



# RULES OF PLAY

## Winter Cup Tournament Rules 2024

### SCORING SYSTEM

- 3 points for a win
- 1 point for a tie
- 0 points for a loss
- A forfeit game scored is 3-0

### GAME LENGTHS

*U6(2018)–(4v4) 15 minute halves*

*U8(2017)–(5v5) 20 minute halves*

*U9 (2016) –(7v7) 25 minute halves*

*U10 (2015) –(7v7) 25 minute halves*

*U11 (2014) –(9v9) 30 minute halves*

*U12 (2013) –(9v9) 30 minute halves*

*U13 (2012) –(11v11) 30 minute halves*

*U14(2011)–(11V11) 30 minute halves*

*U15(2010) To (2005)U19 (11V11) 30 minute halves*



## **AGE FORMAT ROSTER SIZE**

*U6–U4 MAX ROSTER SIZE 9 AND MINIMUM 2 PLAYER IN THE FIELD*

*U8–U7 MAX ROSTER SIZE 11 AND MINIMUM 3PLAYER IN THE FIELD*

*U9 –U10 MAX ROSTER SIZE 13 AND MINIMUM 5 PLAYER IN THE FIELD*

*U11 –U12 MAX ROSTER SIZE 16 AND MINIMUM 6 PLAYER IN THE FIELD*

*U13 –U19 MAX ROSTER SIZE 19 AND MINIMUM 7 PLAYER IN THE FIELD*

## **GUEST PLAYERS**

- *Each team can have no more than 5 guest players.*
- *Game Rosters have to be provided by the coach (GOTSPORT Teams).*
- *Independent teams will be given their Game Roster at the check-in.*
- *Teams from GOSPORT have to print out their GOTSPORT rosters and present them at the check-in so we can stamp each Game Roster.*
- *Coaches can add no more than 5 players.*
- *If those players were not added on the printed roster, they need to be written down on each Game Roster and coaches need to present their DOB certificate, passport or any official document that can show the DOB of the participating player.*
- *Same will be for the independent teams.*
- *Coaches need to inform us at the check-in of any last minute added player.*
- *Failing to do this will cause the player's inability to participate in the tournament.*
- *A player is allowed to play with another team from the same club as long as the player is under the age of the team he will be playing for.*
- *Guest players have a limit of 2 teams they can play with, in the same tournament.*

## **SUBSTITUTIONS**

- *Substitutions with referee permission in ALL cases*
- *USSF substitution rules apply, as modified by USYSA*
- *ALLOWED FOR BOTH TEAMS: goal kicks, after a goal, halftime*
- *ALLOWED FOR ONE TEAM: throw-ins, possession team only, stoppage due to injured player (injured player only); yellow cards (player who received card ONLY*

## **WATER BREAKS**

- *Water breaks may be taken during the play of all games*
- *Referee and both coaches should agree prior to a game when and how long water breaks should be. The water break is mandatory if we are at 85 degrees F.*
- *Water breaks will only be allowed with the referee's permission; the clock WILL NOT STOP during a water break.*

## **ARRIVAL TIMES**

- *Teams must be at their assigned field 15 minutes before scheduled first game time.*
- *Teams must be at their assigned field 10 minutes before scheduled game time.*
- *Teams must be ready for inspection by the referee and/or field commissioner. STARTING TIMES*
- *All games START at the time shown on the schedule*
- *NO GRACE PERIODS will be allowed*

## **UNIFORMS: NUMBERS AND COLORS**

- *All players shall wear numbered jerseys as they enter the field, shorts and socks of like color which distinguish them from the opposing team and the referee.*

## **UNIFORMS: ALTERNATE JERSEYS**

- *Each team must have an alternate color jersey in case of color conflict.*
- *The first team listed on the schedule is the home team and must change jersey colors if deemed necessary by the referee.*

## **UNIFORMS: PLAYER JERSEY NUMBERS**

- *Player numbers must be on the final roster submitted at team check-in. Players must wear their assigned jersey number in all games.*
- *Changes in player jersey number must be reported to the referee prior to the start of each game; no number changes will be allowed after a game has started.*

## **SCHEDULES**

- *The game schedule is final as published • No changes will be permitted without the consent of the Tournament Director*



## HEADERS

Players from U6 to U11 aren't allowed to hit the ball with their head. U12 to U19 are allowed

## SCORE REPORTING

- *Referees will conduct safety checks prior to game start.*
- *Games will not start without an official game report.*
- *Game reports must be signed by both Coaches.*

## DISCIPLINE: RED CARDS

- *Player receiving a red card is banned from that game. He will be allowed to play in the next game.*
- *Player accumulating 2 yellow cards is suspended for the next game (1 game suspension) REPORTING*
- *Referees are required to report all disciplinary actions taken before, during and after the game on the official game report*
- *All cases of serious misconduct must be reported immediately following the game after which the serious misconduct occurred.*
- *A coach that gets a red card will have to remove himself or herself from the coaching area at least 60 feet away. Coach will be allowed to be in the next game. If the same coach gets a second card in the same tournament. He/she will be suspended one game.*
- *A parent or parents that get a red card will have to remove themselves from the game with at least 60 feet away. If the same parent or parents get a second card in the next game, he/she will be expelled from the tournament venue.*

## PROTESTS

*All referee decisions are final during the course of a game. Player age verification challenges will need to be done at the halftime break or at the end of the game. Coach has to make sure that the referee writes down the report on the game card so the tournament director can take action. Failing to do this important step will result in discarding the claim*

*All coaches must provide player cards from STYSA or Us Club, or a copy of the birth certificate, or a copy of the passport, or a copy of the school registration with photo, or a*



*copy of TEXAS ID of the player, upon referee request, if the league have it, if not just the complete name of the player and the jersey number.*

*There will be a \$150 fee per player that is found out to be participating without the proper documentation. Failing to pay the fee will result in the expulsion of the competition. Team that pays the fee will get to stay in the competition but the game will be forfeit*

## **STORM GUIDELINES**

*Every attempt will be made to have all matches played. Rescheduled games may be played under lights in the evening or may be scheduled early Saturday/Sunday morning, prior to normal starting time at the discretion of the Tournament Director.*

*During rainstorms, all matches will continue as scheduled unless conditions become unsafe for players. Games will be suspended by the referee or Tournament Director in the event of:*

- Lightning (as determined by the referee or Tournament Director)*
- Hailstorms (as determined by the referee or Tournament Director)*
- Unplayable field conditions (Determined by the referee or Tournament Director)*

*Tournament Director decisions are final and not subject to appeal. Re-scheduling attempts will be made as quickly and as fairly as possible, considering referee and field availability and the normal progress of the Tournament Rules.*

*As a final solution, it may be necessary to employ a coin toss to determine teams advancing in knockout stages.*

*The safety of players, referees and spectators is the tournament's primary concern followed by fairness to the affected teams and the orderly flow of competition to Divisional Championships.*

### **Games Suspended in the First Half:**

- Attempt to complete one-half of the match prior to the next scheduled game*
- If one-half of the match is completed, the game is official, and the score stands*
- If one-half cannot be completed prior to the next scheduled game, then:*

*The game may be rescheduled with a score of 0-0*

*Game may be rescheduled before start of normal play on Sunday with the score at 0-0*

*Game may be canceled, and FIFA penalty kicks will be used to determine a winner*

*Matches called at Half time or during the second half will be considered as complete and final. The score at that time will stand.*

#### **Matches That Cannot Start at the Scheduled Time:**

- Teams are to remain at the site to begin the match at any point possible prior to 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the next match.*
- Attempt to play two equal halves, changing ends at mid-point with no break at the half.*

*If the shortened match time available is less than half of the regularly scheduled time, then the match shall be immediately determined by FIFA Penalty kicks.*

*All matches must terminate at the time designated as the starting time of the next match unless superseded but the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director on site has the authority to declare any delayed match final, or to abandon any match due to consecutive delays.*

*The Tournament Committee and Director, and all sponsors and organizers, will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team or club if the tournament is cancelled in whole or part, nor will any refunds be made.*

*The Tournament Committee and Director reserves the right to decide on all matters pertaining to the tournament and its judgment is final.*

*Every effort to provide scheduling that provides equal rest for each team will be a primary consideration; however, the limited fields and weather conditions may prevent this from happening. In any event, the objective is to complete the tournament in the time allowed. All divisions are flighted based on the information given about your team in the application and upon Division directors' knowledge of your team.*

*The goal is to balance the competition as much as possible. There are no refunds due to inclement weather cancellation of tournament matches or the tournament in whole. Every effort will be made to complete the tournament in total or partially.*

- The tournament directors have the final decision over field conditions and game cancellations*
- In case of rainouts, games will be rescheduled if possible, within tournament time constraints*
- If games need to be rescheduled after a weather delay, game times may be shortened to get games played.*

- *All games stopped due to inclement weather, will be considered complete if the game was stopped at any point in the second half. OFFICIAL GAME LENGTH*
- *A game must be played beyond the 2nd half kickoff to be considered a complete or an official game*
- *Any game not played beyond the 2nd half kickoff will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the tournament committee (excluding rainouts)*

## **PLAYERS:**

*Any team playing an ineligible player shall forfeit the game to the opposing team and may face further disciplinary actions.*

- *Younger players can play in more than one category, as long as they are younger.*
- *Girls can play 1 year above their age in the boys' categories.*
- *A player listed on the official game report roster shall be considered as a competing player even if that player does not participate in the game.*
- *A player shall be considered "suited-up" for a game when, in the opinion of the official referee, he/she: a) Satisfies all eligibility requirements, b) Wears the official team uniform (shirts, shorts, and socks) in that club's colors, except goalkeepers; their shirts must have individual numbers, minimum 8 inches high, on the back, except goalkeepers. c) Is wearing shin guards which are commercially produced and specifically designed to provide protection to the shins, and d) Otherwise wears appropriate soccer clothing. e)*
- *Players may wear sliding, bike, cyclist, or tight fitting pants which are underneath their soccer shorts, do not protrude below the top of the knee, and are the same color as their soccer shorts This does not prohibit players from wearing loose fitting, long legged sweat pants or tights when it is cold or goalkeepers from wearing goalkeeper pants which may be tight and have padding.*
- *Prohibited Items a) No player will be allowed to play with a hard cast (padded or otherwise) at all.*



*b) No player will be allowed to play with any brace (knee or otherwise) that contains exposed metal or hard plastics, unless it is wrapped with a minimum of . inch high-density foam wrapping or the manufacturer's recommended protective coating.*

*c) Bandannas of any style may not be worn during any game. Players may not wear a bandanna either on their heads, legs or arms.*

*d) Jewelry must be removed and may not be worn by any player except for medical reasons. In all games, substitutes will be allowed as follows:*

*e) The number of substitutions shall be unlimited. b) Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee: Prior to a throw-in by the team in possession only. Prior to a goal kick, by either team. After a goal, by either team. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops the play. At half time. After a caution (the player(s) receiving a caution only).*

*f) A player for whom a substitution has been made can return to the same game.*

- If a player is sent off for any reason, the minimum punishment shall include suspension for the next game actually player by the team to which the player is currently rostered. Suspension shall not be served in forfeited, friendly or invitational tournament matches.*

## **COACHES:**

*If coaching occurs by spectators, the coach/manager will be requested by the referee to control the situation. If the coach/manager is unable or unwilling to control the situation, the referee may caution the coach/manager. If the infringement continues after a caution from the referee, the coach/manager may be sent off by the referee. If the coach/manager refuses to leave or coaching by spectators continues after the coach/manager leaves, the referee may abandon the game.*

*In order to be considered for discipline and protest purposes, any disputes about the game must be reported to the referee and noted on the game report. Once signed by the coach at the end of the game, all records noted on the game report are deemed to be final.*

*If a coach, assistant coach or trainer is sent off or ejected or asked to leave a game by the referee, then the minimum suspension is:*

*a) for the remainder of that day,*

*b) for the next regularly scheduled match day, and*





*c) for the next game actually played by the team which played the game from which he / she was ejected. Suspension will not be served in forfeited, friendly or invitational tournament matches.*

## **ID Cards**

*Teams that are under a governing club and have their respective STYSA, US Club or USSA cards will be able to use them in the competition as proof of identity.*

*All players must have an ID card to be able to play an official game of the tournament.*

## **Rule Variations U9(2015)/ U10(2014)**

*If in the opinion of the referee a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick (IFK) shall be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick shall be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If in the opinion of the referee a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.*

*2. Goal kicks: the defending team players may not be closer to spot of the goal kick than a build-out line.*

### **Goalkeeper possession:**

*When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play or from a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the build out line, marked or not marked*

*Goalkeeper distribution: No ball may be directly, meaning without being touched by another player, punted or drop-kicked in the air by the goalkeeper from one penalty area into the opponents' penalty area. The infraction is punished by giving the ball to the opponents for an indirect free kick taken at the center spot on the halfway line.*

## **Drop Outs**

*Teams that drop out, will need to inform the tournament's director within 2 weeks in advance. They will only get 50% of the registration fee back. Any team that do a last minute drop out will not get a refund of the registration fee.*



*Teams affected by a team dropping out from their bracket, and end up playing less games as promised, will get a 15% refund or 50% credit for the next event. Coaches will be able to choose from those 2 options.*

## **COMPLAINT POLICY:**

*All complaints must undergo a 24-hour waiting period before being submitted to the Headquarters Tent. Complaints must be registered in writing and include the following:*

- 1. Date and time of occurrence*
- 2. Detailed description*
- 3. Player # and team name*
- 4. Coach's signature* Contact Player Nine Events  
Email: [playernineinfo@gmail.com](mailto:playernineinfo@gmail.com)

## **Sanctions & Penalties**

**Teams are subject to penalties or monetary sanctions if one or more of the next rules are broken:**

## **Rules**

- 1) A player that is registered late after the registration deadline will be charged a \$25 fee per player.*
- 2) Teams are responsible to let the league director know if they need to cancel a game or if they are unable to play a scheduled game at least 4 days in advance. Any last minute cancellation will be sanctioned with a monetary fee under the league director's discretion.*
- 3) A team can be suspended or can be subject to forfeit a game if they play with one or more unregistered players in their official roster. In the event that this happens more of one time. The team can be expelled from participating in the league.*
- 4) Any violent behavior from players, coaches, assistant coaches, parents, or associates from the participating team towards a referee or an official member of the league will receive a penalty or a monetary sanction, depending on the severity of the action.*

