

2026 TONY HUNTER FESTIVAL CUP RULES

All games shall be played in accordance with the [Laws of the Game](#) observed by FIFA, The Canadian Soccer Association, and Ontario Soccer, and the [Adapted Match Formats Laws of the Game](#) observed by Ontario Soccer.

This is a recreational tournament. Teams are encouraged to have fun and show good sportsmanship. Teams failing to do so may be disqualified from the Tournament. Disciplinary cards will be shown to players and team officials demonstrating gross or flagrant abuse of the rules.

1. TEAM ELIGIBILITY:

- All players & coaches must be registered with Ontario Soccer.
- Players must be registered with the club for which he/she is playing.
- No regional or provincial players or teams are permitted. Only district teams and players are permitted.
- Teams travelling from out of district required an approved Travel permit.

2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY: Players must be born on or after January 1st of the following years: **U8** 2018, **U9** 2017, **U10** 2016, **U11** 2015, **U12** 2014, **U13** 2013. A maximum of three (3) guest players with current valid cards meeting age group restrictions may be added to the tournament roster, prior to the commencement of the first tournament match, for a MAXIMUM of ten (10) players for **U8**, a MAXIMUM of twelve (12) for **U9 & U10**, MAXIMUM of sixteen (16) for **U11, U12 U13**.

3. REGISTRATION: There will be NO registration or check in at the fields. All documents must be submitted to Stratford Youth Soccer no less than one week prior to the tournament start date.

4. WHAT TO BRING:

- Player & Coaches Ontario Soccer cards (digital or physical) or books,
- Copy of your Official OSCAR roster.
- Tournament Roster (available on our website).
- Tournament games sheets – 1 per game (available on our website).
- Copy of your approved travel permit if your team is from outside of SWRSA.

5. GAME SHEETS: Must be completed and submitted to the referee prior to kick off. They must be signed after the game by the referee and both coaches.

6. THE BALL: Home teams are to supply a game ball. Ball Size: U8 & U9 size 3, U10 & U11 & U12 size 4, U13 size 5.

7. PLAYER UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT: The first team listed on the schedule is considered the "HOME TEAM" and will be responsible for providing an alternate colour of shirt if needed. Players must wear a number on the back of their shirts. Each player on a team shall have a different number and this number must coincide with the player's name and number as shown on the game sheet. If the colours clash, the home team will change colours (the home team is the first team on the schedule). At the Festival Committee's discretion, a team that does not observe the colour change or shirt requirements of this rule may forfeit the game. All players must wear proper shin guards and soccer shoes.

8. THE GAME: U8 & U9 40 Minutes 2 x 20-minute halves, U10 & U11 50 Minutes 2 x 25-minute halves, U12 & U13 50 Minutes 2 x 25-minute halves. The half-time interval in all games shall be 5 minutes. Teams will play U8 & U9 5 vs. 5, U10 & U11 7 vs. 7 and U12 & U13 9 vs. 9 on mini fields. Each team will play 2 games in this one-day Festival.

9. FIELD SIZE: All field dimensions are in accordance with the [Grassroots Field Orientation Guide](#) observed by Ontario Soccer. U8 & U9 width 25m-30m, length 30m-36m, goal size – no larger than 5ft/1.52m x 8f /2.44m. U10 & U11 width 30m – 36m, length 40m – 55m, goal size – no larger than 6ft/1.83m x16f / 4.88m. U12 & U13 width 44m – 55 m, length 65 –75m, goal size – no larger than 6ft/1.83m x 18f / 5.49m.

10. RULES:

U8 & U9

Substitutions: Unlimited substitutions may be made on the fly or at designated stoppages throughout the game.

Offsides: No.

Retreat Line: Halfway line.

Restart from sideline: Dribble-in or pass-in.

Free kicks: all indirect.

Penalty kicks: No. For fouls inside the penalty area, "Free Kick Inside the Penalty Area" rules will be followed.

Corner kicks: No. A goal kick is the method of restarting play anytime the whole of the ball passes over the goal line no matter which team last touched the ball.

Disciplinary Action: The referee shall attempt to explain ALL offences to the offending player. No Yellow or Red Cards are given to players in 5v5 matches. As needed, the referee may Warn, Caution (Yellow Card), or Send-off (Red Card) a Team Official.

U10 & 11

Substitutions: Unlimited substitutions may be made throughout the game. All substitutions are only allowed at the discretion of the referee, who shall be advised of all substitutions. Substitutions may be made on any stoppage.

Offsides: No.

Retreat Line: 1/3 of the field.

Restart from sideline: Dribble-in or pass-in.

Free kicks: all indirect, except for penalty kicks.

Penalty kicks: Yes.

Corner kicks: Yes.

Disciplinary Action: The referee shall attempt to explain ALL offences to the offending player. Small Sided Referees should avoid the use of Yellow & Red Cards towards players. As needed, the referee may Warn, Caution (Yellow Card), or Send-off (Red Card) a Team Official.

U12 & 13

Substitutions: Unlimited substitutions may be made throughout the game on the following restarts: goal kicks, scoring of a goal, injury to a player, half time, or your throw-ins (piggy backs allowed). All substitutions are only allowed at the discretion of the referee, who shall be advised of all substitutions.

Offsides: Yes.

Retreat Line: No.

Restart from sideline: Throw in.

Free kicks: direct and indirect.

Penalty kicks: Yes.

Corner kicks: Yes.

Disciplinary Action: Referees may use Yellow & Red Cards towards players. As needed, the referee may Warn, Caution (Yellow Card), or Send-off (Red Card) a Team Official.

11. DISCIPLINE: All discipline shall be subject to the OSA Discipline Policies by Review/Hearing (DBR/DBH) and heard by the Tournament Discipline Committee (TDC) provided by SWRSA.

1. A player who receives a red card for a sending off offence or receives a red card for a second caution in the same game, or a or a team official who is dismissed from the field, shall be subject to discipline under the DBR/DBH system. The player or team official will be suspended from the team's next scheduled game.
2. A player receiving two yellow cards during the tournament will be suspended from the next game.
3. Any player red-carded by the referee or coach ejected will be suspended from the next game. The Tournament Discipline Committee will review the referee report, and the appropriate suspension will be rendered in accordance with Discipline Section 9 –Tables 5 -12 & Policy 14.0 (Standard Fees, Fines, Bonds, and Penalties) for the Ontario Soccer Association's Published Rules.
4. A player receiving two red cards during the tournament will be suspended from the tournament.
5. In the case of a Referee Assault, the accused is immediately suspended from all soccer related activity until the case is heard by the appropriate District Association.
6. If a team official or player is ejected from their final game, the discipline report will be sent to their District Association for processing.
7. Tournament Discipline is done by DBR.
8. A DBR decision can be appealed, in writing, under the following 4 appeals criteria, within 45 minutes of the end of the game in which the infraction occurred and accompanied by a \$100.00 cash fee. This fee is refunded if the appeal is successful.

Appeals Criteria:

- New Facts (that did not exist when hearing was convened or could not be found via due diligence).
- Procedural Errors (exact errors with reference to the Published Rules).
- Incorrect Interpretation of the Published Rules (which rules and rationale).
- Excessive Fee, Fine, Bond or Penalty (state why excessive).

IN ACCORDANCE WITH FIFA RULES, NO PROTEST ON A REFEREE'S DECISION WILL BE ENTERTAINED.

12. COACHES: Coaches must stay in their designated technical area (determined by the referee) prior to the start of the game and must remain in the area for the duration of the match. Spectators' areas are on the opposite side of the field from the technical areas. Coaches will be held responsible for the behaviour of their players and of the spectators in their party. There will be

13. ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY: This policy is in effect for the entire duration of the tournament. Any inappropriate or unruly behaviour will be addressed by tournament referees and field marshals. Coaches are reminded that the referee's authority extends beyond the start and end of the match and always applies while participating in tournament activities.

14. EXTRAORDINARY WEATHER: In the event of severe weather (e.g., continuous heavy rain, lightning, excessive heat), the Festival Committee has the authority to change the duration of games or any other function of the festival, including such things as the following:

- a) Relocate and/or reschedule any games.
- b) Reduce, by up to 50 per cent, the scheduled duration of any game.
- c) Cancel any game.
- d) A game is considered complete when 50 per cent or less of the playing time remained when the game was terminated by the referee.
- e) In the event of total cancellation of the festival, the festival committee reserves the right to refund a portion of the registration fee.

15. SCHEDULING: Scheduling and refereeing are the responsibility of the Tournament Host. Schedules will be posted approximately ONE week prior to the Tournament on the SYS website – www.StratfordYouthSoccer.com.

16. FAILURE TO SHOW: A team shall be allowed a 15-minute period of grace after the scheduled kick-off time before it is considered that they have failed to show.

17. ABANDONED GAMES: The Tournament Committee will review the circumstances of any team that abandons (quits) a game before it is completed and decides whether the team shall forfeit the game.

18. FORFEITED GAMES: At the discretion of the Tournament Committee, teams that abandoned (quit) a game, fail to show, or otherwise forfeit a game will be subject to a dismissal from the Tournament and all entry fees and bonds forfeited without appeal. Furthermore, such action will be reported to the governing body of the team involved.

19. FIELD SUPERVISION: Persons acting in the capacity of Field Convener reserve the right to check player cards before all games.

20. GENERAL: No protest regarding the referee's decisions will be accepted. The Discipline Committee's decisions will be final. The Tournament Committee will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team if the Tournament is cancelled in whole or in part. The Tournament Committee and/or South-West Regional Soccer Association reserve the right to decide on all matters pertaining to the event.

21. REFUND POLICY: \$50 admin fee if registration cancelled up to 3 weeks prior to the tournament date. No refunds if cancelled within 3 weeks of tournament date.