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Age Groups	U9-U10s	U11-U12	U13-14
Field Size	7v7	9v9	11v11
Ball Size	4	4	5
Roster Size – All players can play in each game	14 MAX	16 MAX	22 MAX
Game Length	25 mins each way	25 mins each half	30 mins each half
Offside	YES	YES	YES
Minimum Games	3 Games	3 Games	3 Games
Trophies/Medals	Yes-Winners	Yes-Winners	Yes- Winners
Over-Time (semi's/finals)	No	PK's	PK's

**New Check In:**

- ALL Teams - MUST check in at the check in desk with waivers, unless already submitted
- If you play with more than the maximum number on a roster without written confirmation from the tournament committee - the game will become a forfeit.

**Reporting Scores:**

REDS Staff members will report scores.

**Jersey Change:**

AWAY team changes

**Game Ball:**

REDS provides game ball

## Officiating

Qualified officials will officiate each game. All 11v11 games will be officiated by a central referee and 2 assistant referees although the availability of qualified referees might necessitate the use of fewer linesmen on occasions. For 7v7 and 9v9 games you should expect only one official for the match.

## Heading Rules

U11 players and younger may NOT head the ball intentionally. If in the opinion of the referee a player heads the ball intentionally, the restart is an indirect free kick for the opposition. U12 players and older may head the ball intentionally. If a player plays "up" an age division, that player will play by the age group rule.

## 7v7 Guidelines

In 7v7 competition, the opposing team must be behind the halfway line for goal kicks to promote playing the ball out of the back.

\* Please note - the offside rule for 7v7 games will be adhered to, however, please note that it may be loosely enforced. If there is a blatant advantage from an offside - the referees will give the call. If a player is a yard offside, but no advantage is gained, then referees will use their discretion. At 7v7 we want the game focus to be on development and multiple touches with minimal stoppages, rather than coaches and teams focusing on the offside trap.

## Substitutions

This event will follow FIFA rules where substitutions can be made at ANY stoppage with the consent of the official. This includes, free-kicks, corners and opposition stoppages such as the other team's throw-in. Unlimited re-entries are allowed.

## Weather

In the case of inclement weather every attempt will be made to play all scheduled games in the tournament. At the sole discretion of the tournament director/committee, some games may be declared a 0-0 tie and not made up. The following priority will be given to making up games:

1. Teams that have not yet played a game in the tournament.
2. Teams that have only played one game in the tournament.
3. Games that will have a material impact on the final standings.
4. All other games.

**The lightning policy for the tournament is as follows:** At the first visible sign of lightning (regardless of the estimated distance from the field) all play will be stopped, and players and spectators will be asked to move to a safe location. For all games that were in progress the game clock will continue to run. If time runs out and the game was at or past half time when play was stopped, the result at the time of play being stopped will stand. If 5 minutes or less remain in the first half and the score has 2 or more differential the game will be declared final.

If the game had not reached 5 minutes or less before half time every attempt will be made to make up the game at a later date and time. However, this may not be possible and will be based upon field availability. Play will not resume until 30 minutes after the last visible lightning strike seen (regardless of the estimated distance from the field). When play is resumed, the game, which was scheduled closest to the re-start of play, will begin. For example if play is stopped at 2:50 pm and restarted at 5:20 pm, the teams scheduled to play closest to 5:20 pm will play, NOT the teams scheduled to play at 2:50 pm.

Every attempt will be made to make up the 2:50 pm game at a later date and time. When play is stopped, or resumed, due to lightning, it is at the sole discretion of the referees and the tournament director/committee. Both referees and tournament officials will enforce strict adherence to the above policy. No appeals will be allowed. **Personal safety is the number one concern of the tournament and it will supersede any game situation.**

### **Maximum Goal Differential**

All games will have a maximum goal differential of 4. If the margin of victory was greater than 4 then it will be recorded on the website as the actual result. However, as per below, a 4 goal differential will be used to determine who advances, first and foremost.

### **Team withdrawals**

If a team is fully responsible for the termination of a game due in part to poor sportsmanship towards a referee, opposing team/fans will result in a forfeit. The team responsible for the forfeit will incur a 0-3 loss.

**Noshow/forfeits:** If a team does not show with the minimum number of players or fails to show - this will result in a forfeit of a 0-3 loss that will be recorded. In the case of a team showing up to the wrong field/traffic - a period of 15 minutes will be given to see if the "no show" can get the minimum of 7 players to start the game. After 15 minutes, if a team does not have 7 players, the game will become a forfeit.

**If you play with more than the maximum number on a roster without written confirmation from the tournament committee - the game will become a forfeit.**

### **Advancement to Championship Play (if applicable)**

Section winners are determined by the total points earned within their bracket (Win = 3 points, Tie = 1 point, Loss = 0 points). In the event of teams being equal in points within their group after the qualifying games, advancement to championship play will be determined according to the following:

**\*NOTE: ANY TEAM THAT HAS FORFEITED A GAME IN THE EVENT CANNOT ADVANCE.**

- 1. Head to Head**
- 2. Goal Differential** (subject to the 4 goal maximum goal differential rule stated above)
- 3. Goals For** (number of goals your team has scored - NOT subject to maximum goal differential rule)
- 4. Goals Against** (number of goals allowed - NOT subject to maximum goal differential rule)
- 5. Most Shutouts**
- 6. Penalty Kicks**

In the case of a two-way tie the above rules will be applied until one team is eliminated. However, in a Three-way tie, the Head to Head criteria becomes moot and advancement rules will start at criteria 2.

If a winner cannot be determined the following procedure will be used:

Knock out competition under the supervision of an official Referees through a FIFA "Penalty Shootout". Upon agreement of both coaches, the Referees' Committee and the Tournament Committee, a coin toss may be substituted for the "Penalty Shootout" competition if so desired or where tied teams are not at the same location/field.

### **Championship Games**

Championship games will be regular in duration with a five-minute interval between halves - unless the tournament committee determines that championship games need to be shortened due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

In the event of a tie at the end of regular time FIFA rules for the "Taking of kicks from the penalty mark" shall apply. Teams will alternate kicks at the same goal, with the goal selected by the referee. Best of five, (or more, if necessary), kicks shall prevail. All eligible players, including the goalkeepers, must kick before any player

may repeat. Only players on the field at the end of extra time will be eligible to take kicks, these players must remain within the field of play after the conclusion of extra time.

If one of the two teams qualifying for the championship game declines to appear, at the discretion of the Tournament Committee, the next highest ranked team in that division, based upon tournament record may be substituted for the team declining to appear.

### **Player Safety**

The following shall be permitted for player safety:

- A soft splint or cast shall be allowed per the referee has determined that the cast is not a danger to themselves or other players.
- A brace, joint, or prosthetic is allowed per the referee has determined that is not a danger to themselves or other players.
- Sport Spectacles/plastic prescription frames sports are allowed, however eyewear with glass, metal, or sharp edges are barred.
- Soft foam headgear is allowed per the referee has determined it is not a danger to themselves or other players.

If a referee has determined a player is wearing articles that are not allowed - the referee shall order the said player to remove them. If the player fails to remove the article - they will not be allowed to return to the match.

### **Player Deportment**

Shirt must be tucked inside shorts. Shin guards must be firmly in place and covered by socks. Nonstandard attire, accouterments, and apparel must be cleared prior to the Tournament with written U.S.S.F. approval: otherwise, Rule 4 of the FIFA rules applies. The Referees' Committee will continue to be the sole arbiter as to what is legal and what is not legal.

The issuance of all red and yellow cards and other matters involving the conduct of a team, its players, coaches or supporters will be recorded and reported immediately to the tournament directors.

A player receiving two cautions (yellow cards) in a single game is considered to have been given an ejection (red card). A player who has been ejected (sent off) will not be replaced. A player who has been ejected will not return for that game and will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game. If this player is found to be participating in the next scheduled game - the team with that player will forfeit the game.

A coach who has been ejected (sent off) will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game. Any player or coach ejected (Red Card) from a game shall be ineligible to take part in any further in action with the team during that match.

The referee, referee coordinator and tournament staff/director will assess the ejection and decided upon further suspension. The discretion will be solely down to the tournament director and referee coordinator.

**Assault or abuse by players, coaches, or supporters will result in immediate suspension for the balance of the tournament and notification will be sent to team's home state or USCS for further action.**

### **Coach Presence**

The team must have a coach or administrator from within the same club at all scheduled matches in which their teams participate. The coach/administrator must have a valid coaching pass. There must be a coach present throughout the entire match or match will be forfeited by the team without a coach present to a score of 3 - 0. A maximum of 5 coaches are allowed on the team's sideline.

If a coach is sent off - the team must replace the coach with another coach/administrator with a valid passcard from the same club within a 5-minute period. With a running clock, if the coach gets ejected and the game time comes to completion before the 5-minute grace period - the result will stand.

### **Field Marshals/AT's**

Field Marshals will be present at all fields. All participants should be aware that the Marshals have the

authority and right to remove any unruly or uncivil spectators or coaches from the game field perimeter and/or the field complex area. Anyone found consuming alcohol at any location will be asked to either dispose of the alcohol or to leave the premises.

#### **Tournament Committee**

In the event of conditions beyond the Tournament Committee's control, final decisions with respect to game cancellations, shortenings or terminations shall lie solely with the Tournament Committee and director. The Tournament Committee/Director, in conjunction with the Referees' Committee/Coordinator, reserves the right to change field assignments. In addition, the Tournament Committee/Director reserves the right to change sectional and divisional assignments in the interest of fair and balanced competition.

#### **Protests**

No protests will be considered.

#### **If you must pull out your team - refunds are as follows:**

Before Brackets are released: Full Refund

After Brackets are released: 50% refund or charged 50%

After Schedule is released: no refund or charged full amount