



## **TOURNAMENT RULES 2023**

### **General Rules**

All Tournament matches will be played in accordance with the “Laws of the Game” as issued by FIFA, except as specifically modified by these tournament rules.

The Tournament Committee's interpretation of these rules shall be final and binding. Decisions of the referees are final and binding.

### **Eligibility**

Participation in the Union County Spring Kick Off Tournament is open to all accepted teams composed of a maximum of 18 players (14 players for U8-U10), including guest players, meeting the age limit of the specified division. Guest players will be allowed with the purpose of maintaining a team's competitiveness, up to a maximum of three (3) players for U8-U12 teams, and up five (5) players for U13-U18 teams. All players, including guest players, must have current passes for the 2021-2022 soccer year. Only players registered at tournament registration will be allowed to participate.

### **Registration**

All roster changes must be made at the time of registration.

No Card, No Play, No Exception! This applies to ALL players and coaches.

At Initial Tournament Registration all teams must provide ALL of the following documentation:

- Copy of State Approved Roster – we will keep this so do not give us your original roster.
- Copy of the Tournament roster showing all players (including rostered and guest players) that includes player ID numbers AND uniform numbers.
- Primary Player Cards for all players for current year, including Guest Players – All players on the same team, rostered or guest, must use Player Passes from the same governing body.
- Coach Cards for all coaches for current year from same governing body as players.
- Filled out and signed Registration Affirmation document.
- Travel Permit (for out-of-state teams if your governing body requires it).

- Team Contact Sheet (available on Tournament website and at Initial Tournament Registration) including cell phone numbers for a primary and backup contact, as well as the name of their hotel, if relevant, to assist in communications in the event of weather-related issues. The Team Contacts' cell phones must be in operation over the course of the Tournament.
- All teams are responsible for their own insurance.

### **Field Regulations**

Some simple rules for each facility we use:

No Parking on grass, unless clearly designated as a parking area. Park only in designated parking areas. Follow parking patterns at all times. Obey speed limits. Tickets may be issued by the local policy for improper parking.

No pets, on a leash or otherwise.

No smoking anywhere near the fields or staging areas (i.e.: once you enter the grounds inside the parking lots).

Alcoholic beverages and other illegal substances are not permitted at game sites or in any parking areas.

Teams must pick up their trash. Trash bags will be provided to each team at registration and additional bags will be available at each location.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH COACH/MANAGER TO INFORM THEIR PLAYERS AND PARENTS OF THESE GUIDELINES.

### **Rules of Play**

FIFA Laws of the Game will apply as modified and described herein:

- Three games guaranteed; certain groups will go to a fourth game final.
- Designated home team will provide the game ball for that game.
- A break of 5 minutes is provided at half time for all age levels.
- There will be no stoppage of game time or an extension of game time except for serious injury, which will be solely at the discretion of the referee.
- No heading of ball during game permitted for U-11 and under age brackets.
- No metal studded cleats permitted by players during a game.
- All other FIFA rules apply to clothing.
- Duration of games by halves and ball size are as follows:

Age Bracket	Division	Ball Size	Game Length
U-8 & U-9	V	4	2 x 25 min.
U-10	V	4	2 x 25 min.
U-11	IV	4	2 x 25 min.
U-12	IV	4	2 x 25 min.
U-13	III	5	2 x 30 min.
U-14	III	5	2 x 30 min.
U-15	II	5	2 x 30 min.
U-16	II	5	2 x 30 min.
U-17 & U-18	I	5	2 x 30 min.

### **Pre-Game Check-In Procedures**

- Each team must arrive at the field 20 minutes before game time.
- When asked, captains will join the referee in the center for the coin toss;
- The game whistle will sound in approximately 1 minute.

### **Substitutions**

Substitutions may be made without limit, with the permission of the referee as follows:

- After a goal has been scored.
- At the beginning of the second half.
- At either team's goal kick.
- At a throw-in for either team.
- At a corner kick for either team.
- At a foul for either team.
- In the case of injury to a player, if a substitution is made for the injured player, the other team may also make substitution(s).
- There will be no substitution for a player who has received a red card and has been ordered from the field by the referee.

### **Referees**

The Tournament Committee has made a commitment to use current registered USSF referees (Grade 8 minimum) will apply and to use the USSF three-man referee system for all U13-U18 matches; U8-U12 will use a one-man referee system. This commitment will be carried out wherever possible.

### **Overtime**

Ties will stand in all preliminary rounds. In the event that a division is to be decided by a playoff rather than by points, the game will proceed directly to penalty kicks, 5 per team. The FIFA penalty kick procedures will be used to determine the winner.

## **Protests**

No game protests will be allowed. The referee's decision is final. All other tournament issues, questions, etc., can be directed to the Tournament Committee.

## **Conduct**

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH COACH/MANAGER TO INFORM THEIR PLAYERS AND PARENTS OF THESE GUIDELINES.

Players, coaches and spectators are expected to conduct themselves within the spirit of the game as well as the letter of the law.

Players, coaches or spectators ejected from a game by the referee must leave the field area. Referees will report all yellow/red cards to the field coordinator. Anyone receiving a red card will be ineligible for the next scheduled game. Anyone receiving a red card for fighting will be ineligible for any remaining tournament play.

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their team's spectators. Any misconduct by spectators will result in yellow or red carding of the coach(es) responsible.

The Tournament Committee will report incidents of misconduct back to the team's respective League or Affiliation as well as to the New Jersey State Youth Soccer Association.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to suspend any player, coach, or team from the tournament for unruly conduct.

## **Games and Score Reporting**

Each coach will be responsible for verifying and signing the game report prepared by the referee before the field coordinator leaves the game site and reports the results of the match. The field coordinator is responsible to see that the scores of each game are reported on a timely basis to tournament headquarters. No changes will be accepted once the game report has been filed.

## **Forfeits or Failure to Show**

A team shall be awarded a 10-minute grace period after the scheduled kick off time before the game is awarded to the opponent. If the minimum number of players are present as defined below, the game may not be delayed past the scheduled starting time.

For 11v11 games, a minimum of 7 players constitutes a team.

For 9v9 games, a minimum of 6 players constitutes a team.

For 7v7 games, a minimum of 5 players constitutes a team.

In no case shall a team that has forfeited a game be declared a division winner. A forfeit shall be awarded as three points for the win. For tie breakers, the score for the forfeit game shall be set as the team's average of goals scored rounded up to the next whole number, against the average of goals given up rounded down to the next whole number.

### **Determining Division Winners**

Unless determined in advance by the Tournament Committee upon notice to all interested teams, there will be no playoff games; division winners for all age brackets will be determined by points. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to implement a playoff to determine a division winner, with the other teams in the division playing a consolation game.

Each team will be awarded three points for a win, one point for a tie and zero points for a loss.

The division winners and runners-up will be those teams with the most points and second most points (or, in the event of a playoff, the winner and loser of the playoff game). In the event that two or more teams are tied for first or second place, the following tie-breaking rules will apply:

1. Head to head competition (does not apply if more than two teams are tied).
2. Goal differential
3. Goals For
4. Goals Against
5. FIFA penalty kick procedures. To be taken on a designated field at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

### **Weather/ Refund Policy**

The Tournament Director, the Tournament Committee, SPF, Maestro Soccer, and Full 360 Soccer Events will not be responsible for any tournament fees and expenses incurred by any team, club or individual if the tournament is canceled in whole or part. In the event the whole tournament has to be canceled, refunds will be issued after tournament expenses are met. The amount of the refund will be at least 70% of the registration fee. For partial tournament cancellations, we will pro- rate discounts towards future events based on games played and after expenses have been met.

## **Tournament Disclaimers**

The Tournament Committee, SPF, Maestro Soccer, Full 360 Soccer Events, the Scotch Plains Township Recreation Department (in Somerset County) are waived, released, absolved and held harmless from any and all claims, contracts, liabilities and obligations incurred in the transportation or the providing of any medical treatment to any of the players, coaches and/or spectators on each team. It is the responsibility of the coach to authorize any medical treatment or transportation for medical treatment.

None of the Tournament Committee, SPF, Maestro Soccer, Full 360 Soccer Events, or any sponsor will be liable for any expenses incurred by tournament participants if the Tournament is canceled in whole or in part for any reason.

The SPF Tournament Committee assumes no responsibility and/or liability for the merchandise and/or services provided or sold by vendors or any other person.

## **Registration Affirmation**

Each participating team is required to sign the “Union County Spring Kick Off Off” March 11-12, 2023, Registration Affirmation”, see Website for more details.