

General Tournament Rules

Age Specific Match Rules

FIFA Laws of the Game will be observed with the following exceptions:

1. Goal Kick Rule for U8/9/10 (7v7 matches): Build Out Line

When a team is awarded a goal-kick, the opposing team must have ALL their players BEHIND the midfield line on their own side of the field before the goal-kick is taken. A retake of the goal kick will be awarded if opposing players cross the midfield line before the ball is played.

2. Offside Rules

Offside will be enforced at all ages.

In games officiated by only ONE Official:

For 7 v 7 matches officiated by one official the referee will enforce the offside rule. This is a subjective call and the referee's decision should be respected.

3. Substitutions

Players may be substituted only during certain stoppages of the game. The number of substitutions shall be unlimited. Substitutions may be made, with the approval of the referee, at the following times:

- Prior to a throw-in, by the team in possession.
- Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
- After an injury, by either team.
- At half-time.
- Before the taking of a kick-off.
- After a caution has been awarded, a substitution may be made for the player receiving the yellow card. This is NOT a required substitution.
- In any case, a substitute may not enter the middle of field of play until he/she has been given a signal to do so by the referee and the player being replaced has come off the field.

4. Heading: U11 and younger

Players in U11 and younger shall not engage in heading, either in practice or in games. Whenever the ball strikes a player in the head, play is stopped. The proper restart depends upon whether the player deliberately played the ball with his or her head. If deliberate, the proper restart is an indirect free kick to the opposing team. If this occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If the play by the head is deemed inadvertent, then the proper restart is a dropped ball.



NEXT BIG THING
SOCCER ACADEMY

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Team Eligibility

- This tournament is unsanctioned and open to recreation level teams
- NBT Soccer reserves the right to reject any team application. No team is deemed accepted into the event until written notification has been sent from NBT Soccer.
- The registration fee is required prior to being accepted into this event.

Rosters and Player Eligibility

- It is the club and coach's responsibility to ensure that all teams have proper documentation for players and coaches for this event. Documentation may be inspected at any time by referees and event officials.
- A player may only participate with one team throughout the event.
- Failure to provide proper documentation for any individuals will result in that individual being considered ineligible to participate in the event until cleared by NBT Soccer. Teams found to have used ineligible players or coaches in previously completed matches may be excluded from the event, and the results of those games will be counted as forfeit losses.

Check-In

- Registration for all teams will take place 60 minutes prior to the team's first game. Teams will need to bring the proper documentation found on the website.

Brackets and Schedule

- The event shall determine the number of teams needed in each bracket based on the number of participating teams in an age group and division.
- All teams will play a min of 2 games on Saturday. Games will be scheduled as early as 8:00AM and as late as 6:00PM.
- All U8+ divisions will have an additional Championship game (bracket permitting).

Determination of Division Placement

- Three points will be earned for a win, one point for a tie and no points are earned for a loss. Any forfeiture will be scored as a 4-0 win with three points awarded to the winner.
- Where it is required to break a tie for standings within a division or for purposes of determining placement, the following order will be used to determine the winner:
 1. Head-to-head competition – Except where more than two teams are tied, in which case head-to-head competition will not be used unless two teams are remaining.
 2. Goal Differential (Maximum of 4 goals per game)
 3. Least number of goals allowed. (No Limits)



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4. Most goals scored. (Maximum of 4 goals per game)
5. Penalty Kicks in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game

Division Advancement

Division with THREE teams

1. Each team will play 2 preliminary round matches.
2. At the conclusion of all preliminary round matches, the top 2 teams will play a championship match.

Division with FOUR teams

3. Each team will play three preliminary round matches.
4. At the conclusion of all preliminary round matches, the top 2 teams will play a championship match, and the bottom two teams will play a consolation match.

Division with FIVE teams

1. Each team will play four preliminary round matches.
2. At the conclusion of all preliminary round matches, a Champion and a Finalist will be determined based on points.

Division with SIX teams (two brackets times three teams)

1. Teams A1-A3 will play 3 preliminary round matches against B1-B3.
2. At the conclusion of all preliminary round matches, all teams will be ranked by points and the top 2 teams will play a Championship match. The third and fourth team will play a consolation game, and fifth and sixth team will play a consolation game.

Divisions with EIGHT teams (two brackets times four teams)

1. Each team will play three preliminary round matches.
2. At the conclusion of all preliminary round matches, the top team in each bracket will play a championship match. All other teams will play the team that finished in the same position from the other bracket in a consolation match.

Age Format

Division	Age	Format	Roster Limit	Ball Size	Halftime	Game Length	Referees
U6	5 & 6	4v4	12	3	5 mins	4x12min	1
U9	2014, 2015, 2016	7v7	16	4	5 mins	2x25min	1



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U11	2012, 2013	9v9	16	4	5 mins	2x25min	2
U14	2011, 2010, 2009	11v11	18	5	5 mins	2x30min	3

Uniforms and Equipment

- In the event of a uniform color conflict, the team designated as the home team will change jerseys or wear pennies/bibbs
- Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and game officials.
- The Referee is the sole judge of allowed player equipment as prescribed by FIFA Laws of the Game

Conduct

Coaches are responsible for their behavior, for the conduct of the players, team staff, and spectators of their respective team. Coaches not taking responsibility for their sideline's conduct may be cautioned and/or ejected.

Any player ejected from a match will miss the remainder of that match and will not be allowed to participate in his team's immediate next match. The ejected player may not be replaced.

Players, reserve players, managers, coaches, assistant coaches and fans are expected to conduct themselves within the letter and spirit of "THE LAWS OF THE GAME." The site directors have the authority and responsibility to remove any person(s) from the tournament grounds for conduct abuse, in addition to any specific disciplinary action brought about by other authority.

Protests

There will be NO PROTESTS. The Site Director will resolve all disputes immediately. These decisions will be final.

Overtime

For all group play and consolation matches, ties will stand at the end of regular play.

For both semi-final and championship matches, in the event of a tie, teams will be given a five-minute rest and then immediately proceed with two consecutive five-minute overtime periods (not sudden death). If the teams of the match will be determined using the FIFA penalty kick method.

Weather

Regardless of weather conditions, coaches and their teams must appear at the respective field site, ready to play as scheduled. Failure to appear will result in forfeiture of the match. Only NBT Soccer may cancel or postpone a match. Referees may suspend a match. In the case of severe weather, in his/her



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discretion, NBT Soccer may cancel any and all games. In case of severe weather that occurs after the beginning of play, NBT Soccer may reduce the length of the match and may discontinue or cancel the game. Should a match be terminated due to weather conditions after 20 minutes of play, the match will be considered official and the score at the time will stand. If a match is terminated prior to 20 minutes of play every attempt will be made to complete the match. However, if necessary other means, determined by the event committee, may be used to determine a winner. Referees and field managers will not consider beginning or continuing matches when a lightning storm exists. No refunds will be given in the event of cancellation.

Forfeited and Terminated Matches

A forfeit shall be awarded if a team is not present and prepared to play within five minutes of the scheduled commencement time. It is requested that teams be present 30 minutes in advance of the scheduled commencement of a match to aid in the timely start of play. A forfeit will be scored according to Rule 202.1.

NBT Soccer is not responsible for any expenses incurred by any team in the event the event is cancelled in whole or part or in the event games are discontinued or cancelled due to inclement weather or adverse field conditions, nor will any refunds be made.

NBT Soccer reserves the right to decide all matters pertaining to the event. The judgment of NBT Soccer is final. NBT Soccer has authority to make all decisions and these decisions will be final. All referee decisions are final and binding.

