



Festival Rules and Regulations

Kingston First Capital Soccer Festival Rules and Regulations, 2026

1.0 Eligibility and Registration Requirements

1.1 All participating teams must be currently registered with their provincial organization. All teams from outside the Southeastern Ontario Soccer Association (SOSA) MUST provide, by email submission, no later than one week before the Festival date, an authorized travel permit from their governing association. Any team from outside of Ontario must have proof of adequate travel, injury and liability insurance. The Festival Committee and host club will not be liable for injuries to any participant on or off the fields during the tournament.

1.2 All teams must bring with them a copy of their official team roster validated by their governing organization. This should be presented at the Festival check-in and kept available by the team at every game during the festival. Failure to meet this requirement could result in sanctions including dismissal from the festival and forfeit of the team entry fee.

1.3 No team will be considered officially registered until their entry fee payment, in full, has been received. Any team that withdraws from the festival after the registration deadline will not be entitled to a refund of their entry fee. Withdrawals prior to the deadline will get a refund of the entry fee minus a \$50 administrative fee.

1.4 Team registration will be done through electronic submission of the official team roster no later than one week before the Festival. A team official must check in at the festival desk no later than one hour before their first game. Players are not required to be present at check in. The team manager/representative will be required to have:

- a copy of the fully completed Festival Roster form;
- a copy of the team's official Team Roster validated by the team's governing body (for presentation and inspection only);
- four completed Festival game sheets.

The manager must keep the documentation to be available at each game the team plays in case it is needed for verification purposes. Game sheets are to be provided to the referee prior to each game.

2.0 Team Roster

2.1 Team rosters will be limited to a maximum ten (10) players for U-9 teams; fourteen (14) players for U-10 AND U-11 teams; and four (4) team officials. Players may play on only ONE team during the Festival.

2.2 A team may register 'call up' players as long as those players are registered to the same Club as the participating team and are at the same age level as the team. No guest players from other clubs are permitted. For all players being called up a copy of the official roster for the team they play for must be provided.

2.3 The age groups and their corresponding birth dates for the tournament are as follows:

AGE DIVISION	BIRTH YEAR
U-11	2015
U-10	2016
U-9	2017

2.4 Player and coach ID documents (books, cards, roster) must be available at each game the team plays. A player or team official without proper documentation will not be eligible to participate.

3.0 UNFAVOURABLE WEATHER

3.1 Under normal conditions, every game will be played at its scheduled time and location. If inclement weather conditions or unusable field conditions occur, the location and kick-off time may be changed. The referee, or Tournament Committee, will make the final call on weather related issues, according to their own rules. Under no circumstances may teams withdraw from the playing field area during game play, until the referee advises them to do so.

3.2 If a game is abandoned, Festival officials will rule on that game's status. The Festival Committee reserves the right to shorten the length of any game and/or revise the schedule of games in an effort to ensure that all games are played. Further, if necessary due to inclement weather, the Festival Committee may cancel any game.

3.4 Neither the Kingston United Soccer Club, nor the Tournament Committee, will be responsible for any expenses incurred by teams, players or parents, in the event of cancellation of the Festival in whole or in part.

4.0 Game Abandonment

A team which is unable to field at least five players within ten minutes of the official start time will force abandonment of the game unless the team can provide the Festival Committee with a satisfactory reason for the lateness. The offending team may be liable for a fine of \$100 payable within 30 days. There will be no refund of entry fees due to abandoned games.

5.0 Protests

All protests must be in writing and submitted with a \$100 cash bond to the Tournament Control Centre, within 30 minutes of the finish of the game to which the protest relates. The Tournament Discipline Committee will rule on all protests and the cash deposit will be refunded only if the protest is upheld.

All referees' decisions are final. No protests will be allowed based on referee decisions.

6.0 Home Team

The team listed first on the schedule shall be considered the home team. If there is a colour clash with team jerseys it will be the home team's responsibility to change colours. Each team should have two sets of jerseys in anticipation of possible colour clashes. Each team is responsible for having an appropriate game ball available, if required.

7.0 Festival Format

7.1 All U-9 teams will play four twenty (20) minute games on the Festival day. U-10 AND U-11 teams will play four twenty five (25) minute games on the Festival day. The number of minutes played by a team per day will not exceed the maximum, as per Ont. Soccer rules, of 60 minutes for U-9 teams, 80 minutes for U-10 AND U-11 teams.

7.2 As per Ont. Soccer developmental guidelines, no scores or standings will be kept and no trophies or medals will be awarded based on results.

7.3 Substitutions are allowed at any stoppage in play with the approval of, and at the discretion of, the referee.

7.4 U-9 teams will play 5v5 with a size 4 ball. U=10 and U-11 teams will play 7v7 with a size 4 ball.

7.5 For U-9,U-10 AND U-11 games there will be **no offside** rule. U-9, U-10 AND U-11 games will use 'kick-ins' rather than throw-ins.

7.6 For U-9 the retreat line will be at the halfway line. For U-10 and U-11 the retreat line will be the 1/3rds line.

8.0 Spectator/Team/Coach Positioning

Coaches must stay within the technical area that extends one yard either side of the team bench and one yard from the sideline. Coaching outside of this area will not be permitted. Only team officials are allowed in this area. Team officials are reminded that they are not allowed on the field of play without the referee's permission. A MAXIMUM of four team officials are permitted on the bench (Coaches, trainers, etc).

Parents and other fans are not allowed in this area and must remain on the opposite side of the field from the players' benches. This rule will be strictly enforced. No exceptions. Spectators must remain at least two metres back from the touchline at all times.

9.0 Discipline

9.1 All team officials must read, agree, and adhere to the **Zero Tolerance Policy For Referees and Staff.**

9.2 Small Sided Referees should avoid the use of Yellow & Red Cards towards players.

As needed, the referee may Warn, Caution (YC), or Send-off (RC) a Team Official. If a Team Official receives two yellow cards during the same game, this will result in ejection from the game and a one game suspension. Three yellows during the Festival will result in a one game suspension. If a Team Official receives a direct red card, he/she will automatically be removed from the tournament. All suspensions will be reported to the team's home District Association and to the Ontario Soccer Association (and/or appropriate provincial association).

10.0 Equipment

Shin pads and proper uniform attire are mandatory. 'Hard' casts, even if wrapped, are not permitted. Referees have final determination over issues involving potentially 'unsafe' equipment (eyeglasses, 'soft' casts, etc.).

11.0 Game Sheets

Both teams must submit their completed game sheets to the referee prior to kick-off. Players' uniform numbers must correspond to numbers/names on the game sheet.

12.0 Festival Committee

14.1 The Festival Committee will be responsible for team acceptances, Festival format, game scheduling, and assignment of referees.

14.2 The Festival Committee reserves the right to decide on all matters pertaining to the Festival.

14.3 The Festival Committee reserves the right to rule on all matters pertaining to the Festival, including interpretation of the forgoing rules and regulations.

14.4 The Festival Committee reserves the right to change the format of the Festival due to unforeseeable circumstances.

14.5 The Kingston United Soccer Club will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team if the Festival is cancelled or shortened.

2026 Referee Fees for Festival and Tournament:

First Capital Cup	Pay
U16 to U18 Middle (No AR's)	\$50.00
U16 to U18 Middle (With AR's)	\$40.00
U16 to U18 AR	\$30.00
U14 to U15 Middle (No AR's)	\$45.00
U14 to U15 Middle (With AR's)	\$35.00
U14 to U15 AR	\$25.00
U12 to U13 Middle (No AR's)	\$35.00
U12 to U13 Middle (With AR's)	\$30.00
U12 to U13 AR	\$20.00
U10, U11 Middle	\$25.00
U9 Middle	\$20.00
U8 Middle	\$20.00