

# Rules and Regulations

Update:1/30/2026

## LAWS OF THE GAME:

All games will be played under international rules (FIFA) as modified below.

## TEAM ELIGIBILITY:

Birth Year Chart	
Age Group	Birth Year
U9	2017
U10	2016
U11	2015
U12	2014
U13	2013
U14	2012
U15	2011
U16	2010
U17	2009
U18	2008
U19	2007

### Rosters:

7V7- Max of 16 Players

9V9- Max of 18 Players

11V11- Max of 22 Players

If teams are playing League Games in the event, league rules will supersede the event rules for Roster Size.

Guest Players: There is no maximum number of Guest Players provided they are listed

on the State Approved roster at the roster submission deadline.

**Dual Roster Players:** Players may play for 2 teams in the event provided they are 1. From the same club, 2. Are listed on the roster for each team, 3. Meet the age group requirements for both teams, and 4. Have all paperwork and player passes uploaded into GotSport for both teams.

No roster changes will be permitted after a team roster has been approved at tournament registration. All teams must be currently registered with their State or National Association. No special formed all-star teams will be permitted. Each player must have a valid USSF/USYSA ID card.

**AWARDS: 9U-19U Awards for Champion and Finalist**

**DURATION OF GAME:**

15U-19U	2-35 minute halves
13U-14U	2-30 minute halves
11U-12U	2-30 minute halves
8U-10U	2-25 minute halves

If teams are playing League Games in the event, league rules will supersede the event rules for match length if necessary.

**FYSA Law 1: Field of Play**

- U13- U19 No change per FIFA “Laws of the Game”
- U11& U12 (9v9) & U9/U10 (7v7) must play in accordance with the USSF new player development initiatives.

**FYSA Law 2: The Ball**

- U13 and older Size #5
- U12 and younger Size #4

**FYSA Law 3: Number of Players**

- U13 and older Maximum Eleven (11)- Minimum Seven (7) per side per FIFA
- U11 and U12 Maximum Nine (9)- Minimum Six (6) per side
- U09 and U10 Maximum Seven (7)- Minimum Five (5) per side
- U13 and Older Game Roster shall have a maximum of 18 players. Players not on the game roster are allowed to sit on the bench in the team’s opposite uniform or street clothes.
- \*\*All other U12 Rules of Competition including no heading will apply.

**Concussion Policy, Per Florida Statute FS 943.0438 (enacted 2012):**

- Pursuant to Florida Statutes (FS 943.0438) Florida in 2012 enacted a very stringent Head injury and Concussion Law. If the referee (or assistant referee) believes that, in her/his opinion, a player has suffered a head injury or possible concussion, the match must be stopped IMMEDIATELY.
- The injured player, if able to leave the field on their own, must be escorted to their coach, and the coach must be told that the player cannot return for the duration of the match. If a trainer is brought onto the field because the player is incapacitated, the referee must still notify the coach that the player cannot return to the game. It is the responsibility of the coach and the player’s parent(s) or legal guardians to seek medical attention.
- The player may not resume participation until he/she has been cleared by a medical

**doctor. The Referee HAS NO FURTHER responsibility beyond removing the player from the match in which the player was injured. The referee crew must ensure, that UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES or due to the appeal from any coaching staff that the player is allowed to return to the game.**

#### **9U-12U MODIFIED RULES:**

**8U-10U teams:** Off-side will not be enforced unless the referee determines the offside position is directed, intentional, and/or persistent in an effort to gain an unfair advantage (Law11). Defending teams will be awarded an indirect free kick from the offside players' position.

**8U-10U teams:** All 8U-10U matches will be played with a build out-line. The build out line is located halfway between the top of the penalty area and the midline (In the event a complex does not have build out lines the midway line may be used). With any possession of the goalkeeper (in their hands) or goal kicks, the opposition must move behind the build out line.

**8U-10 teams:** If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If inside the goal area, an indirect free kick should be awarded from a spot outside the goal area closest to where the infraction occurred.

**8U-12U teams:** Intentionally heading the ball in these matches shall result in an indirect free kick awarded to the opponent at the spot of the infraction. If inside the goal area, an indirect free kick should be awarded from a spot outside the goal area closest to where the infraction occurred.

#### **FYSA Heading Guidelines:**

- Deliberate heading is not allowed in age groups U12 and younger.
- If a U12 or younger player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.
- If the deliberate header of a U12 or younger player occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infraction occurred.

**UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT: Home team must wear their light uniform and provide the game ball.** Each player must wear shin guards and an official uniform with a number on the back.

#### **FYSA Orthopedic Policy 402.2:**

- Orthopedic casts can be worn at any sanctioned FYSA tournament with written approval from a doctor and written permission from a tournament official, final judgment as to its safety is at the discretion of the referee.
- Soft braces can be worn with written approval from a doctor, and judgment as to safety is at the discretion of the referee.

#### **FYSA Jewelry Policy 402.3:**

- It is the policy of FYSA that no player be allowed to wear ANY jewelry while participating in any FYSA sanctioned match. The only exception that may be allowed is a medical alert bracelet or necklace when taped to the body. The referee shall make the decision as to the safety of the player and the referee's decision is final. (The taping of any earring shall not be permitted under any circumstances.) If the referee notices a player wearing jewelry while the match is under way at the next stoppage of play, the referee will instruct the player to remove the item. If the referee deems the jewelry to be dangerous to any player, the referee must stop the match to correct the

situation.

**START OF THE GAME:** The home team will choose the side of the field they wish to defend. The away team will get the kick-off to start the game.

**SUBSTITUTION: The following rules for substitution will be followed:** A modified FIFA rules of substitution will be followed for all games. Any team may substitute at any dead ball based on the referee's approval. **Substitution is unlimited. If teams are playing League Games in the event, league rules will supersede the event rules for substitutions.**

**FAILURE TO SHOW – FORFEITS:**

A minimum of seven players for 11v11, six players for 9v9 and five players for 7v7, constitutes a team. A five (5) minute grace period will be extended beyond the kickoff time before a forfeit will be declared. The Tournament Directors will make the final decision if a forfeit shall be allowed depending upon extenuating circumstances that may have prevented a team from making the game on time. If a forfeit is determined, the winning team will be awarded a score of 3-0 per FIFA. In the event a team withdraws from the event prior to the event and we can not find a replacement team or do not have enough time to reschedule the division, all teams who were supposed to play the team who withdrew will receive a 0-0 draw.

**INELIGIBLE PLAYERS - FORFEITS:**

In the event that a team is found to have ineligible players and a forfeit is determined, the winning team will be awarded a score of 3-0 per FIFA. The team who forfeits a match will have all of their matches recorded as a 3-0 loss regardless of the actual outcome and the forfeiting team will not be eligible to advance to the semi-finals or finals.

Decisions concerning forfeits will be at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director.

**CODE OF CONDUCT/EJECTION**

The harassment of the officials from coaches, spectators, or players will not be tolerated.

**FYSA Conduct 502 and Discipline 504.1 Policy:**

- It shall be solely the team's responsibility to determine the status of its players and coaches. Any suspension from a tournament, local league, etc., is the responsibility of the team to notify the Tournament Director of this suspension at the time of the player's check-in.
- Per FYSA Rule 504.1, red card suspension or send off suspensions can only be served with the team with which the suspension was earned in games played by their team. Players may not serve suspensions as "guest players."
- The Tournament Committee shall have a Discipline Committee of three (3) members. This committee will review and rule on all reports of unacceptable conduct by players,

managers, coaches, referees, spectators, etc. using the FYSA standards as set by Rules Section 502.

- Any player or manager/coach ejected (red carded) will not complete the game in which the ejection occurred. The ejected player or manager/coach will not participate in the next scheduled tournament game regardless of the cause.
- Depending on the severity of the unacceptable conduct, the Discipline Committee may recommend the suspension of up to the duration of the tournament in accordance with FYSA requirements. The committee's recommendations must be available to the affected parties no later than following the next scheduled match.
- At the conclusion, of the tournament, passes will be returned to the coach, even if the suspension has not been completed. A complete discipline report will be sent to the FYSA office within 72 hours of the tournament's conclusion for possible further discipline.

**Player:** Any player or coach ejected from a game will be ineligible to participate in the team's next game. No substitution will be permitted for an ejected player. Anyone fighting can be subjected to ejection from further tournament participation. Passes will be retained by the tournament and returned to the coach of the team after the player has sat out their suspension. The coach is responsible for picking up the player's pass after their suspension is completed.

**Coach:** In the event a coach is ejected from a game, he/she must leave the complex and not return until the conclusion of the team they were coaching completes their next game. A coach may not coach another team until the suspension has been completed. In the event a coach has been ejected and the game cannot be completed the score will be recorded as a 0-6 forfeit.

**Parent:** In the event a parent is removed from the sideline, he/she must leave the complex and not return until their next game. Coaches will be held responsible for the behavior of their fans. If a coach can't control the behavior of parents of their own team, the game may be terminated.

**DISSENT:** IN ACCORDANCE WITH FIFA POLICY, there shall be no dissent between players, coaches or fans, and the referee. Questioning a referee's call is considered dissent. All coaches are urged to solicit the support of their fans in monitoring and enforcing this policy. Coaches will be held responsible for the behavior of their fans. Any player or coach ejected from a game will be ineligible to participate in the next scheduled game. For very serious offenses the player or coach may be declared ineligible for more than one game.

### **Sideline Organization:**

1. Both teams will sit on the same side of the field. Only coaches and trainers may stay on the player's sideline.

2. Spectators are permitted on the opposite side of the field from the coaches and players AND SHOULD BE DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM THEIR TEAM and are limited to being in the designated area from the penalty box to the penalty box.

**The Technical Area/Box, Laws of the Game, FIFA Rules: The technical area relates to matches played in game fields with a designated seated area for team officials, substitutes and substituted players as outlined below:**

- The technical area shall only extend 1m (1yd) on either side of the designated seated area and up to a distance of 1m (1yd) from the touchline
- Markings shall be used to define the area, temporary or Permanent.
- The number of persons permitted to occupy the technical area is defined by the competition rules
- The occupants of the technical area:
  - are identified before the start of the match in accordance with the competition rules
  - must behave in a responsible manner
  - must remain within its confines except in special circumstances, e.g., a physiotherapist/doctor entering the field of play, with the referee's permission, to assess an injured player
  - only one person at a time is authorized to convey tactical instructions from the technical area

**No spectators are allowed behind the goal areas.**

#### **PROTESTS:**

Any protest must be presented in writing to the tournament headquarters within one hour of the completion of the game, and must be accompanied with a \$500 bond, which will be returned only if the protest is upheld. The referee's judgment will not be a basis for protests.

**SCORING FORMAT: Official scoring is held by the tournament director at headquarters and not online.** Three (3) points will be awarded for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss.

In the event of ties in total point standings, the following sequence will be used:

1. Head to head competition between teams that are tied
2. Best goal difference for all games - up to a max of +/-6 per game (Example: Team winning 6-1 would only be the max of +5)
3. Fewest goals allowed (Max of 6)
4. Goals For (Max of 6)
5. Most Shutouts
6. Coin Toss

**If more than two teams are tied**, the sequence below will be followed until a team is eliminated/advanced. The remaining teams will then restart the sequence at #1 below until the tie is broken.

The following tie breaker sequence will be used:

1. Head to Head
2. Best goal difference for all games - up to a max of +/-6 per game (Example: Team winning 6-1 would only be the max of +5)
3. Fewest goals allowed (Max of 6)
4. Goals For (Max of 6)

5. Most Shutouts
6. Coin Toss

Example 1: (4 Team Bracket) Three teams have 6 points and have all defeated each other. Team 1 has a goal differential of +6, Team 2 is +4 and Team 3 is +2. Team 1 is 1st, Team 2 is 2nd, and Team 3 is 3rd.

Example 2: (4 Team Bracket) Three teams have 6 points and have all defeated each other. Team 1 has a goal difference of +4, Team 2 is +4 and Team 3 is +2. Team 3 is eliminated and is 3rd; Team 2 defeats Team 1 therefore Team 2 is 1st and Team 1 is 2nd.

Example 3: (4 Team Bracket) Three teams have 6 points and have all defeated each other. Team 1 has a goal difference of +4, Team 2 is +2 and Team 3 is +2. Team 1 advances and is 1st; Team 3 defeats Team 2 therefore Team 3 is 2nd and Team 2 is 3rd.

### **TIE BREAKER, SEMI-FINALS & FINALS**

Games that are tied at the end of regulation time will end as a tie in preliminary rounds. In the event of a tie in a semi-final or final game, kicks from the spot will be taken as listed below to determine a winner.

#### **TIE BREAKERS – Kicks from the Mark:**

In the event that penalty kicks must be used to determine a winner in the semi-final or final rounds the format will be as follows:

- (a) Each team will select (5) players to kick - only players on the field at the end of the game may be selected.
- (b) Team will alternate kicks - first team to kick will be determined by the referee's coin flip.
- (c) If the score remains tied after five (5) kicks, teams will alternate kicks one at a time until a winner is determined.
- (d) All eligible players must kick before any eligible player can repeat.
- (e) Keepers may be changed after any shot.

#### **Communication to teams:**

**The tournament will use one or all 3 ways to communicate to all teams and spectators -- Email or text message from the event via the REGISTRATION System, Phone Call from tournament official or club official, website/social media update.**

#### **Security Plan**

Tournament Officials: All staff in identifying apparel with 2-way radios.

Field Marshals: with 2-way radios.

Police: Onsite during event hours.

Trainers: Onsite during event hours.

Weather Monitoring: Onsite Radar, Onsite Lightning Detector

#### **Inclement Weather Policy**

**Coach/Manager:** In the event a game needs to be stopped due to inclement weather, lightning, etc., one or all the following methods will instruct you:

Notified by tournament official and or field marshals  
Referees on the field  
Air Horns/Police sirens

## Event Facility Weather System

**The tournament director will continue update the manager and coach via email, text message and the tournament website.**

In the event of **Lightning** the tournament will wait 30 minutes after the lightning strike before the games will be restarted. **DO NOT LEAVE THE COMPLEX!**

In the event of a **Severe Thunderstorm Warning**- all fields will be cleared until the local National Weather Service lifts the warning. **DO NOT LEAVE THE COMPLEX (unless otherwise notified by the Tournament Director)**

In the event of a **Tornado Warning**- all fields will be cleared until the local National Weather Service lifts the warning.

### **Extreme Cold/Heat Conditions:**

The following US Soccer weather guidelines are recommendations used as guidelines for extreme cold and heat. Please see links below for these recommendations. The Event Directors reserve the right to make final weather related decisions.

### **US Soccer Warm Weather Recommendations**

### **US Soccer Cold Weather Recommendations**

**Re-Entry on the Fields:** The air horns/sirens will sound again or a tournament official will inform you when everything is "all clear." You should then return to the field. If it is necessary for you to check with Tournament Headquarters regarding this situation, we ask that only one team official go to the headquarters tent. If your team/player is on the field while the "prior to the ALL CLEAR" your team may be asked to leave the tournament and all your games will be forfeited. No refund is given.

### **INCLEMENT**

### **WEATHER/CANCELLATIONS:**

The tournament committee has the right to shorten and/or cancel matches due to climatic conditions or other acts of nature, which are beyond our control.

In the event that severe weather delays the tournament, all games which are at least at halftime (first half complete) will be considered a complete match.

All games which have not reached halftime will complete the current half (first) only if weather and field availability permits. In the event the current half (first) can not be completed the game will be considered a 0-0 tie.

In the event Semi-Finals or Finals cannot be played due to severe weather the following tie-breaker format will be used to declare champions. ***Please note this for inclement weather only!***

- 1 If a field is available and playable- Kicks from the Mark - 5 players per team; if still tied, sudden victory death kicks from the mark.
- 2 Head to head competition between teams that are tied
- 3 Totals Points
- 4 Best goal difference for all games - up to 6 per game

- 5 Fewest goals allowed (Max of 6)
- 6 Coin Toss

**TOURNAMENT COMPLIANCE:**

The event has the right to deny participation, at any time, if your team falls out of compliance. This includes, but is not limited to, housing, payment, team check-in, team behavior and all other rules stated in this document..

**The Tournament Director(s) reserves the right to make changes to all event rules. All decisions from the Tournament Director(s) will be final.**

**FYSA Refund Policy: After a team has been accepted into the competition, NO REFUND WILL BE GIVEN should the team decide to withdraw from the event. Tournament entry fee returns/refunds will be granted, as follows:**

- **Within five (5) days after notification that the team has not been accepted.**
- **Within five (5) days of cancellation of the tournament.**
- **Within ten (10) days of request of withdrawal of the application by a team before acceptance of the application by the tournament.**

## HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

All teams that are selected for participation are **required** to make hotel reservations for their entire team through the reservation system provided by the tournament. Reservations are required at one of the designated tournament hotels and must be booked through the system. In the event your team does not utilize the housing group, your team may not be accepted into the tournament.

Our travel partner Site Search is committed to providing you with the most memorable experience possible. Realizing hotel accommodations play a major role in your experience, we have partnered with area hotels to offer you the best options and prices.

Our housing manager will reach out to you within **two (2)** business days of applying to the event with a housing link to book reservations.

Each family from your team will then have 5 days within creating your block to guarantee all reservations.

If you are a local club (**within 90 miles**) and do not require any accommodations, please let me know. Please understand commuting teams will not receive special scheduling requests based on commute distance. **\*\* The event uses the office address for the club to determine the distance of travel for the team.**

Your team is NOT in compliance with the Stay to Play policy until a minimum of 7 reservations are made for all 8U-12U teams and 10 reservations are made for all 13U-19U teams.

For your team to be in compliance with the tournament rules, your team would need to meet the minimum housing requirement. Teams may be conditionally accepted prior to their housing being booked.

## WITHDRAWAL/CANCELLATION POLICY & REFUND POLICY

### Team Withdrawal

**Before Acceptance:** Full refund of the registration fee, minus processing fees, if your team withdraws before acceptance into the tournament.

**After Acceptance but Before Flights are Posted:**

- **Option 1:** Defer your registration fee to another event within 12 months. Additional fees for the new event may apply.
- **Option 2:** Transfer your registration fee to another team in your club. Additional fees for the new event may apply.

**After Flights are Posted:** All sales are final. No refunds or credits will be issued.

**Event Cancellation Due to Weather**

**Before Tournament Start:**

- **Option 1:** Teams that purchased event cancellation insurance from U.S. Sports Club Insurance (USSCI) through GotSport may be eligible for a refund. Refunds are based on the number of games played versus those guaranteed. Details can be found in the insurance policy.
- **Option 2:** If the event is canceled and you did not purchase insurance, you will receive a credit of up to 50% of the registration fee, minus processing fees to be used at another event within 12 months.

**After Tournament Start:** Teams that purchased event cancellation insurance may be eligible for a refund. Refunds are based on the number of games played versus those guaranteed. Details can be found in the insurance policy. No refunds or credits will be issued to teams that did not purchase insurance.

**Event Policies**

**Housing Policy:** All tournaments are STAY TO PLAY events. Teams are required to book hotels through the event housing service.

**Credit Card Authorization:** By applying with a credit card, you authorize Kings Hammer SBD Event Management to charge the payment at any time up to and including the application deadline.

## REGISTRATION CRITERIA

Team Check-in/Registration will be through GotSport prior to the designated cut off date listed on the web site.

A. US Teams Check-in/Registration Requirements

1. Copy of official roster; either USYS State Association, US Club Soccer, or other USSF approved governing body.
2. Copy of Guest Player Roster (if applicable)
  - Roster provided by team's state association, or
  - Roster provided by tournament (see registration information on tournament website)
  - Guest Players may be written on the official team roster with Player Name and Date of Birth.
3. Permission to Travel paperwork
  - Not Required for US Club Soccer teams
  - **Required for all USYS teams that are not from the host state association.**
4. Copies of player / coach passes; either USYS State Association or US Club Soccer
  - Copies of player passes for guest players if applicable
  - Originals may be requested by referees prior to each game

#### B. International Teams Check-in/Registration Requirements

1. For a team from any other nation:
  - Players must present passports at registration or, if from a nation that the United States does not require a passport, proof of entry into the United States that is required by the United States.
  - Teams are required to have and present player picture identification cards.
  - If required, the team shall have a completed form from its Provincial or National Association approving the team's participation in the tournament.
2. Copy of official roster from governing organization
3. Copy of Guest Player Roster form (if applicable)
  - Roster provided by team's state association
4. Permission to Travel paperwork
  - If required by the National Federation
5. Copies of player/coach passes from local or national governing federation
  - Copies of player passes for guest players if applicable
  - Originals may be requested by referees prior to each game

## **ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA**

The following criteria are used by the event staff when selecting teams to participate in this event.

1. Team Payment has been received
2. Team Hotel has been booked through the event housing coordinator
3. Team level of play is based on the following listed below...

Current League , State Cup Results, Current and Past League Results , Previous Calendar Year  
Tournament results

## FLIGHTS CRITERIA

Please make sure that your GotSport information is correct- your head coach (the one coaching the games) and your team name. You can log into GotSport to change what you need. This will ensure that we can try to accommodate any coaching conflicts. This MUST be completed before flights are posted.

Please click [here](#) to assign your primary coaching assignments: Coaching Conflicts

Before you request a change in flight placement, please note that the tournament committee has done their due diligence in researching the following:

- Current Registered League play
- Current/Past League play results
- Past Tournament results
- Comparison to other teams in Event
- Application information
- Requested bracket

If you believe your team has been bracketed incorrectly, please email the event staff with specific results that support your argument by our deadline stated in the flight email. Please include the following in the email:

- Team name, age group/gender and current flight.
- Scores against other teams in the event or scores from leagues or recent tournaments.

Please don't include anything with "rankings". We especially look at actual scores and events that teams have attended this fall/winter/spring. These are the most accurate indicators of your team's level. Again, be specific please. It is not our goal to set anyone up for failure or to stack the deck in any team's favor, we want the best competition for all of the teams in our event.

\*Please note this does NOT guarantee a change in flight, the final decision is at the discretion of the tournament committee.

## **SCHEDULE CRITERIA**

Please let the event staff know by submitting an email if any of the following have appeared on your schedule:

- A direct coaching conflict within this event for coaches who coach multiple teams (up to two (2) teams). If you are coaching more than two (2) teams you must have an assistant coach.
- A major mistake ( a team playing two games at the same time or back to back games).

**Although we know life happens but we simply cannot honor requests for the following reason as there are just too many:**

- Travel Distance: Event staff will attempt to accommodate a teams traveling distance to and from the event, it is not guaranteed.
- Personal reasons (weddings, etc).
- Non-event specific coaching conflicts not related to this event (another team you are coaching is playing elsewhere).

All support ticket emails must be made before schedules become final.