



RULES & REGULATIONS 2025

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U8	U9 – U10	U11 – U12	U13-15	U16+
5v5	7v7	9v9	11v11	11v11
Size 3 Ball	Size 4 Ball	Size 4 Ball	Size 5 Ball	Size 5 Ball
Roster: 10 players max.	Roster: 14 players max.	Roster: 16 players max.	Roster: 18 players max.	Roster: 22 players max.
Game length: 40 min (20 minute halves)	Game length: 50 min (25 minute halves)	Game length: 60 min (30 minute halves)	Game length: 70 min (35 minute halves)	Game length: 80 min (40 minute halves)
Offside rules apply	Offside rules apply	Offside rules apply	Offside rules apply	Offside rules apply
Scheduled 3 Games with potential of championship game	Scheduled 3 Games with potential of championship game	Scheduled 3 Games with potential of championship game	Scheduled 3 Games with potential of championship game	Showcase Format - ALL teams play a maximum of 3x games
Medals for Champions & Finalists	Medals for Champions & Finalists	Medals for Champions & Finalists	Medals for Champions & Finalists	No medals/trophies
FIFA rules in play	FIFA rules in play	FIFA rules in play	FIFA rules in play	FIFA rules in play

Tournament Tie-Breaker Ruling

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 will be determined according to the following:

1. **Goal Differential (subject to maximum goal differential referenced on page 3 of rules)**
2. **Head to Head**
3. **Goals For (number of goals your team has scored – subject to maximum goal differential rule)**
4. **Goals Against (Number of goals allowed – subject to maximum goal differential rule)**
5. **Penalty Kicks**

In the case of more than a two-way tie (where 3 or more teams have the same amount of points) the above rules will be applied until one team is eliminated. The process repeats (starting at Criteria 1 each time) until one team is left. However, in a Three-way tie, the Head to Head criteria normally becomes moot.

OFFICIATING

Qualified officials will officiate each game. All 9v9 & 11v11 games will be officiated by a referee and 2 assistant referees although the availability of qualified refereed might necessitate the use of a two-man system where applicable. For 5v5 & 7v7 games you should expect only one official for the match. The tournament has a Zero Tolerance Policy, which is in effect for the duration of the event.

SUBSTITUTIONS

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

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 rules.

7v 7 RULES

In 7v7 competition, the opposing team must be behind the build out line for goal kicks until the 1st DEFENDER has touched the ball to promote playing the ball out of the back

MAX GOAL DIFFERENTIAL

All games will have a maximum goal differential of 4 – even if the margin of victory was greater than 4 goals. Tournament director and staff will have all official scores – but a 4-goal differential will be recorded in the public online results.

This is a Development Showcase; therefore, we expect coaches to use different ideas to keep games as competitive as possible. We want every player to have a positive experience and any teams/clubs that do not adhere will simply not be invited to attend any future events.

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. Team 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 estimated distance from the field) all play will be stopped and player and spectators will be asked to move to 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 the play being stopped will stand. If 5 minutes or less remain in the first half and the score has 2 or more goal differential the game will be declared final.

If the game has not reached 5 minutes or less before half time every attempt will be made to make up the game at a later time/date.

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 2:50pm and restarted at 5:20pm, the teams scheduled to play closest to 5:20pm will play, NOT the teams schedules to play at 2:50pm.

Every attempt will be made to make up the 2:50pm game at a later date/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.

PLAYER SAFETY

It is expected that coaches will keep players who have sustained injuries off the field. Referees and coaches must not allow anything dangerous to be worn that could be harmful to a player or opponent on the field. The referee's judgement shall determine what is safe and what is dangerous. Some examples of items that are considered unsafe (but not limited to those stated) are braces, splints, prior injuries, jewelry, hats, and faulty cleats. The referee must err on the side of safety and his/her judgment will be considered final. Prior play, other referees, other days, other games in this tournament do not set precedent. Each game and situation is judged on its own at the time the referee makes a decision. Safety is first.

RECORDING EQUIPMENT

Attending teams are ALLOWED to bring their own video recording equipment to the facility but ALL Hi-Pod, Veo and/or Trace systems MUST either be heavily weighted down or anchored to the ground to avoid injury to a player, coach or spectator. Failure to comply will result in your team not being allowed to use the equipment.

The Chicago Development Showcase does NOT have any partnership with ANY video recording promotions or company. Any team that hires an outside organization to record games, please notify the tournament director prior to your first game. We do NOT allow nor endorse any solicitation from outside entities to our attending teams/clubs.

PLAYER DEPORTMENT

The issuance of all yellow and red cards and other matters involving the conduct of a team, its players, coaches or supporters will be recorded and reported immediately to the home state association and the home/club league. 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 and that player will be suspended for their team's next scheduled game at the event. A coach who has been ejected (sent off) will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game at the event.

Any player or coach ejected (red card) from any game must vacate the players/coaches sideline, at least 100 ft. away from the game field. The referee, referee coordinator and tournament director will assess all ejections and decide upon any further suspension. The discretion will be solely down to the tournament director and referee coordinator.

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

REFUNDS

In the event that the entire tournament is cancelled due to weather prior to your first schedule match, we will either partially or fully refund your team once all tournament expense has been fully covered. If weather curtails the tournament thereafter, every reasonable attempt will be made to assure teams play at least 2 games but no refunds will be given.

FIELD MARSHALS

Field Marshalls will be present at all fields. All participants should be aware that the Marshalls have the authority and right to remove any unruly or uncivil spectators from the game field perimeter, and/or the field complex area.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

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

PROTESTS

No protests will be considered.