

NONA SOCCER CUP 2025

TOURNAMENT RULES



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The rules of this tournament shall be in accordance with US Youth Soccer and FYSA except as modified and approved herein.

TEAM ELIGIBILITY

This tournament shall be open to all teams composed of properly registered youth players in all age groups indicated on the tournament approval form, provided such team is in good standing with its youth state association or country, as necessary.

It shall be the responsibility of each National State Association to certify the eligibility of its competing teams and to provide such teams with a certified copy of the roster, permission to travel, and proof of insurance.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Players must be legally registered through their respective National State Association according to their registration requirements. All teams must have current US Youth Soccer or approved State Association passes to participate.

Passes must be verified, photo attached, and laminated.

AGE DETERMINATION

<i>Age Division</i>	<i>Eligible Birthdates</i>	<i>Roster</i>	<i>Guest Players</i>
U/09	Born on or after 1/1/2017	12	5
U/10	Born on or after 1/1/2016	12	5
U/11	Born on or after 1/1/2015	16	5
U/12	Born on or after 1/1/2014	16	5
U/13	Born on or after 1/1/2014	22	5
U/14	Born on or after 1/1/2012	22	5
U/15	Born on or after 1/1/2011	22	5
U/16	Born on or after 1/1/2010	22	5
U/17	Born on or after 1/1/2009	22	5
U/19	Born on or after 1/1/2007	22	5

PRE-GAME PROCEDURES

Tournament officials shall conduct all credential checks:

- a. At initial registration
- b. At the field prior to each game

In no event will a player be allowed to participate who has not been certified by the tournament credential's committee. A player who arrives late at the playing field after the pre-game procedure may enter the game once the game's official(s) verify the player is eligible and with the permission of the referee.

Only at the pre-game procedure may a player be challenged by an opposing manager/coach. Challenged player(s) will be noted by the referee on the game report and will be allowed to participate in the game (if said player has been certified as eligible by the tournament credentials committee). A challenged player does not constitute a game protest but may serve as a basis for protest should one be submitted. A late arriving player may be challenged at the time he/she is allowed to participate by the referee.

Each manager/coach or assistant must have a valid coach's pass. If a manager or coach is ejected, an assistant may conduct the team. If the assistant is also ejected, or there is no assistant, the game will be forfeited. In no case will a team be allowed to participate without a properly registered coach or assistant.

KICK OFF: It will be determined by a coin toss, with the assigned home team choosing head or tails.

HEADING GUIDELINES

Deliberate heading is not allowed in age groups 12U and younger. If a 12U or younger player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should 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 should be taken on the goal area parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

CONCUSSIONS

Pursuant to Florida Statutes (FS 943.0438) Florida in 2012 enacted a very stringent Head Injury and Concussion Law. If the referee (or assistant referee) believes that, in his/ her opinion, a player has suffered a head injury or possible concussion, the match must be stopped IMMEDIATELY.

The injured player if able to leave the field on their own must be escorted to their coach and the coach must be told that the player cannot return for the duration of the match. If a trainer is brought onto the field because the player is incapacitated, the referee must still notify the coach that the player cannot return to the game. It is the responsibility of the coach and the player's parent(s) or legal guardians to seek medical attention.

The player may not resume participation until he/ she has been cleared by a medical doctor. The Referee HAS NOT FURTHER responsibility beyond removing the player for the match to which the player was injured. The referee crew must ensure, that UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES or due to the appeal from any coaching staff that the player is allowed back in the game.

LAWS OF THE GAME

All games shall be according to FIFA "Laws of the Game," except as modified below:

9/10U - BUILD OUT LINE

When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play (from the opponent) or from a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play. A quick start by the GK is allowed before the opposing team all retreat behind the build out line. Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punting/drop kicks not allowed). Ball is in play when it leaves the GK's hands, this is when players may cross the build out line & pressure the ball.

- The build out line will also be used to denote where offside offenses can be called
- Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build out line
- Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build out line and goal line

LAW 1: FIELD OF PLAY

- U13- U19 No change per FIFA "Laws of the Game"
- U11& U12 (9v9) & U9/U10 (7v7) must play in accordance with the USSF new player development initiatives.

LAW 2: THE BALL

9U-12U uses a Size 4; 13U-19U uses a size 5.

LAW 3: NUMBER OF PLAYERS PER SIDE

U13 and older | Maximum Eleven (11)- Minimum Seven (7) per side per FIFA

U11 and U12 | Maximum Nine (9)- Minimum Six (6) per side

U09 and U10 | Maximum Seven (7)- Minimum Five (5) per side

U13 and Older | Game Roster shall have a maximum of 18 players. Players not on the game roster are allowed to sit on the bench in the team's opposite uniform or street clothes. **All other U12 Rules of Competition including no heading will apply.

SUBSTITUTIONS:

May be made only upon proper notification of the referee through the assistant referee, and with the referee's permission. Substitutes may not enter the field of play until the player he/she is replacing has left the field, and after being signaled onto the field by the referee. Substitutions will be allowed at any stoppage by either team, with the referee's permission.

LAW 4: PLAYER EQUIPMENT

Player equipment shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Affiliate, FYSA and FIFA rules.

Additionally:

1. Screw-in cleats are permitted; however, judgment as to their safety is at the discretion of the referee.
2. Orthopedic casts are not permitted. However, soft braces can be worn with written approval from a doctor, and judgment as to safety is at the discretion of the referee.
3. Shin guards must comply with FIFA Law 4:
 1. Shin guards are covered entirely by the stockings.
 2. Shin guards are made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic, or similar substances).
 3. Shin guards must PROVIDE A REASONABLE DEGREE OF PROTECTION.
 4. Shin guards are required for any FYSA event for the safety of the players.
4. It is the policy of FYSA that no player be allowed to wear ANY jewelry while participating in any FYSA sanctioned match. The only exception that may be allowed is a medical alert bracelet or necklace when taped to the body. The referee shall make the decision as to the safety of the player and the referee's decision is final.
5. A player may be removed from the game at any time if the referee determines that the player is using or is attempting to use a brace to injure another player.

UNIFORMS:

Teams will wear uniforms of matching design and color with a minimum of six (6) inch numbers affixed to the back of the uniform shirt. No two players may have identical uniform numbers on the team roster or while both players are playing on the field at the same time.

1. In the event of similar team colors, the designated home team will be required to change to a color accepted by the referee.
2. Teams dressed predominantly in colors of those associated with the referee uniforms will be responsible for providing the referee and assistant referees with a jersey that is distinctively different from the uniforms worn by either competing team.
3. The goalkeeper uniform colors must distinguish him/her from the other players, the referee and the assistant referee.
4. It is the tournament standard for home teams to wear their lighter uniform, and away their darker option, assuming those do not clash with one another.

LAW 5: REFEREES

Referees are required to submit a completed, official game report to the site director containing any information relating to any game incidents involving players/coach, spectator misconduct, or injuries.

1. Referees will not be paid before any required post-game reports have been submitted.
2. In the event the assigned referees fail to appear and the assignor and/or site director fails to provide a replacement, the senior assigned assistant referee shall assume the duties and shall find an alternate assistant referee. The game will be played as scheduled and will be deemed official

LAW 6: ASSISTANT REFEREES

Two (2) assistant referees will be assigned in the appropriate age group games. In the event the assigned assistant referees fail to appear; the referee must find suitable assistant referees. The game will be played as scheduled and will be deemed official.

LAW 7: DURATION OF THE GAME

7v7 – 50 mins (2x25 mins)
9v9 – 60 mins (2x30 mins)
11v11 – 70 mins (2x35 mins)

LAW 8 - LAW 17: GAME

Players, reserve players, managers, coaches, and fans and are expected to conduct themselves within the letter and spirit of "The Laws of the Game ". The tournament director (or designee) has the authority and the responsibility to remove any person(s) from the tournament for abuse of conduct, in addition to any specific disciplinary action brought about by any other authority. In addition to good manners, these rules will apply to this tournament:

1. The tournament director (or designee) will designate one sideline to be for the sole use of the players listed on the game roster and two manager/coaches from each team, with one team occupying one side of the midfield and one team the other.
2. While the game is in progress, the manager/coach(s) and the reserve players must remain on their respective benches and may not roam the sidelines.
3. The tournament director (or designee) will designate the opposite sideline for the spectators.
4. Manager(s)/coach(s) will be responsible for the behavior of their fans and the referee will have the authority to warn, and ultimately send off, any coach whose fans behave in an abusive or disruptive manner.

ORTHOPEDIC POLICY 402.2:

- Orthopedic casts can be worn at any sanctioned FYSA tournament with written approval from a doctor and written permission from a tournament official, final judgement as to its safety is at the discretion of the referee.
- Soft braces can be worn with written approval from a doctor, and judgement as to safety is at the discretion of the referee.

JEWELRY POLICY 402.3:

It is the policy of FYSA that no player be allowed to wear ANY jewelry while participating in any FYSA sanctioned match. The only exception that may be allowed is a medical alert bracelet or necklace when taped to the body. The referee shall make the decision as to the safety of the player and the referee's decision is final. (The taping of any earring shall not be permitted under any circumstances.) If the referee notices a player wearing jewelry while the match is under way at the next stoppage of play, the referee will instruct the player to remove the item. If the referee deems the jewelry to be dangerous to any player, the referee must stop the match to correct the situation

THE TECHNICAL AREA/BOX, LAWS OF THE GAME, FIFA RULES:

The technical area relates to matches played in game fields with a designated seated area for team officials, substitutes and substituted players as outlined below:

- The technical area shall be defined as the space directly in front of each team's bench, as long as it does not interfere with the AR's path, enters field of play, or crosses beyond that team's bench's half.
- The number of persons permitted to occupy the technical area is defined by the competition rules
- The occupants of the technical area will need to either be listed on the matchcard, or have a staff pass correspondent to that team. If staff has a pass of the club, but different team, it is up to site director's discretion.

CONDUCT 502 AND DISCIPLINE 504.1 POLICY:

- It shall be solely the team's responsibility to determine the status of its players and coaches. Any suspension from a tournament, local league, etc., is the responsibility of the team to notify the Tournament Director of this suspension at the time of the player's check-in.
- Per **FYSA Rule 504.1**, red card suspension or send off suspensions can only be served with the team with which the suspension was earned in games played by their team. Players may not serve suspensions as "guest players."
- Per **Rules Section 502**. • Any player or manager/coach ejected (red carded) will not complete the game in which the ejection occurred. The ejected player or manager/coach will not participate in the next scheduled tournament game regardless of the cause.
- Depending on the severity of the unacceptable conduct, the Discipline Committee may recommend the suspension of up to the duration of the tournament in accordance with FYSA requirements. The committee's recommendations must be available to the affected parties no later than following the next scheduled match.

PAYMENT AND REFUNDS

After a team has been accepted into the competition, **NO REFUND WILL BE GIVEN** should the team decide to withdraw from the event. Tournament entry fee returns/refunds will be granted, as follows:

Within five (5) days after notification that the team has not been accepted.

Within five (5) days of cancellation of the tournament.

Within ten (10) days of request of withdrawal of the application by a team before acceptance of the application by the tournament.

POST-GAME PROCEDURES

As a mutual courtesy, both teams meet at the center circle and congratulate each other for a game well played. The manager/coach of both teams will ensure their respective sideline areas are clean and that all trash is in containers.

A representant for each coaching staff will then check, and sign the game report.

DETERMINATION OF WINNERS

In group play, there will be no overtime games. Standings in a group will be determined by:

GAME POINTS:

3 points for a Win | 1 points for a Tie | 0 points for a Loss

TIE BREAKERS:

1. Head to Head Competition
2. Net Goal Differential
3. Goals scored
4. Goals allowed
5. Number of victories
6. Kicks from the penalty mark per FIFA rules or a Coin Toss if penalties are not viable due to weather, or other physical constraints.

SEMI-FINAL AND CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES will proceed directly to Penalty Kicks. NO OVERTIME WILL BE PLAYED.

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL CEREMONY

Following the completion of each championship game, the two competing teams will present themselves to the game site coordinator for awards.

FORFEITS

The minimum of number of players that constitutes a team is seven (7) players for U13 and above, six (6) players for U11-U12, and four (4) players for U10. Game should start at a given starting time. In case the team does not have the minimum number of players present, it should be allowed a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes grace period before awarding the game to the opponent.

A forfeit will be scored 4-0. The same rule limit will apply for a referee or assistant referee not showing up at the required time. The tournament director or referee assignor will appoint another referee or assistant referee for the game.

There will be no mercy rule. However if both coaches agree to terminate the match early, it will be accepted as a final score by the tournament, as long as ONE FULL HALF has been played.

PROTEST AND DISPUTES

No protests will be accepted and decisions by referees may not be appealed. All disputes will be resolved immediately by the Site Director. These decisions will be final.

There will not be, under any circumstance, match replays. Once the final whistle is blown, the match will be deemed completed by the tournament. There will be absolutely NO EXCEPTIONS to this rule.

EXTERNAL CONDITIONS, WEATHER, ETC.

Regardless of weather conditions, players and coaches must be on the field at the scheduled time, ready to play. In case of inclement weather or field conditions, games may:

- Be shortened – The Tournament Director may reduce the length of matches due to weather conditions before the start of a match; all such matches will be considered official.
- Be rescheduled (Time and location) to be determined by the Tournament Director.
- Be canceled- the tournament committee has the right to cancel any match that has no bearing on the scoring and progression of tournament play.
- If the score at the time of the weather suspension is tied, or any Final game that has not started, and a Champion and Finalist needs to be determined, the tournament will revert back to final group standings based on the same tiebreaker criteria outlined prior will be used to determine the Champion and Finalist.
- In the event, unusual conditions necessitate the rescheduling, curtailment, or cancellation of games, the tournament committee shall have absolute authority to make the changes in order to best serve the interests by a certain time period. In case of extreme weather (heat/humidity), the referee shall allow a brief stoppage of the game to allow players on the field a water break.

GENERAL

The tournament committee, FYSA and/or the host affiliate will not be responsible for any expense incurred by any team due to the cancellation in part or whole of this tournament.

1. The tournament director's interpretation on the foregoing rules and regulations shall be final.
2. The tournament director reserves the right to decide all tournament matters.
3. The tournament director has the responsibility to uphold any previous suspension imposed by FYSA/US Youth Soccer. The tournament committee agrees to have a copy of the tournament rules at all game sites.

SPECTATOR POLICY

Abusive language or threatening behavior toward officials, staff, or other participants will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the tournament without refund.

No outside noisemakers will be allowed on the sideline. Regardless of type, material, or loudness (measured in decibels). **No exceptions.**

The tournament reserves the right to remove — and issue a trespass notice to — any spectator exhibiting unreasonable behavior or unsportsmanlike conduct.

ROSTERS AND CHECK-IN

The entire check-in process will be digital. There will be no physical check-in during the tournament, and the players outlined on the match card will be the only ones given permission to participate in the match, regardless of documentation provided to officials during game check-in.

Site directors, and ultimately the tournament director, are the only ones allowed to overrule any roster discrepancy, not subject to appeal. Roster decisions by tournament directors will be final.

PARKING

Please note that some tournament venues may charge a parking fee. The tournament is not responsible for any damage to vehicles, regardless of whether a fee is charged, as parking operations are managed directly by the respective parks and their staff.

LIABILITY AND PROPERTY DISCLAIMERS

1. The tournament is not responsible for lost or misplaced items, or for any injuries or damages to individuals or property that may occur during the event, including those involving participants.
2. By participating, all players and guardians consent to emergency medical treatment if necessary.
3. All participants and attendees assume all risks related to participation or attendance, including weather, travel, or facility-related hazards.
4. By attending the event, participants and spectators consent to the use of photographs or video taken for promotional purposes by the tournament organizers.