



## 5v5 Soccer Series: Tournament Rules

The rules of play shall be the FIFA "Laws of the Game" unless modified by the tournament rules, and in the case of conflict the tournament rules below shall take precedence.

The tournament director shall decide all matters not explicitly covered by the rules that need to be addressed during the tournament. The judgement of the tournament director is final.

**Game Outline:** All age groups will play the 5v5 format, and games shall have 2 halves of 20 minutes, with a 5-minute half-time break. A maximum of 10 players are allowed on the team roster (and a minimum of 4 are required to play a game).

**Game Ball:** The game ball will be size 3 for up to U8, size 4 for U9 to U12, and size 5 for U13 and older.

**Heading:** There will be no heading in the U11 or younger age groups.

**Slide Tackling:** No slide tackling is allowed.

**Offside:** There is no offside.

**Netting:** If the ball hits the netting above the field, the opposing team is awarded an indirect kick outside of the goal area, closest to the point below where the infraction occurred.

**Substitutions:** Unlimited substitutions are allowed with the referee's permission.

**Goal Scoring:** A goal may not be scored directly from your own half of the field (except for own goals).

**Five Yards:** For all restarts, defending players should be at least 5 yards from the ball.

**Goalkeeper Distribution:** Any goalkeeper distribution must bounce, or be touched by another player, before crossing the halfway line, or an indirect free kick will be awarded on the halfway line.

**Scheduled Game:** Teams must be at their assigned field, ready for check-in, at least 10 minutes before the scheduled game time. Games start as scheduled, and a FORFEIT may be declared if a team is not ready to play on time.

**Home Team:** The team designated as the home team shall supply the game ball and shall choose which half of the field to use for the start of the game.

**Player Eligibility:** Players must be listed on the official team roster, play for ONLY one team during the tournament, and have a valid player card for the seasonal year. Player cards must be issued by a US Soccer-affiliated youth association and must be available for inspection at any time.

**Illegal Players:** An illegal player is one who is not on the roster, impersonates a listed player, or is over the age limit. Teams using an illegal player will forfeit the game and may face further discipline. The tournament director's decision is final.

**Player Uniforms:** Outfield players must wear matching team uniforms distinguishable from the opponent and referee. Teams should have an alternate jersey for color conflicts, with the home team changing if required. Each player should have a unique, assigned number listed on the official roster and wear that number on their jersey. The referee may approve an alternative number if needed.

**Scoring:** Coaches must verify the game card after the game - once the tournament site coordinator has received the game card from the referee, the score is final. Coaches are responsible for score verification. Points awarded: 3 for a win, 1 for a tie, 0 for a loss.

**Forfeits:** A forfeit shall be scored as 3-0

**Game Schedule:** All teams will play 5 games, with 1 game due to be played each weekend. Teams will be bracketed into groups of 4, 6 or 8. Teams in brackets of 6 will play a 5-game round robin. Teams in brackets of 4 or 8 will play a 3-game round-robin followed by 2 playoff games (all teams).

**Tiebreakers:** For teams tied on points in round-robin play, the following tiebreaker sequence will be used:

1. Head-to-head result (not used for ties involving more than 2 teams)
2. Goal difference (total goals for minus total goals against)
3. Least goals against
4. Most shutouts
5. Fewest red cards (players and coaches)
6. Fewest yellow cards (players and coaches)
7. Coin flip

**Playoff Tiebreakers:** For playoff games, ties shall be broken by a FIFA penalty shoot-out, immediately after regulation time (no overtime periods).

**Awards:** Only first place teams in each bracket will receive awards.

**Team Officials:** All team officials must have an adult participation pass, an equivalent background check, which must be shown to the referee upon request.

**Spectators:** The team coach, or other designated team official, is responsible for controlling the behavior of their spectators. A referee may stop or abandon a game if the behavior of the spectators cannot be controlled by the coach(es), and the game may be awarded by forfeit to the opposing team

**Sportsmanship:** Players, coaches and spectators are expected to always behave in a respectable manner. Abuse of the referees will not be tolerated.

**Concussion Protocol:** If a referee suspects a player has a head injury or concussion, the match must stop immediately. The player must be escorted off the field and cannot return for the remainder of the game. The referee must note the incident on the game report. It is the coach's/trainer's and parent's/guardian's responsibility to seek medical attention. The player is suspended from play until cleared by a licensed physician.

**Referees:** USSF referees shall be assigned to all games. All referee decisions are final.

**Yellow and Red Cards:** Any player or coach receiving a red card (direct or second yellow) is suspended for at least the next game. A direct red for violent conduct results in suspension for a minimum of 2 games. Serious misconduct will be reported to the relevant soccer association.

**Inclement Weather:** The tournament director has final authority on field playability, lightning stoppages, game restarts, cancellations, and other tournament operations. Field closures will be communicated, and efforts will be made to complete all the tournament games, by rescheduling games or shortening game times if necessary.

**Refunds:** Teams withdrawing after being accepted forfeit their entry fee. If inclement weather or other uncontrollable factors affect play, one or more of the play dates may be modified or canceled. There are no refunds after tournament play has started. If the tournament is canceled before play begins, refunds minus expenses will be issued.