

“2023 Spring Kick-Off” Official Rules

1. Categories: This is an unrestricted tournament that is open to ALL Federation affiliated participants with youth non-competitive and competitive teams. Boys and girls ages U5 (2018)-U19 (2004)

2. Application Fee: Each team planning to attend the tournament must submit \$295.00 (U5 - U6), \$295.00 (U7 - U8 4V4), \$395.00 (U9-U10), \$495.00 (U11-U12 9v9), \$595.00 (U13 and above) Applications must be submitted by NOVEMBER 20TH, 2022. There will be no refunds once your team has been accepted.

3. Laws of the game: All matches will be played in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game, except for what has been modified in this rules sheet AND THE NEW USSF MODIFICATIONS (LINK HERE)

4. Registration and Team Eligibility: Each team will consist of players that are registered in USSF, FIFA or an affiliate league for the 2022-2023 seasons.

5. Roster Size: The roster for U5, U6, U7 AND U8 (4V4) will be 8 players (INCLUDING guest players) U9 AND U10 (7v7) will be 14 players, U11 – U12 will be 18 players (INCLUDING guest players), U13 and above will be 22 players (INCLUDING guest players), U5, U6, U7 AND U8 will play 4V4 (no goalkeeper), U9 AND U10 will play 7 v 7, U11 AND U12 will play 9V9, U13 and up 11v11.

6. Substitutions: substitutions are allowed with Referee’s approval at the following times: throw-in from either team, any goal kick, injury, after a goal, at half time, as a substitute for a yellow-carded player. Free substitution is allowed at all age groups.

7. Bracket Allocations, Game Schedules and Score Reporting:

The tournament format will be determined upon the number of participating teams for each age group (three-game guarantee).

8. Bracket Standings: Bracket standings will be determined by the following point system and in the event of a tie, bracket winner and runner-ups will be determined as follows:

- 3 points for a win
- 1 point for a tie
- 0 points for a loss

- A. Head to head during bracket play
- B. Goal differential (no maximum goals)
- C. Goals For
- D. Goals Against
- E. Most Shutouts
- F. Penalty Shoot out

9. Game Lengths:

U5 - U6	Two 15 minute halves	5 minute half-time
U7 – U8	Two 15 minute halves	5 minute half-time
U9 - U10	Two 20 minute halves	5 minute half-time
U11 – U12	Two 25 minute halves	5 minute half-time
U13 and above	Two 30 minute halves	5 minute half-time

10. In the event to a tie in a championship game: “kicks from the penalty mark as outlined in the FIFA Laws of the Game (page 52, English version) will be used to determine the Champion”.

11. EJECTIONS/DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS: USYS/US CLUB rules prohibit any coach, team official or player ejected from a match, or suspended by the proper authority, to be within sight or hearing distance of the field of play during

his/her suspension. A coach, team official or player receiving two cautions (yellow cards) in a single match is considered to have been given an ejection (red card). A player who has been ejected (sent off), shall not be replaced. Any coach, team official or player that is ejected may not participate in the next subsequent game.

A coach, team official or player who has been ejected for **VIOLENT CONDUCT** shall not be allowed to participate in the next **TWO** scheduled matches (subject to review by the tournament committee). Any coach, team official or player who assaults a referee will be expelled from the tournament. **FIGHTING** will not be tolerated for any reason. Coaches, team officials, players or spectators sent off for fighting (striking or attempting to strike another coach, team official, player or spectator) will not be allowed to participate in any further tournament matches. Coaches, team officials, players or spectators who enter the field of play for any reason, in the event of a fight, will be ejected from the tournament. If the coaches, team officials, players or spectators cannot be identified, the entire team will be removed from the tournament. No refunds will be made to any team that is removed from the tournament for fighting.

The coach/team official shall forfeit the carded coach's, team official's or player's pass to the Center Referee who will give the pass and the match report to the Field Marshal. The coach, team official or player in question shall be ineligible until the pass is returned to said coach, team official or player by the Tournament Committee. Any coach or team official that is coaching more than one team in the tournament and is suspended on one team, is automatically suspended from any other team or teams until the suspension has been served. If, in the opinion of the Center Referee, a match must be terminated for misconduct, the offending team forfeits that match and will be suspended from further play in all remaining matches which would be forfeits. Previous points earned and any right to a refund, awards or other consideration will be forfeited. In addition, the home league and State Association will be contacted.

12. **Forfeits:** The scheduled game time is forfeit time. Referees will declare all forfeits. The minimum number of players required to field a team for U5-U8 (4v4) is three, U8-U10 is five, U11 and above, seven. A game that is forfeited will be scored 3-0 and will count towards the three-game guarantee. Depending on the tournament format of that age group a team may advance if they have enough points.

13. **Coach's Responsibilities:** Coaches are responsible for their team preparation, being on the correct field at the scheduled time, their own substitutions, and for the conduct of their players, bench, friends and spectators at all times.

14. **Home team:** Home team will be listed first on the schedule and will take the north or west side of the field.

15. **Jersey color conflict, player credentials, uniforms:**

- A. Home team is responsible to change on request of the referee
- B. Player picture identification cards are to be present and available before each game
- C. The shirt number of each player must be the same as the player's shirt number on the daily match report or roster. If the numbers are not the same, the referee is not to allow the player to take part in the match until the numbers are the same.
- D. Both teams **MUST** provide a game ball.

16. **Player Equipment:** Shin guards are required for all players (**NO EXCEPTIONS**). No hard casts are allowed. Soft casts are allowed with the permission of the Tournament Directors.

17. **Game Ball:** Each team must provide a FIFA approved game ball.

18. **Awards:** Custom medals for 1st through 3rd place for U5 and above. First-place and second place teams will receive a team trophy. All U6 and U8 players will receive participation medals.

19. **Protests and Disputes:** Decisions by field officials (Referee) are **FINAL**.

20. **No player shall play with more than one team during the tournament:** If so, this player will be removed from the tournament and all games played by both teams will be forfeited. . **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE WILL A PLAYER BE ALLOWED TO PLAY FOR MORE THAN ONE TEAM DURING THE TOURNAMENT.**

21. **Mandatory Online Check In:** All teams must register their teams with the appropriate documentation in order to participate in the tournament.

CHECK IN

THERE WILL BE NO "IN PERSON CHECK-IN" YOU MUST RESPOND TO THE EMAIL RECEIVED FROM OUR TOURNAMENT CK IN STAFF TO COMPLETE REGISTRATION PROCESS

ONLINE CHECK-IN IS MANDATORY. ONLY PLAYERS LISTED ON THE EVENT ROSTER WILL BE ALLOWED TO PLAY.

Items needed for online check in:

- Laminated 2022/2023 USYSA, SAY, US Club, AYSO or appropriate National Association Passes with picture
NO PLAYER CARD = NO PLAY
- Proof of Birth (birth certificates, passports, or other official documents)
- Travel papers if required by your association

Team check-in prior to games:

Teams must be at their field at least 30 minutes prior to game time.

22. OFF SIDES: 4V4 CATEGORIES HAVE NO OFF SIDES. 7V7 CATEGORIES DO HAVE OFF SIDES. 9V9 AND 11V11 DO HAVE OFF SIDES.

ALTERNATE MATCH SCHEDULING

The Tournament Committee has the authority to alter the schedule, move matches to the next day or move match sites for the good of the tournament.

INCLEMENT WEATHER OR UNEXPECTED TERMINATION OF PLAY

Matches will be played in all weather conditions, unless the Center Referee or Tournament Director determines the conditions are dangerous and/or life threatening as per FIFA/USYSA/US Club regulations. The Tournament Committee will do everything in their control to make sure all matches are played, but if it is out of their control, the standings at that time will be final. No refunds will be given!

Contingency Plan:

Plan A: All matches will be played as scheduled.

Plan B: Shorten all first round matches to (15) halves.

Plan C: Plan B plus shorten all second round matches the same.

Plan D: Plan C plus shorten all third round matches the same.

Plan E: In the event the fields become totally unplayable or the weather becomes a hazardous condition, it may be necessary to decide some matches with FIFA penalty kicks.

SCORE REPORTING:

Tournament Director and or Tournament committee are responsible for reporting scores and posting them online. Referees turn in game cards to field marshals and marshals turn in cards to committee. Official scores are kept on score cards at Tournament Headquarters. An official team representative is required to sign and approve game cards after each match.

General Information:

Tournament Headquarters during games:
High Noon Sports Complex

Tournament Directors:

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