

# Mid-America Cup Rules

## A. Laws of the Game

Except as noted below, we will conduct all games according to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

## B. Player Eligibility

As outlined in the application and acceptance packages, the following 2004-2005 USYSA age divisions apply:

Born on or After	Age Division
August 1, 1985	U-19
August 1, 1986	U-18
August 1, 1987	U-17
August 1, 1988	U-16
August 1, 1989	U-15
August 1, 1990	U-14
August 1, 1991	U-13
August 1, 1992	U-12
August 1, 1993	U-11
August 1, 1994	U-10
August 1, 1995	U-9
August 1, 1996	U-8

## C. Team Eligibility

Teams competing in the U-8 through U-11 brackets may roster up to 14 players. All other teams may carry a roster of no more than 18 players. A team may roster a maximum of **four** guest players. A team may not change its roster after registration. Teams registered with a US Youth Soccer state association and US Club Soccer affiliated teams may participate in the tournament. To register, all players must have the following:

1. A Current Player Pass.
2. Copy of current state approved roster on file with Tournament Registrar.
3. IYSA Sanctioned Tournament Roster signed.
4. Signed and dated IYSA Medical Waiver Form.
5. Guest players must have the same information to register.
6. No player may play for more than one team during the tournament.
7. Teams from outside Illinois must present an approved "application to travel" from their home state's USYSA Affiliate.
8. US Soccer Club affiliated teams – See "2005 Tournament Team Agreement – For Participation of Non-US Youth Soccer or Foreign Teams" form for additional documentation required.

## D. Duration of the Game

U8 through U10	Two 25 Minute Halves	Size 4 Ball
U11 through U12	Two 30 Minute Halves	Size 4 Ball
U13 through U15	Two 30 Minute Halves	Size 5 Ball
U16 through U19	Two 35 Minute Halves	Size 5 Ball

All games will be running time. There will be 5 minutes between halves. The referee will not stop the clock except for serious injury. The tournament committee reserves the right to alter game length due to weather, injuries, or other delays. The first team on the schedule is the home team. The visitor will call the coin toss.

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## E. Substitution

Teams may substitute without limitation during the game. However, a team may only substitute at times allowed under FIFA rules. A player may leave and reenter the game.

## F. Ejection

Any player or coach ejected from a game will be ineligible to participate at a minimum in the team's next game. A team may not substitute for an ejected player. **Anyone fighting will be ejected from further tournament participation.**

## G. Forfeits

A minimum of seven players constitutes a team. A team must begin play if seven or more players are present at game start time. After the expiration of a ten-minute grace period, the Referee will declare a forfeit. The Referee will score the game 3 to 0 and the winning team will get 3 points. The Tournament Committee may eliminate a team forfeiting a game from further participation in the tournament. The Committee will review each situation individually.

## I. Uniforms and Equipment

All players must wear shin guards. A player must wear his or her socks in a manner that completely covers the shin guards. Each player on the team must wear the same team uniform. In the case of similar uniforms, the Referee may instruct the designated home team to change uniforms. The designated home team will provide the game ball.

## I. Player, Coach, Parent, Spectator Conduct

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of players, parents, coaches, and spectators at the field, hotel, or other locations for the duration of the tournament. If Sporting Futbol Club receives complaints regarding the conduct of any player or person associated with your team, the Tournament Committee may ask any and or all people to leave the tournament. In addition, the Tournament Committee reserves the right to ask a team to leave the tournament, declare any remaining games a forfeit, and may bar a team from future participation in our tournament.

Both teams, including their coaches, shall be on the same side of the field. All other people must be on the opposite side of the field. The Tournament Director believes that an argument between parents and supporters of opposing teams is completely inappropriate conduct for adults. Accordingly, Sporting Futbol Club encourages the parents and supporters of each team to stay on the half of the field opposite of their team and to limit their comments to support for their players. Making derogatory remarks about or to opposing teams or their supporters shall be grounds for dismissal from the Midwest Sports Complex. The Referee will ask anyone standing at the goal ends of the field to move. Coaches must remain with their team. We request that all coaches refrain from coaching on the spectator's side of the field.

During youth soccer events, the Midwest Sports Complex and Sporting Futbol Club strictly prohibit alcohol at their facilities. Possession of alcohol on complex grounds will cause immediate dismissal from the complex and the potential for arrest by the Peoria County Sheriff Department. **Any player, coach, parent, or spectator caught fighting will be ejected from the remainder of the tournament.**

## J. Preliminary Round

We will divide age divisions with six, eight, or ten teams into two groups. Generally, teams with the most points in each group will qualify for semifinals. However, we reserve the right to schedule only a final game for any group.

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We will divide age divisions with twelve teams or more into three or four groups. The group winners and if there are three groups a wild card team will qualify for the semifinals. The team with the most points that does not win its group will be the wild card team.

Any age division with less than 6 teams will play a round robin schedule. We will determine the final standings, and award first and second place on points earned during the round robin games.

### **K. Points**

In the preliminary games, each victory (forfeit) is worth three (3) points and each tie is worth one (1) point. Teams do not earn any points for a loss. If there is a tie in the round robin or preliminary round standings, the Tournament Committee will use the following procedure to determine group winners, wild card teams, and final standings for round robin play:

1. Head to head competition. The winner of the game, if any, played between the tied teams.
2. Best goal differential for all games (the maximum goal differential is 3 per game)
3. Most goals scored for a team (up to 3 goals per game).
4. Penalty shots, according to the procedures described in the "overtime" section of the rules.

### **L. Overtime**

If there is a tie at the end of regulation time in a semifinal or final round game, then the teams will determine the winner as follows:

1. The teams will play 2 overtime periods of 5 minutes each to conclusion. There will be no coaching time between periods. Visitors will call the coin toss.
2. If still tied, then the teams will go through one round of regular penalty shot procedures with five (5) players shooting for each team.
3. If the game is still tied at the conclusion of the first round of penalty kicks, then the teams will select 5 additional players to go to sudden victory penalty shot procedures.

In the case of regular or sudden victory penalty shot procedures, only the players on the field at the conclusion of the overtime periods shall be available to participate.

### **M. Awards (Team and Individual)**

Sporting Futbol Club will provide participation awards to each player on any U8, U9, or U10 team entering the tournament and a team trophy for the two teams with the most points in each division.

In all other age divisions, Sporting Futbol Club will award a team trophy and individual player trophies to the first and second place finishers.

### **N. Protest**

To protest a referee's decision, a team must present its protest in writing to the Tournament Headquarters within one hour of the completion of the game. A Referee's judgment is not a basis for protest. The Tournament Committee's decisions and or interpretations are final.

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## **O. Rain Policies**

If there is severe weather, only the Referee Assignor or the Tournament Director may halt matches. If we halt a match, then the following rules will be in effect.

1. If the weather delay is from 1 to 15 minutes
  - a. All games will resume from point of stoppage
  - b. However, if there is less than 5 minutes to completion of the match, then the Referee will declare the game complete.
  - c. If the game is a tie with less than 5 minutes to go, then the Referee will call the game a tie. However, if the game is a semifinal or final game, then the game will resume with a shoot-out.
2. If the weather delay is from 15 to 30 minutes:
  - a. If the match is in the first half, the match will begin with the second half and the second half will be 15 minutes in length.
  - b. If the match is in the second half with less than 15 minutes played, the match will continue with 10 minutes remaining.
  - c. If the match is in the second half with more than 15 minutes completed, then the Referee shall declare the game complete. If a semifinal or final game is tied then the match will go directly to a shoot-out.
3. If the weather delay is more than 30 minutes:
  - a. If the match is in the first half, the match will begin with the second half and the second half will be 15 minutes in length.
  - b. If the match is in the second half, then the Referee shall declare the game complete. If a semifinal or final game is a tie, then the match will go directly to a shoot-out.
  - c. The Tournament Director will adjust times so that all teams will be able to complete their games. This may mean moving a game to another field or shortening the duration of all remaining games.
4. Team Coaches or Managers must check with the Official's Tent to Receive Final Instructions.
  - a. Do not leave the playing area unless told to do so by the Referee Assignor or the Tournament Director. Do not take the word of the Field Marshall. Stop by the Referee's tent before dismissing your players.
  - b. If your team is not present at the resumption of play, your team will forfeit the match.

## **P. Guaranteed Number of Games and Refund Policy**

All U-11 and under teams are guaranteed four (4) games and U-12 and above teams are guaranteed three (3) games. We agree to provide the guaranteed number of games or refund a percentage of the tournament's application fee equal to the percentage of guaranteed games not played.