

FC Central Illinois 2026 Spring Turf Cup Rules & Regulations

LAWS OF THE GAME

All games shall be played in accordance with the laws observed by USYSA/FIFA with the exceptions noted below.

TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Teams will be organized by the US Soccer standard of birth year. All teams outside of the state of Illinois must file travel permission forms.

No roster changes will be permitted after a team roster has been approved at tournament registration. Maximum number of players per team is 22 including guest players but only the specified number of players below are eligible to play in any game. No player can be on more than one roster for the event.

All teams must be currently registered with their State or National Association. Up to 4 guest players from outside the given team's club may be added to a team roster. Please note: Guest players from within the same club are unlimited. Each player must have a valid USSF/USYSA ID card.

GAME FORMAT

Age Division	Game Play	Game Length	Ball Size	Roster Size	Guest Players
U7/U8	7v7	(2) 25 Min Halves	4	14	4
U9-U10	7v7	(2) 25 Min Halves	4	14	4
U11-U12	9v9	(2) 30 Min Halves	4	16	4
U13-U14	11v11	(2) 35 Min Halves	5	18	4
U15-U19	11v11	(2) 35 Min Halves	5	18	4

All games will be running time. There will be 5 minutes between halves. The referee will not stop the clock except for serious injury. The tournament committee reserves the right to alter game length due to weather, injuries, or other delays.

HEADING

In accordance with US Soccer and the Illinois Youth Soccer Association, purposefully heading the ball in any U11 and under age group will result in an indirect free kick awarded to the opposing team.

BUILD OUT LINE U9-U10

Per US Soccer's recommendations. The build out line is used to promote playing the ball out of the back in an unpressured setting.

When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play in their hands or from a goal kick, the opposing team should move behind the build out line. At the Rantoul Family Sports Complex, the football dashes are designated as the build out line. There will be NO PUNTING in the U8-U10 age groups. Once the ball has been played. The opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal.

PUNTING/THROWING U8-U10

No punting is allowed at the U8-U10 level of play. If a goalkeeper punts the ball. The referee will give the ball back to the goalkeeper and ask them to throw or drop to their feet and pass.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Each player must wear shin-guards and an official uniform with a number on the back. The first team on the schedule is the home team. Home Team shall wear dark color uniform and guest team shall wear light colored uniform. In the case of conflict, the team in the wrong will change.

START OF THE GAME

The home team will choose the side of the field they wish to defend. The away team will get the kick-off to start the game. There will be no coin toss.

SUBSTITUTION

Substitutions shall be unlimited. Substitutions may be made at any stoppage in play at the discretion of the referee.

EJECTION

Any player or coach ejected from a game will be ineligible to participate in the team's next game. No substitution will be permitted for an ejected player. Anyone fighting can be subjected to ejection from further tournament participation. Passes will be retained by the tournament and returned to the coach of the team after the player has sat out their suspension. The coach is responsible for picking up the players pass after their suspension is completed.

FAILURE TO SHOW & FORFEITS

11v11 games - a minimum of **seven** players constitutes a team.

9v9 games - a minimum of **six** players constitutes a team.

7v7 games - a minimum of **four** players constitutes a team.

4v4 games - a minimum of **three** players constitutes a team.

A five-minute grace period will be extended beyond the kickoff time before a forfeit will be declared. The Tournament Directors will make the final decision if a forfeit will be allowed depending upon extenuating circumstances that may have prevented a team from making the game on time. If a forfeit is determined, the winning team will be awarded a score of 4-0 and will receive the points for that score.

PROTESTS

Any protest must be presented in writing to the tournament headquarters within one (1) hour of the completion of the game, and must be accompanied with a \$100 bond, which will be returned only if the protest is upheld. Referees' judgment will not be a basis for protests. The Tournament Director's decisions and/or interpretations are final.

SCORING FORMAT

Three (3) points will be awarded for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss. In the event of a tie in total point standings, the following sequence will be used:

1. Head to head competition between teams that are tied.
2. Best goal difference for all games up to 4 per game.
3. Fewest goals allowed.
4. Penalty kick shootout - 5 players per team; if still tied sudden victory penalty kick shootout

If a penalty kick competition cannot be completed for some reason, then a coin toss will be used to determine the winner.

TIE BREAKER, SEMI-FINALS & FINALS

Games that are tied at the end of regulation time will end as a tie in preliminary rounds. In the event of a tie in a championship game or advancement game, penalty kicks will be taken as listed below to determine a winner.

TIE BREAKERS - PENALTY KICKS

In the event that penalty kicks must be used to determine a winner in the semi-finals or finals, the format will be as follows:

- Each team will select (5) players to kick. Only players on the field at the end of the game may be selected.
- Team will alternate kicks, first team to kick will be determined by the referee's coin flip.
- If the score remains tied after (5) five kicks, teams will alternate kicks until a winner is determined.
- All eligible players on the field must kick before any player may repeat.
- Goalies may be changed after any shot.

AWARDS

Individual awards for U9-U19 will be given to teams who place 1st or 2nd. Participation awards will be given for U7/U8 teams.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

If there is severe weather, only the Tournament Director may halt matches. An announcement will be made over the PA system to clear the fields and another announcement once it is safe to return to the fields.

Where necessitated by weather or other emergency, the tournament committee shall have the authority to:

1. Relocate/reschedule any game
2. Reduce by up to half, the duration of the game
3. Cancel preliminary games that have no bearing in deciding the group winner
4. Decide the final tournament standings and trophy winners
5. Move penalty kicks to another field to avoid delay of the next game shall be considered "completed". The score at the time of game stoppage will be recorded as "final".
6. Cancel games based on weather conditions or player and spectator safety concerns. If a game is canceled (other than a forfeit) the game will be recorded as a tie for the purpose of establishing group standings.

The Tournament Director will make every effort to complete games. This may mean moving a game to another field or shortening the duration of all remaining games.

CANCELLATION POLICY / GUARANTEED NUMBER OF GAMES

The FC Central Illinois Tournament Committee and Director have the authority to make changes in games including duration, location, schedule, and length in order for all teams to be able to complete their current or remaining games. The Tournament Committee agrees to provide the guaranteed number of games or refund tournament application fees based on games not played to total games

played, less unrecoverable expenses. All decisions and /or interpretations made by the Tournament Director and Tournament Officials are final.

ADDITIONAL RULES, REGULATIONS AND CONDUCT

No pets, smoking, drones or alcoholic beverages are permitted at tournament fields. Parking is allowed only in designated areas. Arguments between parents/spectators or with the referee will not be tolerated. Derogatory remarks about or to the opposing team, players or coaches, the referee, the parents or spectators are not appropriate. Team coaches and/or managers are responsible for the conduct of players, parents, coaches and spectators for the duration of the tournament and may result in removal from the tournament grounds.

REFUND POLICY

If the event is canceled entirely because of weather, FC Central Illinois will refund a percentage of application fee. No refunds for team withdrawal after initial brackets are released.