



2026 TOURNAMENT RULES.

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

1. TEAM ELIGIBILITY - This tournament shall be open to all teams as indicated on the Application to Host approved form, comprised of properly registered youth players (as defined by the rules of US Youth Soccer or their National Youth governing body) provided such team is in good standing with its youth association.

Any team entering this tournament may include up to 3 guest players on their roster.

It shall be the responsibility of each 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.

2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – US Youth Soccer players must be legally registered to US Youth Soccer through their respective state association according to US Youth Soccer registration requirements. All teams must have current US Youth Soccer or approved organization Player Passes, or the appropriate National Association Passes to participate. Passes must be verified, laminated and with photo attached. A player may only play on one team during the tournament.

2 B. ROSTERS - Maximum roster size is 22. Team is only allowed to dress 18 for the game.

3. AGE CLASSIFICATION:

AGE GROUP	BIRTH YEAR
-----------	------------

- **U9 Born on or after 1/1/17**
- **U10 Born on or after 1/1/16**
- **U11 Born on or after 1/1/15**
- **U12 Born on or after 1/1/14**
- **U13 Born on or after 1/1/13**
- **U14 Born on or after 1/1/12**
- **U15 Born on or after 1/1/11**
- **U16 Born on or after 1/1/10**
- **U17 Born on or after 1/1/09**
- **U18/U19 Born on or after 1/1/08-1/1/07**

4. GAME SCHEDULE - Team pairing, field of play, times of play shall be accomplished by random draw with adjustment only to secure equity. Teams should play no more than two matches per day and will not play any back to back games. Referees shall be assigned by an approved assignor in accordance with FYSA and FSR assignment procedures.

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 in the tournament unless a medical doctor licensed in the state of Florida or Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) has cleared the player. The Referee HAS NO FURTHER responsibility beyond removing the player from the match in 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 to return to the game. Any coach or parent insisting on returning the

player to the game without approved clearance will result in the referee or tournament official ending the match.

5. PRE-GAME PROCEDURE - The Tournament Officials shall conduct all credentials checks at Registration and at the field prior to each game to insure that all players are registered with US Youth Soccer, and to insure that all players are properly rostered with their team and that all are participating in accordance with representations set forth on the Application to Host Tournament Form.

Official Organizational roster forms will be validated, medical release forms turned in and passes checked at the Team Check-in. The manager/coach must be present at Team Check-in and must present the original organizational roster form and 2 copies.

Field Marshals will conduct the pre-game check-in when appropriate, in order to minimize delay between games. The referee will review the results of the check-in with the field marshal and make the final ruling on any questions.

Pre-Game Check-in will be conducted as follows:

The manager/coach of each team will present a validated copy of the roster and all player passes and coaches pass.

The Field Marshal or Referee will verify the identity of each player with each player pass and confirm that all players present are listed on the roster. All coaches will be identified with their coach's pass. All passes and the roster will be held by the Field Marshal or Referee during the game.

Players' uniforms and equipment will be checked and any conflict resolved. Only at this pre-game procedure may a player be challenged by an opposing manager/coach. Challenged players will be noted by the Referee on the Referee game report, but will be allowed to participate in the game so long as they have valid, verified player passes and are listed on the validated roster.

A player who arrives at the playing field after the Pre-game procedure, may enter the game once the game officials verify the player is eligible and with the permission of the center referee. A late arriving player may be challenged at the time he is allowed to participate by the center official.

Each manager/coach or assistant must have a valid coach's pass. If a manager/coach is ejected, his assistant may conduct the team. If the

assistant is also ejected or if there is no assistant, the game will be declared a forfeit and the score recorded as 4-0. in no case will the team be allowed to participate without a properly registered coach or assistant.

The tournament committee recommends souvenir patches, pins, etc. may be exchanged and group pictures may be taken at the pre-game procedure or during the handshake after the game.

6. LAWS OF THE GAME - Except where modified herein, rules of play shall be FIFA "Laws of the Game." Competition sanctioned by this Association shall abide by the "Laws of the Game," along with any modifications or regulations of the Association. Players U9 and U10 must play with the rules of Development Player Program - modified playing rules for U10, U9

*** Deliberate heading is not allowed in age groups U12 and younger.**

- If a U12 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 of a U12 or younger player occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infraction occurred

LAW I - THE FIELD OF PLAY -

The field of play will conform to the following dimensions:

11v11:

minimum 50 x 100 yds, maximum 100 x 130 yds

goals 8 x 24 ft.

9v9:

Min. 45 x 70 yds., Max. 50 x 80 yds.

with markings proportionate and goals 7 x 21 ft.

7x7

Min. 35 x 50 yds., Max. 45 x 60 yds.

With markings proportionate and goals 6 x 18 ft. to 7 x 21 ft.

LAW II - THE BALL - The size of the ball will be as follows:

U9 to U12 , Size #4, 25-26 circum., 11-13 oz.

U13 & over, Size #5, 27-28 circum., 14-16 oz.

LAW III - NUMBER OF PLAYERS

U18/19, U17, U16, U15, U14, U13, will play 11 players on the field per side, max 22 players on the roster. U11 and U12 will play 9 players on the field per side, max 16 players on the roster. U9 and U10 will play 7 players on the field per side, max 12 players on the roster.

Substitutions - Substitution shall unlimited and may be made only with the Referee's permission at the following times:

- Substitutions at any stoppage

Substitutes may enter field of play only after receiving permission from the referee.

LAW IV - PLAYERS EQUIPMENT - Players equipment shall meet these additional requirements

a. All players shall be required to wear protective shin guards (to be worn beneath their game socks) at all times while actively participating in the game. Such shin guards shall be of the type and style of protective athletic equipment specifically designed to protect the player's lower leg (shin bone).

b. Teams will wear uniforms of matching design and color with six inch numbers on the backs. Players' uniform numbers are to be affixed to the back of the uniform shirt; no two players from one team may have an identical uniform number while both are playing on the field at the same time. Where colors of competing teams are identical or similar, the designated home team must effect a change to colors distinct from their opponents'. Teams dressed in predominately black uniforms will be responsible for providing the referee and linesmen with jerseys in a color distinctly different from the uniforms worn by either competing team.

c. Goalkeeper's Uniform: The uniform or jersey of a goalkeeper must be distinctly different in color from the basic colors of either competing team.

d. Illegal Equipment: In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the referee shall be responsible to ensure that no player wears anything which may cause injury to himself or another player.

e. Casts and Braces: 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.

A player may be removed from the game if at any time the referee determines a player is using or attempting to use the brace to injure another player.

402.3 JEWELRY

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

LAW V - REFEREES - All referees will be U.S.S.F. currently certified. Referees are required to turn in an official game report as directed by the Tournament Committee and are required to submit an Incident Report of the names and teams of all players issued red , yellow cards, injuries and details of any other matters involving the improper or unsportsmanlike conduct of a team, its players, coaches or supporters.

LAW VI – ASSISTANT REFEREES - Two assistant referees will be used. In the event the assigned assistant referee fails to appear, the referee shall find an alternate. The game will be played as scheduled and will be deemed official.

LAW VII - DURATION OF THE GAME - the duration of games will be as follows

	<u>pool games</u>	<u>semis & finals</u>	<u>overtime/mini game</u>
U18, & U17	2 x 30 = 60 mins.	2 x 45 = 90 mins	2 x 5 = 10 mins
U16 and U15	2 x 30 = 60 mins.	2 x 40 = 80 mins	2 x 5 = 10 mins
U14 and U13	2 x 30 = 60 mins.	2 x 35 = 70 mins	2 x 5 = 10 mins
U12 and U11	2 x 30 = 60 mins.	2 x 30 = 60 mins	2 x 5 = 10 mins
U9 & U10	2 x 25 = 50 mins.	2 x 25 = 50 mins	no overtime,
	directly to P.K.'s		

*If the game is still tied after overtime the game will go into PK'S

LAW VIII THROUGH XVII NO CHANGE.

7. CONTROL OF SIDELINE CONDUCT - Players, reserve players, managers, coaches, assistant coaches and fans are expected to conduct themselves with 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 for abuses to good conduct, in addition to any specific disciplinary action brought about by other authority. In addition to the rules of good manners, these rules will apply :

- a. The Site Director will designate one sideline to be for the sole use of players listed on the game rosters, and two managers/coaches from each team, with one team occupying one side of midfield and one team the other. While the game is in progress, the manager/coach and reserve players must remain on their respective benches and not roam the sidelines.
- b. The Site Director will designate the opposite sideline for spectators and fans.
- c. A restraining line shall be drawn 3 yards from the side touch-line and all sideline viewers must remain outside of that line to protect linesmen.
- d. Manager/coaches will be responsible for behavior of their fans.

8. TOURNAMENT RULES - BEHAVIOR - The Tournament Committee shall insure that the rules of the tournament and the behavior of teams, players, coaches and spectators on the sideline is appropriately controlled.

- a. The issuance of red and yellow cards will be reported on the game report along with an incident report. Disciplinary action will be suspension from game or games in the tournament. A player receiving 3 yellow cards during Pool Play will not be permitted to play in the Final game.
- b. All disciplinary measures imposed by the tournament Disciplinary Committee shall be limited to placing restrictions upon an individual's or group's participation in the tournament.
- c. The issuance of all red and yellow cards and other matters involving the conduct of a team, its players, coaches or supporters will be recorded. All matters involving a referee assault and/or abuse shall be handled in accordance with USSF, which shall immediately be referred to the host state association.
- d. The home state association and the home club/league of the player, coach, team, or supporters, shall, except in the case of referee assault and /or abuse ,

have the responsibility for imposing, should the circumstances warrant, additional sanctions within their respective jurisdictions, with regard to any matters arising from the tournament.

e. When Discipline/Sanctions are imposed, they must meet the required minimums as specified by FYSA and/or USSF. The Disciplining body must evaluate the incident as to intent, severity and past misconduct to determine the appropriate disciplines/sanctions. More severe disciplines/sanctions shall be imposed for multiple red cards during a season and for misconduct directed towards officials or administrators.

f. Follow 502 rule

504. COMPLETING GAME SUSPENSIONS

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. Until the suspension is served the player/coach is suspended from any other team(s) to which the player/coach may be registered. Games may not be scheduled to “work off” suspension. Players may not serve suspensions as “guest players” nor may they “guest play” with any other team(s) until such time as the original suspension is served.

2. Issued during Tournament Play: Tournament Red Card Report filed along with game reports as required by Post-Tournament rules.

9. POST GAME PROCEDURE - We ask that as a mutual courtesy, both teams congratulate each other for a game well played.

1. The Referee or Field Marshals will ensure the return of all player passes to the Site Director Desk.

2. Referee will complete the Game Report and deliver it with any incident reports to the Site Director Desk.

3. Manager/coach of both teams will confirm the score with the site desk and collect the passes after each game.

4. Manager/coach of both teams will insure that their sideline area is clean and that all trash is in containers.

10. DISCIPLINE - The Disciplinary Committee (which will be named prior to the tournament) will consist of at least three members and will review and rule on all reports of unacceptable conduct by players, coaches, referees, spectators, etc.

All decisions shall be included in the post tournament report. Depending upon the severity of the unacceptable conduct, the Disciplinary Committee may recommend suspension up to the duration of the Tournament. Further disciplinary action by the FYSA or national association may be recommended.

11. DELAY OF START - Any team delaying the start of a scheduled game by more than 15 minutes without authorization from the tournament director shall forfeit the game to the opponent. Forfeits will be recorded with a score of 4 to 0. Minimum number of players to start game are as follows: 11v11 (7 players), 9v9 (5 players), 7x7 (4 players)

12. PROTEST - There will be NO PROTESTS. All disputes will be resolved immediately by the Site Director/Tournament Director. These decisions will be final.

13. DETERMINATION OF TEAM ADVANCEMENT AFTER QUALIFYING PLAY - There will be no overtime games in qualifying play. Standings in a group will be determined by the following game points: 3 points for win, 1 for tie, 0 for loss.

IF TWO TEAMS TIE IN GAME POINTS:

FIRST: Head to Head result

SECOND: Net goal differential with a maximum of four goals per game.

THIRD: Most goals scored up to 4 per game.

FOURTH: Least Goals Allowed

LAST: Penalty Kicks according to FIFA Taking of Kicks from the penalty mark

IF THREE OR MORE TEAMS TIE IN GAME POINTS:

FIRST: Net goal differential with a maximum of four goals per game.

SECOND: Most goals scored up to 4 per game.

THIRD: Least Goals Allowed

LAST: Penalty Kicks according to FIFA Taking of Kicks from the penalty mark

14. DETERMINATION OF SEMI-FINAL (if applicable) AND FINAL GAME WINNERS - In semi-final and final games, if the game is not decided after regulation times, overtime will be played in accordance with LAW VII. If still not decided after overtime, penalty kicks will be taken in

accordance with FIFA “Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark.” 9U and 10U will not play overtime. They will go directly to penalty kicks if the game is undecided at the end of regulation play.

15. EXTERNAL CONDITIONS, WEATHER, ETC. - In the event unusual conditions necessitate rescheduling, curtailment, or cancellation of games, the Tournament Director shall have absolute authority to make these changes to best serve the interest of the tournament as a whole, keeping in mind the need to successfully identify winners by a certain time period.

16. Inclement Weather (Finals)

In the event of inclement weather effecting the Playoffs or Finals, the Tournament Committee will have the authority (in its sole discretion) to change games as follows: 1. Relocate or reschedule any game(s) 2. Change the duration of any game(s) 3. FIFA penalty kicks 4. Playoff or Final Games that have been started and subsequently suspended due to inclement weather or other external conditions, will be deemed complete if one half of play has been completed or the first half cannot be completed prior to the start time of the next scheduled game on that field. For any such game that is not completed, the score at the time of the suspension will be the final score.

A. If the score at the time of suspension is tied, or the game can be not started to due inclement weather, Point b. (below) will be considered

B. If the score at the time of the suspension is tied, or any Final game that has not started, and a Champion and Finalist need to be determined, the tournament will revert to final group standings based on three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie and zero (0) points for a loss.

In the event of a tie-on points between the two teams that are in the Finals, the following criteria will be used to determine the Champion and Finalist:

I. Head-to-head competition

- ii. Goal differential to a maximum of four (4) per game
- iii. Most goals scored to a maximum of four (4) per game
- iv. Least goals allowed to a maximum of four (4) per game
- v. Most Shutouts
- vi. FIFA penalty kicks

17. AWARDS CEREMONIES –

Following the completion of final games, both teams will present themselves to the awards area where individual and team awards will be presented.

18. GENERAL -

1 Any tournament that fails to return/refund an entry fee per the time lines listed below will be subject to an assessment fine not to exceed ten (10) times the original entry fee. Any report of violation of the above will be referred to the Tournament and Travel Committee. Failure to pay the assessed fine could result in the hosting affiliate/associate affiliate being placed in NGS with FYSA. Future approval requests to host tournaments by the affiliate/associate affiliate could also be denied.

Tournament entry fee returns/refunds as follows:

- A. Within five (5) days after notification that the team is not accepted by their application.
- B. Within five (5) days upon cancellation of the tournament.
- C. Within ten (10) days of withdrawal request of the application by a team prior to acceptance of that application by the tournament.

2- If not enough teams are realized within a specific age bracket, the Tournament Director shall notify the participants as soon as possible and the participants will be given the option to play up or receive a full refund.

3- The Tournament Committee, the host affiliate and the FYSA's interpretation of the foregoing rules and regulations shall be final.

4- The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decide on all tournament matters.

5- The Tournament Committee has the responsibility to uphold any previous suspension imposed by FYSA/US Youth Soccer.

6- There will be a copy of the tournament rules at all game sites.

19. Tournament Insurance for Registration Fee -

Team Event Cancellation Insurance - Available Through US Sports Club Insurance (USSCI):

Updated Policy Notice - Effective as of October 15, 2025

Teams/clubs participating in the Wellington Soccer Shootout can purchase event cancellation insurance directly through our partner, US Sports Club Insurance (USSCI).

Why Opt for Insurance?

By choosing to add insurance to your registration, your team will be fully protected against non-refundable entry fees if an event is canceled. This policy ensures financial security and peace of mind for your team, allowing you to focus on the game.

Teams/clubs that purchase team event cancellation insurance are guaranteed a refund of their registration fee for any portion of the event cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. This includes a 100% refund of their registration fee for a complete event cancellation.

Insurance Fee & Purchase

The cost of this insurance is 10% of the tournament registration fee for each team. All refunds will be issued directly by US Sports Club Insurance.

The insurance can be purchased after your teams' tournament registration fee has been paid, and must be purchased at least 14+ days prior to the event. To purchase, contact USSCI at 214-360-8709 or info@usscinsurance.com.

For teams/clubs that choose NOT to purchase event cancellation insurance through US Sports Club Insurance, no refunds will be given from the Wellington Soccer Shootout Tournament.