



# 2026 CINCO de MAYO COPA TOURNAMENT RULES (FIFA RULES APPLY IF NOT MODIFIED WITHIN)

## Registration

March 17 – April 23, 2026

8U-19U Academy/Competitive teams. (*This is a competitive tournament but is open to recreational teams.*)

3 games guaranteed. Playoffs, pending registration.

Age	Cost	Format	Max Roster Size	Guests
8U-10U	\$350.00	7v7	12	3
10U-12U	\$450.00	9v9	16	5
12U-14U	\$550.00	11v11	18	5
15U-19U	\$550.00	11v11	22	5

## Roster

All players must be registered on their teams' registration form before the tournament begins. Any team or player determined by the event director to have falsified age or skill level will be dismissed from the tournament. All players must carry proof of age, ie: player pass, driver's license, or birth certificate. Each player may only play on ONE team only. If a player chooses to play on their academy/competitive team, they will need to have the Tournament Release form signed by their recreational coach.

All rosters are final, Friday May 1, 2026.

## Brackets

The tournament will consist of a gold and silver bracket for each division. If a minimum of 4 teams for either bracket is not met, they will be combined as one bracket.

Teams that consider themselves to be more competitive should select the gold bracket and teams that consider themselves to be less competitive should select the silver bracket.

All division placements will be reviewed by the tournament director and teams may, at the sole discretion of the tournament director, be moved up or down to form the most competitive brackets possible.

**\*\*Please note that a player may play in a division older than his/her age, but not in a younger division.**



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## Tournament Registration

- All team applications for tournament participation must be completed accurately and all teams must be registered using the online registration process by the deadline. Registration information is available at [www.midlandsoccer.com](http://www.midlandsoccer.com), under Tournaments/Register for Tournament.
- Team acceptance is contingent on registration, required paperwork completion and entry fee payment all received by the posted deadline.

## Online Check-In

- Online – Deadline to complete online Check-in **5:00pm cst on Wednesday, April 30, 2026**
- Official Roster – Signed by Coach and Registrar
- Medical Release Confirmation
- Team Information Form

## Team Check In

The coach listed on the roster may check-in: **(\*EVERYONE MUST CHECK-IN\*)**

- MSA office the Friday prior to the start of the tournament. (Check-In Time – TBD)
- Tournament headquarters at least one (1) hour prior to their first scheduled game.

Teams that play any games without having first checked-in will automatically forfeit those games, regardless of the game outcome or the team’s standing in the tournament.

## Playing Format

Age Group	Format	Min. Players Needed
8U-10U	7v7 Includes Goalkeeper	5
10U-12U	9v9 Includes Goalkeeper	7
12U-19U	11V11 Includes Goalkeeper	9

Age Group	Ball Size	Mini Games	Semi Final Games	Championship Games
8U-10U	4	2x20	2x25 - 2x5 O.T.*	2x25 - 2x5 O.T.*
10U-12U	4	2x25	2x30 - 2x5 O.T.*	2x30 - 2x5 O.T.*
12U - 19U	5	2x25	2x35 - 2x10 O.T.*	2X35 - 2x10 O.T.*



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***\*Only divisions with 16 teams or more will play quarterfinals to advance. If a game is tied at the end of the quarterfinal game, the teams will go to IFAB penalty kicks from the penalty mark.***

## **Team Requirements**

- Each team in the tournament will play three preliminary games. Depending on the number of teams in the age group bracket, only the top scoring teams will advance to the championship rounds. For brackets with only 4 or 5 teams, each team will play 3 or 4, respectively, games and the top three teams based on points will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. There will not be championship game for 4 and 5 team brackets.
- Each team shall be responsible for providing a ball suitable for use in the game. The referee will then select one ball to be used during play and return the ball to the providing team after the game.
- Each team must have numbered alternate jerseys, T-Shirts, or pennies available for their players in the event both teams are wearing the same color uniforms. The home team is listed first on the schedule and shall change if there is a color conflict. Violators will be removed from the field and not allowed back on the field of play until the player's equipment is corrected.
- Coaches and players shall occupy the designated side of the field while all spectators will occupy the opposite side from their corresponding team.
- Every team coach will be required to sign the official gamecard provided by the referee. The referee will submit the gamecard for score postings to the tournament headquarters.
- There are to be no more than three team coaches/representatives on the team sideline. Each coach/representative must have a current Kid Safe badge to be on the sideline.
- No coaching shall be permitted from behind the goal line or from the parent spectator sideline.
- No one shall be allowed behind either end line.
- The referee and/or Field Marshall(s) are authorized to remove any spectator whose behavior, in their opinion, interferes with the play of the game or violates the coaching ban from the parent's sideline.

**The coach is responsible for all verbal & physical actions of his/her spectators. The coach can receive a disciplinary card from the referee for the actions of his/her spectators. Verbal or physical abuse of referee or assistant referees of the game will **NOT** be tolerated. Violations can result in the forfeiture of the game and/or expulsion from the tournament.**



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## **Substitutions**

Free substitutions shall occur prior to a throw-in (only on possession); either team may substitute prior to any goal kick, or after any goal has been scored, or at half-time. Additionally, a team may substitute when the referee has stopped play for an injured player or to administer a caution, but only the injured or cautioned player may be substituted.

## **Forfeits**

- A game shall be declared a forfeit if a team is not ready to play within five (5) minutes of the game's published start time.
- Teams that play any games without having first checked-in will automatically forfeit those games, regardless of the game outcome or the team's standing in the tournament.
- A game shall be declared a forfeit if a team is found to have an ineligible player participating.
- Any coach who removes his/her team from the field during a game will cause the match to be abandoned.
- If a player refuses to give his or her correct name when requested by a referee or tournament official, the referee may terminate the game and additional penalties may be imposed.
- Verbal or physical abuse of referee or assistant referees of the game will NOT be tolerated. Violations can result in the forfeiture of the game and/or expulsion from the tournament.

## **Awards**

- For 8U-19U divisions, awards will be given for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

The 10-point scoring System that will be used is as follows:

- Win – 6 Points
- Tie – 3 points
- Loss – 0 points
- Goals scored (up to 3) – 1 point each
- Shut Out – 1 point (0-0 Tie awards 1 point to each team)
- Forfeit will be scored as a 3-0 win

## **Tiebreakers are determined as follows:**

- Head to Head Competition
- Goals Scored for/Goals against (max 5)
- Total number of goals scored



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- Most number of shut outs
- Fewest accumulation of caution points
  - 1 = yellow
  - 2 = red
- Kicks from the penalty mark
  - When going to a shootout the players on the field at the last whistle **MUST** remain on the field. The coach will select 5 players from those for the shootout. If players leave the field or players on the bench come onto the field the game will be determined as a win for the opposing team.

In the event a team is scheduled to play the winner from their own bracket or cross bracket teams have already played each other, the tournament director has the authority to re-align the playoff format.

## Referee Information

The tournament will use only USSF or FMF registered referees & assistant referees. All referee decisions are final. **Verbal or physical abuse of referee or assistant referees of the game will NOT be tolerated. Violations can result in the forfeiture of the game and/or expulsion from the tournament.**

- Referees are required to report all disciplinary actions to the tournament officials at which time tournament officials will impose the penalties stated herein:
  1. A coach that has been sent off shall leave the soccer complex immediately and is not allowed to be present at their next scheduled game, even if that game is a semi-final or final game.
  2. Any player receiving a red card (other than because of receiving two cautions in the same game) shall leave the soccer complex immediately and sit out the next scheduled game.
  3. Any player receiving three cumulative yellow cards during the tournament will sit out the next game.
  4. Failure to sit out the required games shall result in a forfeit of the game.  
**All sit outs require a signed sit out form signed by the referee of the game that is being sat out.**
- All referee decisions are final.

## Protests

- There is NO appeal or protest process.
- Referees' decisions are final. Any other non-game issues should be immediately reported to tournament headquarters and will be resolved by the Tournament Director or a representative.

## Sportsmanship



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Players, coaches, and spectators should always act in good sportsmanship. Abuse of the referees will not be tolerated. Any instance of such conduct will disqualify the responsible team from the event.

### **Refund & Bad Weather Policy:**

**SOCCER REFUND POLICY / BAD WEATHER POLICY:** We understand that there will be an 80% refund granted if the soccer tournament is canceled due to inclement weather Before the day of the tournament. In case of inclement weather day of tournament, the Event Director reserves the right to reduce the number of scheduled games and/or the time of games and/or postpone or delay game times and/or cancel the event in which case partial refunds may or may not be issued. Every effort will be made to complete games and the tournament.

**SITUATIONS THAT THESE RULES DO NOT ADDRESS ARE THE DECISION OF THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR.**