

2010 Thunder SoccerFest

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. GENERAL RULES

All decisions of the referee are final and binding. The Tournament Committee and the Maryland State Youth Soccer Association will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team or club if the tournament is canceled in whole or part. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decide on all matters pertaining to the tournament and its judgment is final. Any team that disregards any decision by the Tournament Committee (including the inclement weather policy) will be automatically dropped from the tournament and forfeit all remaining games. First place awards will be presented to winners. Second place awards will also be presented to the finalists.

2. AGE AND ELIGIBILITY

- A. Participation in the Tournament is open to accepted teams composed of eighteen (18) or fewer players for the U13-U19 age groups (playing 11v11), fourteen (14) or fewer players for the U11 and U12 age groups (playing 8v8), and twelve (12) or fewer for the U9 and U10 age groups meeting the age limit of the specified division. Each team must be registered with a National Soccer Association affiliated with the USYSA/USSF or national equivalent and must present a valid State or Provincial roster. Player registration cards duly authorized by State/Provincial or National Association will be required as proof of age. **PLAYER PASSES MUST BE PRESENT AT THE FIELD FOR THE DURATION OF EACH TOURNAMENT GAME.**
- B. No player shall play for more than one team during the tournament.
- C. All teams, other than those competing in NCSL/WAGS and/or those affiliated with MSYSA, **MUST** have a copy of their approved Permission To Travel Form or Notification to Travel Form as required by each teams State or National Association. (Note: Region 1 teams, with the exception of **New Jersey** and **Connecticut**, are no longer required to have Permission to Travel but they **ARE** required to present the Notification to Travel form).

3. ROSTERS

Each U9 through U19 team shall have a valid roster properly stamped by its state or National association (or a valid tournament roster if playing U9) present at every game and rosters and player cards may be inspected by the field marshal at the request of either coach or on the decision of the referee. Rosters submitted at tournament registration shall govern.

4. GUEST PLAYERS

A maximum of 3 guest players will be allowed during the tournament

5. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- a. U9, U10 – festival format – play is 7v7 with max 12 on roster. Teams will play round robin games with participation awards for all players. (25 minute half w/ no finals)
- b. U11 & U12 – tournament format w/ group winners, final matches, & awards. Play is 8v8 with max 14 on roster. (30 min half w/ 30 min final)
- c. U13 (11v11) through U19 – tournament format w/ group winners, final matches, & awards. Play is 11 v 11 with max 18 on roster (30 min half w/ 30 min final for U13 and 35 min final for U14 & up)
- d. Any 11v11 or 8v8 (U11-U19) game may not start with fewer than seven properly uniformed players on each team. Any 7v7 (U8-U10) game may not start with fewer than six properly uniformed players on each team. Once started, games may not continue with fewer than the required starting number of players. If a game cannot start or is stopped because a team does not have enough players, that team shall forfeit the game. A team shall have a 5 minute grace period from scheduled starting time before a forfeit is declared.

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- e. A forfeit in the preliminary rounds shall be awarded as three (3) points for the win. Forfeits in preliminary and playoff rounds will be recorded with a score of 1-0.
- f. If a team is the cause for termination of a game, that team will be considered to have forfeited that game.
- g. Teams that have forfeited a game may not advance beyond the preliminary rounds without the approval of the tournament director.

6. SUBSTITUTIONS

- A. Substitutions without limit may be made, with the referee's permission:
 - After a goal has been made.
 - At the beginning of the second half of play or prior to the beginning of an overtime period.
 - At a goal kick by either team.
 - At a throw-in by the team in possession.
- B. Limited substitutions may be made, with the referee's permission:
 - In case of stoppage of play for an injury on one-for-one basis for the injured player(s).
 - To replace a cautioned player.
- C. No substitutions on corner kicks will be permitted.

7. PROTESTS. THERE WILL BE NO PROTESTS.

All decisions of the referee are final and binding.

8. UNIFORM, EQUIPMENT AND FIELDS

- A. Players must wear numbers on the back of their uniforms and these numbers shall coincide with those listed on the team's Official State/Provincial roster.
- B. PLAYERS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR SHIN GUARDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME.
- C. No metal cleats will be allowed.
- D. No jewelry will be allowed.
- E. Where uniform colors are similar, the designated home team will change colors. Home team is listed first on the schedule.
- F. When requested by the referee, each team must provide a linesperson.
- G. Check-in time is 30 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off.
- H. 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.

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10. DURATION OF GAMES

The following table shows the length of game halves for boys and girls preliminary matches, semifinal and final matches.

Ages	Preliminaries	Finals	Max. Overtime
U9-U10	25 minutes	25 minutes	n/a
U11-U13	30 minutes	30 minutes	2 x 5 minutes
U14 & up	30 minutes	35 minutes	2 x 5 minutes

In the event inclement weather forces cancellation of a game after at least 20 minutes have been played, the game shall be considered official and the score at the point of cancellation shall be the final score. Should a game be halted before 20 minutes have been played, it shall be rescheduled for complete replay, or recommenced at the discretion of the tournament director. In the event of a tie in a semi-final or final game, overtime shall be played as described above.

11. STANDINGS, ADVANCEMENT & TIEBREAKERS

No standings will be kept in the U9 and U10 age groups. For all other age groups:

Each team shall be awarded three points for a win and one point for a tie in the preliminary games. The Division winner shall be the team with the most points. In the event that two or more teams are tied, the tie-breaking rules are as follows:

- a. Head to head competition (does not apply if more than two teams are involved).
- b. Goal differential (goals for minus goals against – maximum 3)
- c. Least goals against
- d. Penalty kicks - the FIFA penalty kick procedure will be used to determine a winner. Coaches who feel that they may require this discriminator should stay in close contact with their field marshal throughout Sunday.
- e. In the event of a tie among more than two teams: a tie is broken by the above system, but if ties among remaining teams still must be decided, those ties would be broken by starting again from the top of the tie-breaking procedure.

12. SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL TIE-BREAKING RULES

Two five minute overtime periods will be played. If a tie in score exists at the end of overtime, the FIFA penalty kick procedure will be used to determine a winner.

13. GAME AND SCORE REPORTING

- A. The Field Marshal will ensure that the game report forms are properly completed, signatures obtained from, and scores recorded at the end of each game.
- B. The Field Marshal will ensure that the scores of each game are reported to Tournament Headquarters immediately following the completion of the match. The Site Coordinator will ensure that the game report forms are turned into Tournament Headquarters at the completion of the last match on each field, each day.

14. CONDUCT

- A. Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves within the spirit of the Law as well as the letter of the Law. Displays of temper or dissent are cause for ejection from the game and surrounding field area.
- B. Both teams (players and coaches) will be on the same sideline. Spectators of both teams will take the opposite side

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of the pitch. No one will be allowed behind either end line.

- C. A player or coach receiving a red card will not be able to participate in the tournament game following the game the card is issued. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to **SUSPEND ANY PLAYER, COACH OR TEAM FROM THE TOURNAMENT FOR UNRULY CONDUCT.**
- D. Accumulation of Cards - any player or coach who receives a third caution card (yellow) during any part of the tournament will not be allowed to participate in the next tournament game following the contest where the third caution card was issued.
- E. In the event of assault/abuse on a game official, a judiciary hearing shall immediately be convened at a Tournament site to be designated by the Tournament Director. All terms described in the USSF Official Administrative Rule Book under Rule 3.2.8, Suspension for Assault on Official, shall apply. In any event, a player, coach, or other team official who is charged with assault on a game official is suspended from further participation in the tournament.
- F. Any team disregarding a decision by the referees and/or the tournament committee to either suspend or cancel tournament play, will be disqualified for the remainder of the tournament. Also, a written complaint will be filed with both the MSYSA and the team's state association (if different).

15. **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Committee will make every effort to accommodate games as most reasonably possible. If full tournament cancellation is not necessary, games/structure may be modified as follows:

- Games may be rescheduled or relocated
- Duration of any or all games may be modified
- Cancellation of any preliminary games that have no bearing on the selection of division winners may be necessary.

16. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, PETS AND SMOKING ARE NOT PERMITTED AT GAME SITES.**

17. **TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION POLICY**

In the event inclement weather forces total cancellation of the tournament, teams will be refunded fees minus tournament expenses.