Card). Cautioned player must also be substituted per Section L - Sendoffs and Suspensions.
2. Substitutes must wait for referee approval to enter the field.
3. Heat Rule for Substitutions:
  - a. In the event of extreme heat the Tournament Director(s) or their designee may invoke the "heat rule" which allows free substitutions where both teams are allowed to substitute at the same time during the match with the exception of the last five (5) minutes of the match.
  - b. During the last five (5) minutes, only normal substitution is permitted.

## **F. Home Team**

1. The home team must change jerseys or wear pinnies when the referee determines that jerseys are too similar.
2. If the referee does not have a ball, the home team must supply an appropriate game ball.

## **G. Check-In and Forfeits**

1. Teams must report to playing fields 20 minutes prior to scheduled kickoff of each game.
2. A 5-minute grace period (up to 15 minutes prior to game time) will be allowed, but strictly enforced.
3. For full-sided games, no fewer than seven (7) properly uniformed players must check in within the time limit. For small-sided matches at least six (6) players are required.
4. Players must wear numbers on the back of their uniforms and these numbers shall coincide with those listed on the team's roster.
5. The tournament roster card and all player and coach passes must be presented to the Field Marshal before each match.
6. Once a game has started, it may not continue with fewer than the aforementioned minimums.
7. Regardless of weather conditions, coaches and their teams must appear on the field, ready to play as scheduled. Failure to appear will result in forfeiture of the game. Only referees and/or the tournament director can postpone or cancel a game.
8. If a match cannot start or continue because of a team not having the minimum, that team shall forfeit the game.
9. When a team forfeits, the score shall be recorded as a 3-0 loss in the standings.

## **H. Players Equipment**

1. All players must wear shin-guards.

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2. No jewelry will be allowed.
3. All equipment is subject to approval of the referee.

## I. Standings and Awards

1. U8-U19
  - a. Teams play regular matches with the following game points qualifying them for the championship playoff (top two finishers of each flight).
    - 1) Win +3
    - 2) Tie +1
    - 3) Loss 0
    - 4) Red Card -1 each
  - b. If teams are tied in the regular standings, the following criteria will be used to determine the team's order of finish and qualification for the championship playoff:
    - 1) Head to Head Competition (used if only 2 teams tie)
    - 2) Most wins
    - 3) Goal Differential - goal differential to a maximum of three (3) goals. That is, a team winning 3-0 or 6-3 or 5-1 would receive the maximum of three (3).
    - 4) Fewest goals allowed.
    - 5) FIFA penalty kick procedures - to be taken at a designated field at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

**Note:** For flights with the 6 team standard crossover bracket, the top two teams from either bracket will advance.
2. Championship Playoff (U13-U19)
  - a. The top two finishers of each flight will play in a single elimination championship game.
  - b. The #1 seed is the home team and the #2 seed is away.
  - c. All past points are eliminated for the championship match winner determination.
  - d. If after regulation teams are tied in the championship game:
    - 1) Two 5 minute golden goal periods will be had. Once a goal is scored in golden goal the game is over.
    - 2) If teams are still tied after the golden goal periods then a round of penalty kicks will occur.
    - 3) If teams are still tied after penalty kicks then sudden death penalty kick will be had. Teams must select a new round of 5 players for each sudden death round.
  - e. Trophies are awarded for First & Second place for U8-U19 flights.

## J. Game and Score Reporting

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1. Field Marshals will ensure that the game card is properly completed, signatures obtained, and scores recorded at the end of each game.
2. Coaches are responsible for ensuring the correct score when signing the cards upon match completion.
3. Field Marshals will ensure that the scores of each game are reported to Tournament Headquarters in a timely manner each day.

## **K. Sideline Behavior**

1. Teams and parents are to be on opposite sidelines; all parents on one sideline, all coaches and players on the other sideline. Each should position themselves between the 18-yard lines.
2. Only carded players and coaches are permitted on the team side.
3. No one shall be allowed behind either end line.
4. Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves within the spirit of the game as well as the letter of the Law.
5. Displays of temper or dissent are cause for ejection from the game and surrounding field area.

## **L. Send Offs and Suspensions**

1. If a player or coach receives a Red Card or 2 Yellow Cards during a Match, he or she must leave the field immediately AND sit out their next match.
2. The sent-off person must remain away from the field during the team's next match.
3. If the coach is sent off, and no other carded coach is available to continue, the team shall forfeit.
4. Players receiving a first Yellow Card in a match must also be substituted unless the team is playing with the minimum number of players as defined in "Check-In and Forfeits" in which case the player may remain.

## **M. Fighting**

1. Any player fighting on the field shall be red carded and suspended for the remainder of the tournament.
2. If the Referee writes a player up for fighting, the player will have her pass held by the Tournament Director until after the duration of the suspension.
3. Any teams involved in a mass brawl that results in the termination of the match will suffer the following consequences:
  - a. Both teams will be charged with a loss and forfeit any remaining games.
  - b. Each team shall be reported to its state association.
  - c. There will be no refund of fees.

## **N. Protests**

1. There will be no protests.
2. All officiating decisions are final.

## **O. Housekeeping**

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1. Alcoholic Beverages, Glass Containers, Smoking and Pets are prohibited at the fields and in parking lots.
2. Only tournament staff members with valid New Jersey driver's licenses may operate golf carts at the Tournament.

**P. Inclement weather:**

1. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to make the following changes in the event of inclement weather:
  - a. Relocate and/or reschedule a match;
  - b. Change a flight structure;
  - c. Reduce scheduled duration of a match;
  - d. Cancel a match;
2. In the event of inclement weather forcing play to be halted and preventing the match from being completed during the scheduled time, the score shall stand if at least half of the match has been played.

**Q. Tournament Cancellation Policy**

1. Pursuant to NJYS policy, if the Tournament is cancelled for any reason prior to the start of the Tournament, each participating team will be refunded a minimum of 80% of the team's entry fee.