



VENTURA COUNTY PREMIER CUP TOURNAMENT RULES

The tournament organizers expect all teams, including players, coaches, spectators and officials, to participate in the spirit of FAIR PLAY and GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP and to conduct themselves in accordance with the tournament rules as outlined below.

RULES OF PLAY:

This is a Class I tournament, open to members of U.S. Youth Soccer and its State Affiliates, U.S. Club Soccer and the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO). The tournament will be played under FIFA rules as modified by CYSA-South and herein for youth competition. Any decisions regarding rules interpretation will be made by the Tournament Director. Any disputes regarding the interpretation of these rules will be resolved with the administrators / coaches of the involved teams. Individuals may not represent a team unless they are registered as an administrator or coach of the involved team.

PROTESTS:

Protests are not allowed. Decisions made by Referees, Venue Directors and the Tournament Director are final.

CREDENTIALS:

Laminated player ID cards, administrator cards and medical release forms are required at check-in. Teams will play in the age divisions they will be participating in for the 2010 season (player ID cards may be from the 2009 or 2010 seasons). Teams outside CYSA-South must submit properly processed and approved USYSA travel papers prior to the tournament. Teams must check in with tournament officials at least one hour before their first match. Players may not be added to the roster after initial check-in. Rosters cannot exceed the maximum number of players allowable under CYSA-South rules in effect at the time of this tournament. Teams are allowed a maximum of 5 loan players. All teams must have at least one coach with a valid coach's credential present on the touchline during their entire match.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT:

All players must wear shin guards. No hard casts, rings, chains, watches, metal objects, jewelry or other articles deemed by the referee to be a potential safety hazard to any player will be permitted. The referee will make the final determination as to the safety of each player's equipment.

MATCH CHECK-IN:

Match cards must be picked up at the check-in tent before each game. Teams should be in complete uniform and at their field of play 30 minutes before the start of each match for check-in. Field monitors will check rosters, player passes and medical release forms before each match. Match cards and player passes will be provided to the referee before each match. Match cards must be signed at the conclusion of each game and returned to the check-in tent or given to any field monitor.

HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES:

The home team will be indicated on the match schedule. The home team may select which side of the field they will stand on and will provide three match balls (subject to referee approval). The home team must change to an alternate jersey color if the referee decides there is a conflict with the jersey colors worn by both teams.

SPECTATOR SEATING:

Partisan spectators must sit on their team's side of the field and must remain at least one yard from the touchline at all times so that the assistant referee is not impeded. Spectators are not allowed behind the goal line at any time, including while photographing or video-taping matches.

PRELIMINARY, SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS MATCHES:

All teams are guaranteed 3 scheduled matches. Cancellations, forfeits or other circumstances may reduce the number of matches actually played. U9 and U10 teams will play 25-minute halves in all matches. U11 – U19 teams will play 30-minute halves in all matches. Each match will have a 5-minute halftime.

Due to time constraints between matches, there may not be enough time for teams to warm up on the field. Teams should complete their warm-ups off the field and be on the field ready to start their match at the appointed time.

All matches must start and end on time. Preliminary round matches will be terminated not less than five (5) minutes before the scheduled start of the next match, regardless of the amount of time played in each half. A match is considered "complete" when one half of the match has been played regardless of

the reason for the termination. The outcome of the match will be determined by the score at the time the match is terminated. Preliminary matches may end in a tie (no overtime periods in pool play). Any semi-final round matches that end in a tie will be decided by FIFA penalty kicks immediately following the conclusion of regulation play. Any Finals matches that end in a tie will play two complete 5-minute overtime periods. If the match is still tied at the end of overtime, the match will be decided by FIFA penalty kicks.

Flights with 4 teams: each team will play the other three teams in their flight. The top two teams will advance to the Finals.

Flights with 5 teams: round-robin. Each team will play four matches. The team earning the most points will be the Champion and the team with the second-most points will be the Finalist.

Flights with 6 teams: two pools of 3 teams; each team will play the other two teams in their pool. The 3rd place team from each pool will play in a Consolation match. The 1st place team from pool A will play the 2nd place team from pool B and the 1st place team from pool B will play the 2nd place team from pool A. The winners of those two matches will advance to the Finals.

Flights with 8 teams: two pools of 4 teams; each team will play the other three teams in their pool. The 1st place team from each pool will advance to the Finals.

SUBSTITUTIONS:

Unlimited substitutions are allowed at any stoppage in play. Coaches must obtain permission from the referee before substituting any player. Substitutions shall be made at midfield within 10 yards of the halfway line. Substitutes must remain off the field of play until the field player has left the field of play and / or the referee has indicated the substitute may enter the field. If an injured player (except a goalkeeper) is attended to by anyone from outside the field of play, that player must leave the field until after play has resumed, at which time with the referee's permission the player may re-enter the match. Teams may also substitute for the injured player.

Excessive substitutions resulting in confusion or delaying a match shall be discouraged by the referee.

FORFEITURES:

Teams that are not on the field ready to play within 5 minutes of their scheduled start time with the minimum number of players as required by CYSA-South (6 players for U9/U10 teams, 7 players for U11 and higher) will forfeit that match and the opposing team will be awarded a 1-0 win. If a team forfeits a

match due to failure to show or by not having enough players present, it will forfeit all matches, including any that have already been played. The tournament director has the discretion on a case-by-case basis to waive the 'forfeit all matches' requirement if it is determined that the forfeit is beyond the control of the forfeiting team or would result in point manipulation that would unfairly penalize another team. Any team that forfeits a match will be reported to their club and to CYSA-South.

CONDUCT:

All coaches are responsible at all times for the conduct of their players and spectators. No coach, player or spectator shall make derogatory remarks or gestures to any referee or to any other coach or player, or incite disruptive behavior in any manner. Foul or abusive language is not permitted at any time. The Tournament Director reserves the right to ban anyone exhibiting poor conduct for the remainder of the tournament. If a referee terminates a match due to misconduct of players, coaches or spectators, the offending team may be disqualified from further participation in the tournament. If a team is disqualified from further participation, the forfeit rule will be imposed and no refunds will be given to the offending team.

CAUTIONS AND EJECTIONS:

Any player receiving a red card or two yellow cards in the same match, or any coach that is ejected from a match shall be ineligible to participate in the remainder of that match and shall not participate in the following match. ID cards for any player or coach that is ejected must be turned in to the tournament director immediately upon conclusion of the match. Teams that are playing short due to an ejection will also play short during any overtime periods. If a player or coach is ejected for assault, then the player or coach shall be ineligible to play in the remainder of the tournament and their player or administrator card will be turned over to their respective state Administration. Players that are ejected from a match are permitted to sit with their team during their suspension, but may not be in uniform. Any coach or spectator that is ejected may not be within sight of the field on which their team is playing during their suspension. Tournament officials will review any yellow or red cards issued and reserve the right to impose additional sanctions.

TOURNAMENT SCORING SYSTEM:

10 points maximum per match:

6 points for a Win;

3 points for a Tie;

1 point for a Shut-out (shut-out must occur with a win, not a 0-0 tie);

0 points for a loss;

1 point for each goal scored (maximum of 3 points per match);

1 point deducted for each player or coach ejected.

TIE-BREAKERS:

If two or more teams are tied at the end of preliminary rounds, tie breakers will be used to advance or eliminate one team. The remaining teams will then be compared beginning with the first tie-breaker to determine ultimate placement. The tie-breakers shall be applied in the following order:

1. The winner in head to head competition;
2. Fewest goals allowed;
3. Goal differential;
4. Most goals scored;
5. Most shut-out victories (excluding matches won by forfeit);
6. If a tie still exists, the winner will be decided by FIFA penalty kicks.

AWARDS:

Medals will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place teams in each bracket.

INCLEMENT WEATHER OR UNEXPECTED TERMINATION OF PLAY:

In the event of inclement weather that the tournament committee decides makes it unsafe for the players to continue competition, or if a match is unexpectedly terminated, the following criteria will be used to determine the winner:

- Matches that are at the halftime break or in the second half will have the score stand.
- Matches that are in the first half will be deemed not to have been played.
- Matches may be postponed and played the following day if fields are available.
- Matches may be shortened in order to play all assigned matches.
- If all matches cannot be played, awards will be given based on a point system to be determined by the tournament committee.

It may be necessary to change match locations in the event the assigned fields are unavailable for play, for any reason.

If the tournament is cancelled due to inclement weather prior to the start of competition, teams will be issued partial refunds as determined by the tournament committee, after a reasonable amount has been deducted for incurred tournament costs.

TEAM WITHDRAWALS:

Teams withdrawing on or prior to July 8, 2009 will be refunded their tournament fees less \$150. Teams withdrawing after July 8, 2009 will forfeit all tournament fees and no refunds will be issued.