INDEPENDENCE CUP TOURNAMENT RULES

Tournament rules are subject to change at the discretion of the Tournament Directors at any time during the course of the tournament.

Coaches must complete the "Agreement Form" submit at the Tournament Registration.

Player Rules

- SHIN GUARDS MANDATORY
- NO JEWELRY
- SHOW GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AT ALL TIMES

Team Rules

- ALL TEAMS MUST HAVE APPROPRIATE UNIFORMS
- TEAMS MUST BE ON OPPOSING SIDELINES FROM TEAM SPECTATORS.
- TEAMS MUST REPORT TO THE GAME FIELD & CHECK-IN WITH FIELD MARSHAL 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO KICK-OFF.
- NO REMATCHES ALLOWED
- NO ADDITIONAL PLAYERS ALLOWED AFTER SUBMITTING ROSTER
- NO FOUL LANGUAGE OR VULGAR CHANTING FROM TEAM
- MINIMUM OF 5 PLAYERS REQUIRED TO START 7v7 GAME.
- MINIMUM OF 7 PLAYERS REQUIRED TO START 9v9 GAME.
- MINIMUM OF 9 PLAYERS REQUIRED TO START 11v11 GAME.

Home Team

- PROVIDE GAME BALL FOR EACH GAME
- CHANGE UNIFORMS IN THE EVENT OF A COLOR CONFLICT
- CHOOSE POSSESSION OR SIDE TO DEFEND AT KICK-OFF

Spectator Rules

- NO FOUL LANGUAGE, OR VULGAR CHANTING FROM FANS
- NO SMOKING OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON PREMISES

Scheduling

Games cannot be rescheduled or changed once the tournament schedule has been released. **No exceptions!**

Eligibility

All players must be born on or after January 1st in the year of the age group in which they are playing. Younger players are permitted to play "up" on older teams, but no player may play "down" on younger teams.

NO PLAYER MAY BE REGISTERED WITH MORE THAN ONE TEAM OR SWITCH FROM ONE TEAM IN THE SAME AGE GROUP TO ANOTHER DURING THE TOURNAMENT.

Year Season Ends - Birth Year = Age Group

2020 - 2021 Seasonal Year

Season	**2020 – 2021**
Birth Year	
2014	U7
2013	U8
2012	U9
2011	U10
2010	U11
2009	U12
2008	U13
2007	U14
2006	U15

Game Length

A five-minute grace period will be allowed for the required minimum number of players and an adult supervisor (coach). Any team not on the field ready to play by the time the grace period expires will be given a forfeit for the match.

- Time kept on the field by referee (running time).
- All games will consist of 40 minutes running time.
  (U7-U9 may have a scheduled water break during the match)
- No stoppage of time except for serious injury or at referee's discretion

- **Games start promptly according to tournament schedule. Have your team by the field 15 minutes prior to kickoff – report to Field Marshal.**

Number of Games

- Teams in every division will play a minimum of three (3) 40-minute games.

Point System

Teams are awarded: 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss.

The team with the most points in a single division or group will win the division or group. In the event of a tie the following tiebreaker system shall apply to determine the standings:

Tiebreakers:

- **Head-to-Head Competition** (This criterion is not used if more than two teams are tied)
- **Most Wins**
- **Goal Differential:** (maximum differential of 5 goals per game will account for this difference). All game scores are recorded with a maximum 5 goal differential.
- **Goals Against**
- **Goals For**
- **Most Shutouts**
- **Coin Flip**

If a team **forfeits** a game, the opposing team will be awarded with a win (+3 pts), one goal scored, and zero goals against. The forfeiting team will be given a 0-3 loss and (-3) pts.

Championship Game

- Championship games will be decided by penalty kicks if the score remains tied at the end of regulation.
- Penalty Kicks: FIFA Rules apply.

Team Roster

- A completed online roster is due 1 week prior to the tournament.
- Rosters are not considered complete if players do not fill out a waiver form, have proof of birth and have a medical form.
- Coaches may not add, cross out, or substitute players once the online roster has been submitted.
- Players cannot play for another team in the age division.

- Player identification, proof of birth and the online waiver form needs to be available during team registration or participant(s) may not play.

Game Day Roster

- Each team is allowed 16 players on the roster.
- Team consists of 6 field players and a goalkeeper or 8 field players and GK.
- A minimum of 5 players is needed to field a team 7v7. Min. of 7 players for 9v9.
- Less than 5 or 7 players results in an automatic team forfeit.

Team Sideline & Substitutions

Team Sideline:

- Teams must be on opposing sidelines from spectators.
- Only **two** adults are permitted to coach from the team sideline.
- All other adults must watch the game from the spectator area.
- Coaches and players may not cross over the designated team sideline area.
- All team bags must be placed neatly on the sideline.
- Coaches and players must leave their team sideline immediately after their game.
- Players are responsible to clean up any garbage from their team.

Substitutions:

- Unlimited substitutions. Substitutions allowed on all stoppages with the referee's permission.
- Substituted players must first come off the field before a new player may enter.
- All substituting players and coaches must remain on team sideline during the game.
- Coaches may not enter the field at any time unless the referee permits.
- Goalkeepers who are substituted must wear a different colored team shirt.

Field Play

- U7 – 4v4 | U8 – 5v5 | U9 & U10 – 7v7 | U11 & U12 – 9v9 | U13 & U15 – 11v11
- 40 minute games (2x 20-minute halves) 5 minute half-time.
- Size 4 Ball / Size 5 Ball for U13-14
- Offside: – Offside in effect
- Substitutions – see above.
- Direct and Indirect – FIFA rules apply.
- Penalty Kicks – FIFA rules apply.
- Corner Kicks – FIFA rules apply.
- Goal Kicks – FIFA rules apply.

Tournament Format

The tournament format will vary based on the number of teams in each division. All teams are guaranteed 3 games, some teams that make a final will play 4 games.

This is just an example: Subject to change based off divisions, field space, etc.

- **4 Team Division** = Round Robin Play, no playoffs. Winners determined by total points.

- **5 Team Division** = 2 Group Play Games after which each team is seeded based on points. #1 Seed advances straight to Final, #2 & #3 play in Semi-Final, #4 & #5 play in a consolation.

- **6 Team Division** = 2 Brackets of 3 Teams. Each team plays 2 games in their bracket and 1 cross-over game. (A Bracket v B Bracket cross-over games are always placed under "Bracket A" on the schedule). Winner of each bracket meets in a Final.

- **8 Team Division** = 2 Brackets of 4 Teams. Each team plays 3 games within their bracket, winner of each bracket meets in a Final.

Awards & Trophies

The first and second place teams in each division are awarded team trophies and medals.

Fouls & Penalties

The following card system applies for fouls and penalties.

- Yellow Card = Caution
- Two Yellow Cards = Red Card
- Red Card = Player Ejection from Game

If a player is ejected from a game, the player will be suspended for a minimum of 1 additional game(s) depending on the severity of the incident.

U.S. Club Soccer player safety campaign:

Consistent with the U.S. Soccer mandates on heading the ball, heading is banned for all division players U-11 and younger.

An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team if a player U11 or younger, deliberately touches the ball with his/her head during a game.

The indirect free kick is to be taken from the place where the player touched the ball with his/her head.

An indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team inside the opposing team's penalty area, must be taken on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the player touched the ball with his/her head.

Neither cautions nor send offs shall be issued for persistent infringement or denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity related to the heading infraction.

Referees will be enforcing these restrictions by age group according to the specified rules. Referees will not be assessing the age of individual players on the field; they will enforce the rules for the age group.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Committee will have the authority to change games as follows:

- Reschedule any game(s)
- Change the duration of any game(s)
- Cancel any preliminary game(s)

In cases of severe weather conditions before play, the Tournament Committee may reduce the length of the game. Should a game in progress be stopped due to weather conditions and cannot be continued, the score at the time of the stoppage will stand.

Sportsmanship

Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to act in the nature of good sportsmanship at all times. Verbal or other abuse of referees or tournament officials will not be tolerated. Any indication of such behavior by a coach or parent will result in immediate removal from the Tournament site. **We are all here to play soccer and have fun!**

Referees

The referees will have sole jurisdiction over the conduct of the game. It is the responsibility of the coach from each team to sign the referee's scorecard after each game is completed.

- If a referee terminates a game for any reason, the score at the time of the termination will stand.

Protests

- All decisions made by the Tournament Committee will be final.
- **NO PROTESTS** will be considered or allowed.
- If the Tournament Rules appear to be violated, the matter may be brought to the attention of the Tournament Committee for the final resolution.

Dismissal from Tournament

The result of a coach, parent, or team fan involved in any type of physical or verbal confrontation with other spectators, referees and/or league officials will automatically disqualify **their entire team** from the tournament.

Refund Policy

There is a $75 administrative fee included in the team entry fee. This fee is non-refundable if ALL GAMES are canceled due to severe weather or facility closure. In all other instances the full tournament fee is non-refundable.

Any questions regarding the rules of the tournament should be directed to a Tournament Director before the game.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decide on all matters pertaining to the tournament.