

TOURNAMENT RULES

Spring Kickoff Cup

LAWS OF PLAY

Play will be governed by the FIFA Laws of the Game, except where amended by USYSA Rules of Play, Nebraska State Soccer Association Rules of Play and/or the 2020 Spring Kickoff Cup Rules. These rules may be modified before the beginning of tournament play. The final Tournament Rules will be published in the Tournament Program. A player may only play for one team during the tournament. Any ineligible player discovered will cause the team on which he played for to forfeit any game.

TEAM, PLAYERS AND COACHES CREDENTIALS

Players must be registered to the team making application. Teams must be registered and in good standing with their US Youth Soccer/ affiliated state/provincial association. Teams may have up to 3 guest players; guest player forms will be required. Player picture identification cards are to be present and available at all matches. Teams must comply with US Youth Soccer travel procedures. A player can only play on one team during the tournament. A roster certified by your state association must be submitted before or at tournament check in.

Any Team participating must carry US Youth Soccer 2019-2020 player's passes. All player and coach passes must be laminated. All teams must follow the applicable procedures of the US Youth Soccer Travel Policy. Out of state teams must have US Youth Soccer Permission to Travel Papers on file at your state association office. All teams are also required to carry written medical releases from parents/guardians in case emergency medical care is necessary.

U8 Teams will only need to provide a team roster. Contact the tournament director at tournamentdirector@benningtonsoccer.org with any questions.

HOME TEAM

The home team will be responsible for wearing an alternate color jersey, if necessary, as determined by the referee. The team is listed first in all rounds shall be the home team. Teams use the side of the field with team benches and spectators shall use the opposite side of the field.

EQUIPMENT/UNIFORMS – SHINGUARDS ARE MANDATORY

Teams must have matching uniforms, and should have numbers on the jersey back. Goalkeeper must have a different color, preferably not black. If team colors conflict the "Home" team is responsible for changing colors. Soft rubber keeper helmets will be allowed for the keeper only. All player equipment is subject to Referee approval. **All players must wear shin guards and the referee has the right to request players to put on shin guards that are sized properly.**

PLAYING CONDITIONS

Teams will be expected to play according to the schedule of games regardless of weather. Only the Tournament Director(s) may reschedule games or alter the competitive format because of inclement weather or other just cause. Games shall be considered complete if one half has been completed and play is stopped by the Field Representative or Referee, Commissioner of Referees or the Tournament Director(s). When necessitated by playing conditions or just cause, the game format may be altered to include shortening of games, penalty kicks or coin tosses.

BRACKETING (U9 – U12 Age Divisions)

4-TEAM BRACKETS (one four-team bracket): Bracket play is round robin games with each of the other teams in the bracket. The two high point teams advance to the Championship match. The championship game will be a re-match and a semifinal or consolation game will not be played. High point team will be the home team for the Championship.

5-TEAM BRACKETS: (one five-team bracket): Bracket play is round robin games with each of the other teams in the bracket (each team gets four games). The high point team is the Champion.

6-TEAM BRACKETS (two three-team brackets): Each team will play three games including one crossover. The two high point teams (one from each 3 team bracket) will advance to the Championship game.

8-TEAM BRACKETS (two four-team brackets): Bracket play is round robin with high point teams in each bracket (one from each 4 team bracket) advancing to a Championship game.

POINT SYSTEM AND BRACKET WINNERS

Bracket winners will be determined by the following point system:

Win ----- 3 (three) points
Loss ----- 0 (zero) points
Tie ----- 1 (one) points
Shutout ----- 0 (zero) points

A team that forfeits a game will give up 3 (three) points to the declared winner of the game and shall not advance to a final match. The match will be scored as a 4-0 win for the declared winner.

If a team is not scheduled for three bracket games, that team's point total will be prorated based on the number of scheduled games played. Point total thus determined will not be rounded off.

AWARDS

U8 All players will be awarded individual medals
U11 – U12 team player awards will be given to the players on the teams finishing first and second.
U9 – U10 team player awards will be given to the players on the teams finishing first and second.

TIEBREAKERS

If at the conclusion of play, two or more teams have the same point total, the following will be used to determine the winner in the order listed until a team is eliminated. Once a team is eliminated, the remaining teams shall again be determined by the tiebreakers in the order listed starting with head to head competition.

1. Head to Head
2. Goals Scored Minus Goals Allowed
(Max. differential of 4 goals – example game score of 7-1 would be scored 5-1)
3. Goals Against
4. Goals For
5. Fewest Red Cards
6. Coin toss

SUBSTITUTIONS

U8 - U14 – at any Stoppage and unlimited.

GRACE PERIOD

U9 – U14 A minimum of five players constitutes a team. A (10) ten-minute grace period shall be extended beyond the scheduled kick off time if five (U9-U14) are not available at the scheduled kick off time. A team of five (U9-U14) players must start the game as soon as five players are at the field after the originally scheduled start time. If at the end of the 10-minute grace period the team does not have five (U9-U14) players, the referee shall suspend the game and report the failure of the team to appear to the Tournament Director(s). The Director(s) may declare a forfeit.

GAME LENGTH

Age	Game	length	Overtime
U8	(5v5)	Four 10 Minute Quarters	
U9 & U10	(7v7)	Two 25 minute halves	Direct to Shootout (Semi-finals/Championship)
U11 & U12	(9v9)	Two 30 min. halves	Direct to Shootout (Semi-finals/Championship)
U13 & U14	(11v11)	Two 35 min. halves	Direct to Shootout (Semi-finals/Championship)

Any division that is combined with a higher age division shall have the duration of play to be that of the higher age division. Shoot-outs will be used only as necessary in final matches.

SHOOT-OUTS (PENALTY KICKS)

Penalty kicks used in final matches will be run in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.

The referee chooses the goal at which the kicks will be taken. The referee tosses a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss will take the first kick. Both teams take five kicks; kicks are taken alternately by the teams.

If before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could score, even if it were to complete its five kicks, no more kicks are taken. If after five kicks the score is tied, kicks continue until one team has scored a goal more than the other (sudden death) from the same number of kicks.

Only the players on the field at the end of the match are allowed to take kicks. A different player must take each kick and all eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick. If the player is under suspension they may NOT participate in the kicks.

RED CARDS

The player(s) receiving the Red Card and the Coach must report to Tournament Headquarters following the game. Player will be suspended for a minimum of 1 game. The suspension may be increased depending on the severity of the incident. If a Red Card is received in the final match for the player of the Spring Kickoff Cup, the red card will be reported to the proper State Association or National body.

REFEREE ABUSE

Referee abuse will not be tolerated during the tournament. Referee abuse by the player, coach or fan will be reported to their Home State Association within 48 hours of the end of games. The player, coach or fan will be removed from the soccer complex and will not be allowed to return.

REFUND

In the event that the tournament is cancelled with no games played, all teams will receive a refund of the registration fee less \$45. In the event that any team does not play three games, they will receive one third of the registration fee for each game lost minus the \$45 administrative fee.

TEAMS, PLAYERS AND COACHES

All teams and players must be affiliated with the USYSA or a sanctioned affiliate. Players may be registered to only one team playing in the Spring Kickoff Cup. Player passes and roster will be checked prior to each match. All teams are asked to attend tournament check-in. Out of state teams traveling from extended distances (greater than 3 hours travel time) may arrange for check in on Friday at the tournament check-in or on Saturday at least one hour prior to their first game. Failure to properly check in prior to the first match may result in a forfeiture of that match.

Teams may not use the goal areas at any Tournament complex for warm-up or practice. Violations may result in the forfeiture of that match.

GAME ROSTER

For U9-U14 teams the team roster used at check-in will be the game roster for all games.

TEAM DISCIPLINE

A coach is responsible for the words and actions of his players and their fans. Verbal abuse of the opponents or referees by players, coaches or spectators will not be tolerated. Violations may result in forfeiture of the game and/or expulsion from the tournament.

A red carded player and his/her coach must report to tournament headquarters immediately after the game in which the card was given to determine the player's status for subsequent games. Decisions will be based upon the rules of the Nebraska State Soccer Association, the sanctioning organization for the Spring Kickoff Cup.

PROTESTS

Protests must be presented in writing by the head coach to the tournament headquarters within one hour of the completion of the game, and must be accompanied with a \$100.00 cash bond, which will be returned only if the protest is upheld. Only protests that concern the Laws of the Game and ineligible players will be considered. Referee judgment will not be a basis for protests. Decisions of the Tournament Committee are final and may not be appealed.