

2025 Danvers SOCCER SALUTING SOLDIERS Festival Rules

Incorporating modified

ESSEX COUNTY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION OPERATION

RULES 59 Longbow Road, Danvers, MA 01923

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1. The Festival is open to MYSA or USYSA affiliated organizations. Teams will be accepted in the following age groups and divisions for both boys and girls:
 - Grade 2: Attending 1st or 2nd grade AND Born on or after January 1, 2017
 - Grade 4 : Attending 3rd or 4th grade AND Born on or after January 1, 2015
 - Friendship Division (Gr 2)
 - Gr 2 teams will play 5 v 5 including goalkeeper per modified rules below
 - Division A (Gr 4) Strong town travel teams and recreational select teams.
 - Division B (Gr 4). Other town travel, town intramural and recreational teams.
 - Division C (Gr 4) Recreational teams, if numbers permit.
 - Gr 4 teams will play 7 v 7 including goalkeepers per modified rules below.
 - All teams will play three games on Saturday or Sunday November 8-9 2025.
 - The 3 games will be split over both days only if necessary.
 - All teams will receive individual awards (Gr 2 10 players per team, Gr 4 14 players per team).
 - This is a Patch event! Each team is responsible for providing patches for players to exchange after each match.
 - Commemorative patches will be presented to every player and coach.

2. Application Procedure
 - Team Registrations are to be submitted online at <https://danversyouthsoccer.sportngin.com/home>
 - Roster forms are to be downloaded from the website and emailed per the instructions.
 - Rosters may be updated at any time prior to registration but a final hard copy must be presented at registration.
 - Applications must be received with payment no later than October 24, 2024.
 - The Festival Committee may close an age group or division in advance of the deadline if all spots are confirmed as full. The committee may also extend the deadline for registration.

3. Registration Information
 - Registration will take place at the Festival administration tent at the fields a minimum of one hour before the team's first scheduled game. The coach or designee may register the team, players are not required to appear at registration.
 - A hard copy of the final Festival roster accompanied by proof of age and affiliation is required at registration.
 - A signed medical release for each player is required at registration

4. Team Withdrawals/Reschedule/Cancellation Information
 - If a team withdraws after November 1, 2025, the entrance fee will be refunded upon request less a \$50 administration charge only if a team is found to replace them.

- If games are postponed due to weather or other reason beyond the control of the Danvers Soccer Saluting Soldiers Festival organizers, they will be rescheduled for the following weekend.
- If the rescheduled games are subsequently unable to be played due to weather or other circumstance, the entrance fees of all impacted teams will be refunded upon request less a \$50 administration fee.

5. Supplemental Information

- Confirmation of receipt of electronic application form will be emailed within 2 business days.
- Confirmation of receipt of hard copy application form and payment will be emailed within 2 business days.
- The Festival competition committee will determine division groupings after the entry deadline. Notice of acceptance or non-acceptance for participation in the tournament will be emailed within five days of the application deadline. Teams not accepted will receive a full refund.
- All Gr 4 Festival games will be played under FIFA rules, and, as modified by the 2025 Essex County Youth Soccer Association (ECYSA) rule book with 2-22 minute halves
- All Gr 2 Festival games will be played under FIFA rules, and, as modified by the 2025 Essex County Youth Soccer Association (ECYSA) rule book with 2-22 minute halves except as noted in the 2025 Festival Rules
- Complete tournament rules, maps, and medical release forms are available on our web site. It is the coach's responsibility to provide his or her team with directions and schedules.
- ECYSA Operating Rules will be available from the Festival Committee and as a download from our website.
- First Aid will be provided for all tournament games. The ATC/EMT's have the authority to bench a player due to injury.
- The designated home team is responsible for providing alternate color game shirts in case of color conflict.
- Parking is limited at field location. Please try to carpool whenever possible and follow all signs and directions.

6. The ECYSA ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED

- Smoking is not permitted at any of the playing fields.
- Charcoal and gas grills, or any other potential fire or safety hazard is strictly forbidden.
- Pets are not permitted at any of the playing fields.
- Alcoholic beverages are not allowed at any of the playing fields.
- Parents and coaches not complying with the regulation will be asked to leave the facilities.

ESSEX COUNTY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
Operation Rules as modified for the
The 2025 Danvers SOCCER SALUTING SOLDIERS Festival

I. PLAYERS/COACHES

A. **AGE GROUPS:** The 2024 Danvers SOCCER SALUTING SOLDIERS Festival offers competition for boys and girls in the following age/grade groups for Veterans' Day Weekend, November 8-9, 2025:

Grade 4 - Attending 3rd or 4th grade AND Born on or after January 1, 2015

Grade 2 - Attending 1st or 2nd grade AND Born on or after January 1, 2017

B. **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:**

All players must be registered or affiliated with ECYSA, MYSA, or USYSA, and must be under the respective ages/grades in Rule I, Section A, by August 1, 2025.

No player will be allowed to be rostered on more than one team participating in the Festival.

All players must show proof of affiliation or registration by being present on a town/group/league roster form certified by the town/group/league registrar.

Players not able to show above proof will not be allowed to play in the Festival.

C. **COACH AFFILIATION:**

The Coach/Assistant coach must be AFFILIATED with ECYSA, MYSA or USYSA.

All coaches must show proof of affiliation by showing a coaches lanyard, or a town/group/league roster form certified by the town/group/league registrar.

Non affiliated coaches will not be allowed to participate in the tournament.

D. **PLAYER VIOLATION:** The coach/assistant coach of a player in violation of Rule I, Section B, who willfully attempts to participate in the Festival, shall be suspended from further participation in the Festival. Any further violations will result in removal of the entire team from the Festival and forfeiture of all games played or to be played.

E. **COACHES' BOXES:** Coaches must remain inside the limits of the coaches' box on the sideline during the game or face ejection from the game. The number of coaches allowed in the coaches' box during the game may be limited to two at the referee's discretion but in no case will more than three be permitted. Spectators MUST be on the opposite side of the field from players and coaches.

II. REGISTRATION

A. **RULES:** Registration for the Festival will take place at the fields. The coach must report to the main administration tent a minimum of 1 hour before kickoff of the team's first scheduled game. Registration will consist of affiliation verification, roster verification, medical release form submission, Festival patch distribution and any last minute scheduling or field changes. Out of state teams must present a completed Permission to Travel Form. All teams must register before playing their first game and all teams should report in to the appropriate Festival official at the field prior to each game. All rosters, player cards, medical release forms or other affiliation forms and certificates must be verified by the registrar before the first game played. Failure to do so will prohibit a team or organization from competing in the Festival program. The registrar shall have the right to refuse any forms not properly meeting affiliation criteria. Only official USYSA, MYSA, ECYSA or town/group/league forms will be accepted. The registrar has the right to request AGE VERIFICATION.

A team roster with a minimum of seven (7) players and one coach must be submitted in order for a team to be accepted into the Festival. The maximum number of registered players per team roster shall be ten (10) for Grade 2 teams, and fourteen (14) for Grade 4 teams. The maximum number of registered coaches per team shall be three (3). A team consists of all registered players and coaches. A team may be composed of players of both sexes, but a mixed team will be registered as a boy's team.

B. **FEES:** All fees must be paid at the time of application. Fees for the tournament are as follows:

- Grade 2 teams: no fee is mandated, but a \$250 per team donation is requested
- Grade 4 teams: \$350 per team

III. RULES OF COMPETITION

- A. **RULES OF THE GAME:** The current USSF Administration Handbook Rules shall be in effect, except as specifically stated otherwise in these rules. All games will be 5 v 5 format for Grade 2, 7 v 7 for Grade 4.
- B. **ROSTERS:** A minimum of five (5) players shall constitute a team. No game may be started with less than five (5) players per team. If at any time the number of players drops to less than five the game will be suspended and a forfeit loss awarded.
- C. **PLAYING PERIODS/BALL SIZE:** All teams will play two (2) 22-minute periods. Periods may be shortened as deemed necessary by the Festival Committee to complete all games scheduled. Grade 4 teams will use a size 4 ball. Grade 2 teams will use a size 3 ball.
- D. **SUBSTITUTION:** Substitution shall be unlimited. *Upon consent of the referee*, substitutions may be made:
- Prior to any goal kick, after a goal by either team,
 - at half time by any team,
 - prior to the throw-in by either team provided the team with possession substitutes first.
 - after an injury resulting in stoppage of play, the injured player must be substituted for (this includes the goalkeeper). **ONLY** the player injured may be substituted for.
 - When a team substitutes, the substitutes must be ready to enter the field and will enter at mid-field.

IV. FIELD RULES

- A. **RULES OF THE GAME:** The current USSF Administration Handbook Rules shall be in effect, except as specifically stated otherwise in these rules.
- B. **TEAMS:** Each team must be represented by a registered/affiliated coach. Teams **MUST** arrive within five minutes past the scheduled kick-off time. Failure to do so will result in a shortened match duration or **FORFEIT** at the discretion of the tournament director.
- C. **UNIFORMS and EQUIPMENT:**
- Uniform jerseys must be all the same color and have a minimum three (3) inch number on the back (goalkeeper excluded).
 - **SHIN GUARDS ARE MANDATORY FOR ALL PLAYERS AT ALL AGE LEVELS. NO PLAYER WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN A TOURNAMENT GAME WITHOUT SHIN GUARDS. ALL SHIN GUARDS MUST BE FULLY COVERED BY STOCKINGS.**
 - Short colors must match, and socks color must match. Safe footwear must be worn.
 - **No Jewelry (Rings, Watches, Earrings, etc., taped or otherwise), splints, casts or decorative hair beads may be worn.**
 - Soft hair ornaments (Yarn, Rubber Bands, Cloth Ponytail holders) will be allowed.
 - Home team must change uniforms in the event of color conflict with the opponent. First team listed in the pairings sheet is considered the home team.
 - During cold weather the following provisions may apply: Sweat shirts or jackets may be worn under the team jersey as to expose the number and team color. Sweat pants will be worn over shorts.

V. SMALL SIDED SOCCER

RULES OF THE GAME: FIFA Laws shall apply with the following exceptions:

For Grade 1/2 (5v5), the Field of Play will be 40 yards by 30 yards. Goal area is 3 yards from each goal post and 3 yards into field of play, no penalty area. A Goal Keeper can handle the ball anywhere in the goal area. On a Goal Kick the ball is in play when kicked and clearly moved. Defending team must retreat to midfield until ball is on play for goal kicks. Goal size 4 feet high and 8 feet wide. The ball that will be used will be a number 3. There will be no Penalty kicks or offside.

PLAYERS	GOALS	BALL SIZE	PLAYING PERIODS	HALFTIME	SUBSTITUTIONS	RESTARTS	SPECIAL
5v5 with Keeper	4x8 Bowflex	3	2-22 minute halves	5 minutes	WITH REFEREE PERMISSION- On Goal kicks; after a goal; on OWN throw ins; on OPPONENT'S throw-ins IF Opponent is subbing; for injury. NEVER on corner kicks or fouls and ALWAYS ONLY WITH REFEREE PERMISSION.	Over touchline- Throw-in Over End line Goal kick from Goal box After fouls, goals- Indirect Free Kick	Goalkeeper MUST wear pinnie or alternate jersey. Goalkeepers may not punt or drop kick. Goalkeeper must throw or drop ball to feet and pass. Balls thrown by goal keeper and all goal kicks must touch ground or an opponent before the half line or other team gains possession at half line.

For Grade 3/4 (7v7), the Field of Play will be 40 yards by 60 yards. Goal area 20 yards on the Goal line, 6 yards onto the playing field. A 14-yard line parallel to the Goal line running from touchline to touch line is the penalty area. A Goal Keeper can handle the ball anywhere in this area. On a Goal Kick the ball is in play when kicked and clearly moved. Goal size 6 feet high and 12 feet wide. The ball that will be used will be a number 4 for Gr 4 and seven (7) players including the Goalkeeper on the field for each team. A team will play with no less than five (5) players. If at any time the number of players drops below five, the match will be suspended. Total number of players allowed on a team is twelve (12). The match will have two (2) twenty-two (22) minute playing periods. No Penalty kicks will be taken. Gr 4 matches will have offside called within the offensive penalty area, the 14-yard line, only. A ball put into play from a goal kick or a kick or throw from the goalkeeper must be touched by a player or the ground before it crosses the mid-field line. If it does not touch the ground or a player before it crosses the line an indirect kick will be awarded at the point where it crossed the mid-field line. Defending team must retreat to midfield for goal kicks until ball is in play. Direct kicks and indirect kicks will be determined by FIFA rules. A player who takes a throw-in or a kick-off improperly will be given a second try.

PLAYERS	GOALS	BALL SIZE	PLAYING PERIODS	HALFTIME	SUBSTITUTIONS	RESTARTS	SPECIAL
7v7 with Keeper	6x12 Kwik Goal or similar	4	2-22 minute halves	5 minutes	WITH REFEREE PERMISSION- On Goal kicks; after a goal; on OWN throw ins; on OPPONENT'S throw-ins IF Opponent is subbing; for injury. NEVER on corner kicks or fouls and ALWAYS ONLY WITH REFEREE PERMISSION.	Over touchline- Throw-in Over End line Goal kick from Goal box After offside, goals- Indirect Free Kick After fouls Direct Free Kick	Goalkeeper MUST wear pinnie or alternate jersey. Goalkeepers may not throw, punt or drop kick ball over midfield without touching ground or another player. All goal kicks must touch ground or opponent before half line or other team gets ball at half line. Offside called inside attacking 14 yard line.

VI. REFEREES

- A. **PROVIDED BY:** Referees will be provided by a certified USSF Referee Assignor.
- B. **PREGAME ACTIVITIES:** Referees or Festival officials will check the safety of each player's footwear, shin guards with stockings covering them entirely (mandatory), and require removal of all jewelry before all games.
- C. **POSTGAME PAPERWORK:** Referees will fill in the score, names of EJECTED AND CAUTIONED players/coaches. The card must be turned into the scorekeeper's tent immediately after the game.
- D. **MISCONDUCT REPORTING:** Referees must notify the Referee Coordinator and the Festival Director immediately after the completion of a game of a team member ejection and/or Referee Assault (Assaults must be reported to MYSA, MSRC and ECYSA).
- E. **AFFILIATION:** Referees will be members of USSF.

VII. DIVISIONAL MAKE-UP

- A. **DIVISION:** Teams shall be organized in competitive Divisions A, B and C within the U-10 age group, solely at the discretion of the competition committee. The competition committee will take into consideration the requested placing of the team by the coach, the previous season record, if available, the placement of the team during the regular season, and the age of the players. Decisions of the competition committee will be final.

VIII. DISCIPLINE

- A. **EJECTIONS:** If a player or coach is ejected from a game, they must leave the playing area immediately. There will follow an automatic one game suspension. The suspension prohibits the player/coach from participating in ANY MANNER in the game from which he/she is suspended. A Team Member shall be ejected for the following reasons: Violent Conduct or Serious Foul Play, Uses Foul and Abusive Language, Continuing Misconduct after having received a Caution (Yellow Card), Violation of current FIFA rules that require EJECTION. Issuance of three (3) individual Yellow Cards without the issuance of a Red Card will result in a one game suspension for the next game scheduled. If a team member leaves the bench to participate in a disturbance on the field and thereby is ejected by the referee, that team member shall automatically be suspended for the DURATION OF THE FESTIVAL. Any assaults on the Referee will be referred to the State Associations (MYSA, MRC and ECYSA). If one or both coaches are ejected from the same team and no affiliated coach (with card) is available to take over, the game shall be considered a FORFEIT. If one or both coaches are ejected from both teams and a situation exists where no affiliated coach is available, both teams are awarded a FORFEIT loss. ALL CARDS WILL BE REVIEWED BY DANVERS SOCCER SALUTING SOLDIERS FESTIVAL OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE FURTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTION.
- B. **REFEREE SUPPORT AND CONTROL OF SPECTATORS:** Danvers Youth Soccer and Essex County Youth Soccer have endorsed and adopted a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY per the attached guidelines. It will be strictly enforced by the Danvers SOCCER SALUTING SOLDIERS Festival. All reported incidents will be reviewed by the Festival officials to determine further discipline or penalty. If a referee abandons the game a forfeit may be awarded by the Festival Officials. All players and coaches must stay beyond five (5) yards of the Midfield line and 14 yards of the goal line. Spectators must three (3) yards from the touchline. No spectators will be allowed behind the goals or end lines. Penalties for unruly fans could include having a team play without any spectator support.

C. **PROTEST-APPEALS:** There are only two acceptable causes for the protesting of a game AFTER it has been played. They are: A team knowingly plays an unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player; or there has been an obvious error made in the application of the Laws of the Game that directly affects the outcome of the match, and the referee ADMITS it. No protests can even be entertained if they are based on judgment decisions made by the referee during play. The Laws of the Game clearly state in Law V (Referees) that ..."A referee shall be appointed to officiate each game...his decisions on points of fact connected with the play shall be FINAL, so far as the result of the game is concerned." A game cannot be protested because one coach, or both for that matter, thinks the referee was incompetent. Any protests relating to the grounds, goal posts, crossbars, or other appurtenances of the match shall not be entertained by the Festival committee.

D. **GUIDELINES - PROTEST AND APPEALS:** All protests and appeals must be in writing and will not be accepted otherwise. All protests must be made within thirty (30) minutes of the end of the protested game, and delivered to the tournament committee consisting of the Festival Directors, Referee Assignor, and the Field Marshall Coordinator. The decision of the committee shall be final.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

A. **FESTIVAL SPECIFIC:** No changes will be allowed after the team has registered. Equipment will be checked by the Referee and/or Linesman or appropriate Festival official. Only team uniforms will be allowed on the field. No headgear, such as head bands or kerchiefs will be permitted, and all jerseys must be tucked in. No other items of clothing will be allowed unless consistent with the team uniform. Uniform color conflicts require the designated home team to change (The Festival will make alternate pullovers available on request). Coaches will be held responsible for the actions of their spectators. All spectators will stay behind the spectator line along the side of the field and may be asked to leave the facility for violation of this rule. The ACT/EMT will provide a first aid for the duration of the tournament. Coaches will not remove any injured player from the field, the ACT/ EMT will attend to all downed players who cannot walk off the field.