

Tournament Rules

Chicago Sockers Nike Classic Cup Spring, Nike Classic Cup Fall, Nike Memorial Day Cup, Nike Labor Day Classic

COVID RULES / GUIDELINES

- Per CDC and USSF guidelines, all players, coaches, and spectators are required to wear masks over their mouths and noses at all times, with the exception of when eating or drinking, regardless of whether or not you have been vaccinated. If unable to wear a mask for long periods of time due to a medical condition, be prepared to present documentation of said condition or a doctor's note.

TEAM REQUIREMENTS / ELIGIBILITY:

- All teams and players participating must be registered and in good standing with their local **USYSA/USSF/FIFA organizations**.
- All teams must have completed their ONLINE team registration before tournament due date.
- All teams must bring the following documents to the tournament:
 - Completed team roster (with any players not participating crossed out)
 - Player passes, either physical passes or easily accessible electronic passes (must contain player photo)
 - Signed Medical Waivers for all players
- **Teams outside of the US:** Teams coming from a CONCACAF nation must follow ONLINE registration procedures and upload permission to travel.

TEAM ACCEPTANCE / REFUND POLICY:

- Teams will be notified of their acceptance into the tournament no later than 20 days before the tournament start date. If you are not accepted, your full entry fee will be returned.
- If a team cancels after acceptance into the tournament, the team will forfeit its full entry fee.
- If the tournament is canceled and cannot be rescheduled for any reason, a full refund will be issued.
- If some of the games cannot be played due to severe weather conditions, partial refunds will be issued on a pro-rated basis.

ROSTERS / PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

- No player shall be allowed to register for more than one team or switch from one team to another during the tournament, even in different age divisions.
- 8U (5v5): The maximum number of players on roster is 12.
- 9U & 10U (7v7): The maximum number of players on roster is 14.
- 11U & 12U (9v9): The maximum number of players on roster is 16.
- 13U (9v9 only): The maximum number of players on roster is 16.
- 13U-15U (11v11): The maximum number of players on roster is 18.
- 16U-19U: The maximum number of players on roster is 22. (A maximum of 18 players may dress for each game).

FORMAT:

- Each team will play a minimum of 3 games.
- All age divisions will be divided into groups of 4, 5, 6, or 8 teams.
 - Groups of 6 or 8: After pool play, the TOP two teams in points will advance to a single elimination game playoff/and or final.
 - Groups of 4 or 5: After pool play, champion will be determined by most points in group. No playoffs or championship games will be played.
- We reserve the right to combine age groups if there is not a sufficient number of teams in any category or age division. The coaches or team manager of any teams involved will be contacted prior to the tournament for their approval.
- We will be using licensed referees for all games as follows, however, we reserve the right to alter the format below based on referee availability:
 - Three-man system for all 11v11 age groups (**13U-19U**).
 - Two-man system for all 9v9 age groups (**11U-12U**)
 - One -man system for **8U-10U**.
- The Tournament Committee will rule on all protests. All protests must be submitted in writing immediately after the game. The coach is the only person who may file a protest, and may do so at the tournament HQ tent along with \$200 cash. Referee decisions and judgement calls are final and cannot be protested.

GAME PROCEDURES / RULES:

- All rules of play will follow FIFA Laws of the Game unless stated otherwise in the tournament rules.
- Both teams will check in with Field Marshal no fewer than 20 minutes before kickoff. All players should have passes present (physical or electronic). No Pass = No Play.

- If tournament officials confirm that a team has used or attempted to use an ineligible player, that team/club may be removed from the tournament, forfeit its full entry fee, and be reported to that clubs sanctioning body for further penalties.
- Both teams should be on the opposite sideline as the spectators.
- Home Team has 1st half kick-off and Away Team has choice of side.
- In case of jersey color conflict, the Home Team changes jerseys.
- **Forfeits:** A team forfeits its match if it is not present or cannot field an eligible team more than 10 minutes after the scheduled game time. A minimum of 7 players is required to start the game. **A forfeit is recorded as a score of 3-0.**
- **Substitutions** shall be unlimited in for all age groups. Both teams may sub at any stoppage with the exception of corner kicks.
- The Referee will not stop his/her watch for substitutions - only for serious injury or time wasting. Stopping watch or adding time is at the sole discretion of the center referee.
- **No heading for age divisions 11U and younger per USSF guidelines.**
- Buildout lines shall be utilized for ages 10U and younger, and U.S. Soccer rules related to buildout lines shall be enacted for the tournament (including offsides rules related to buildout lines to determine offsides).
- In the event that adverse conditions and/or weather necessitates rescheduling, curtailment, or cancellation of games, the tournament directors shall have absolute authority to make these changes to best serve the interests of the tournament as a whole, keeping in mind the need to successfully identify winners within a certain time period.
- All schedule changes will be communicated via email to the responsible party listed in GotSoccer on each team's registration.

POOL PLAY POINTS SYSTEM:

- 3 points for a WIN
- 1 point for a TIE
- 0 points for a LOSS
- – 3 points for Forfeit –
- 1 extra point for shutout (*no point awarded for 0x0 tie*)

POOL TIE BREAKERS:

The following tiebreakers will be used to determine standings within groups, or to determine wild card winners among groups or wild card:

- A. Points
- B. Head to Head
- C. Net goal differential - Goals Scored - Goals Against. (Max 3 goals per game).
- D. Goals Against
- E. Goals Scored
- F. Coin Toss

The Tournament Director will make all determinations of teams advancing.

The Tournament Director, to ensure that two teams from the same group will not play each other in the opening game of the subsequent round, will adjust schedules.

In playoff games, if the game is tied at the end of regulation time, games will be decided by penalty kicks according to FIFA rules.

GAME DURATION:

- 8U: 2 x 20 minutes
- 9U – 10U: 2 x 25 minutes
- 11U – 14U: 2 x 30 minutes
- 15U-19U: 2 x 35 minutes

The Tournament Director reserves the right to shorten games as needed.

GAME BALL SIZES:

- 8U-12U: Size 4
- 13U-19U: Size 5

PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT:

- All equipment must conform to USSF rules.
- USSF guidance to referees has always been that a player may not use equipment or wear anything, which is dangerous to himself/herself or another player (including any kind of jewelry).
- Casts and braces: The referee for each match will be the sole discretion in determining whether a player wearing an orthopedic cast or braces shall be eligible to participate. Hard casts **MUST** be bubble wrapped.
- Goggles: Players with prescription glasses must wear sports goggles while participating in our event.
- Protective equipment: All players in every age group will be required to wear FIFA- approved protective shin guards at all times while actively participating in a game.

PLAYERS, COACHES, AND SPECTATORS CONDUCT:

- Red Carded players will be disqualified for the next scheduled game. This includes semi-finals and finals.

- Managers /Coaches will be responsible for the behavior of their fans.
- Any serious misconduct of a team, its players, coaches or fans will be reported to the respective organization and any referee assault will be dealt with according to USSF Rule 1108.
- The site directors have the authority and responsibility to remove any person(s) from the tournament for abuses of good conduct, in addition to any specific disciplinary action brought by any other authority.
- Tournament Directors may suspend any offending manager/coach/players for the duration of the tournament if further disciplinary action is deemed appropriate.
- If a coach has multiple teams in the tournament, any suspension shall be applicable to each age group in which the infraction occurred unless further disciplinary action is taken against this individual.

GENERAL / MISCELLANEOUS:

- The tournament committee will not be responsible for any expense incurred by any team due to the cancellation in whole or part of this tournament.
- The tournament committee's interpretation of the foregoing rules and regulations shall be final.
- The tournament committee reserves the right to decide on all tournament matters.
- The tournament committee has the right to provide for special dispensation. If special dispensation is needed, please email the Tournament Director at tournaments@sockersfcchicago.com
- Violation of tournament rules may result in immediate elimination from tournament competition.
- We are guests at the facilities that host our tournaments.
- Drones are prohibited – The city of Schaumburg ordinance prohibits the use or operation of drones over all government owned, operated, and affiliated properties.
- Olympic Park is a tobacco and alcohol free facility.
- Pets are prohibited in the turf soccer complex at Olympic Park.
- No driving of stakes or other items into the turf is permitted at Olympic Park.
- We are guests at the facilities that host our tournaments. Please be courteous, follow facility rules, and clean up after yourselves.

Sockers FC Chicago, Revised April 2021