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Age Groups	U9-U10s	U11-U12	U13-14	U-15-19
Field Size	7v7	9v9	11v11	11v11
Ball Size	4	4	5	5
Roster Size – All players can play in each game	12 MAX	16 MAX	22 MAX	22 MAX
Game Length	25 mins each way	25 mins each way	35 mins each half	40 mins each half
Offside	YES	YES	YES	YES
Minimum Games	3 Games Including Finals.	3 Games	3 Games	3 Games
Trophies/Medals	Yes-Winners & Finalists	Yes-Winners & Finalists	Yes- Winners & Finalists	No
Over-Time (semi's/finals)	5 Minutes each way – played to completion – then PK's if needed	5 Minutes each way – played to completion- then PK's if needed	5 Minutes each way – played to completion- then PK's if needed	

New Check In:

- **ALL Teams – MUST** check in online and will be asked to verify passcards/rosters prior to each game
- Teams are allowed 5 guest players only – Must be on roster – club pass players count as a “guest” player
- Rosters – You may write in guest players as long as passcard/waiver documentation is provided
- **Roster** – the roster being used prior to game must match roster uploaded at check in online
- **Player pass: A player may only play on two teams** in the same club. Must be pre-registered on both rosters – can be written in as guest. However, **can not be two teams in the SAME BRACKET**. NO PLAYER can play for two different clubs in the same event.
- **Player verification:** the referee may require that both teams provide two copies of your Official roster.
 - Verifying players: referees must inspect the player's identify with the player's photograph on their pass card.
 - **Must have a valid player pass – otherwise will not be permitted to play.**
 - Disagreement in data: If there is a discrepancy in a player pass card, the player shall not be allowed to play in the match – the referee is to retain the player pass in question and report to tournament directors.

Reporting Scores:

GPS Staff members will report scores.

Officiating

Qualified officials will officiate each game. All 11v11 games will be officiated by a central referee and 2 assistant referees although the availability of qualified referees might necessitate the use of fewer linesmen on occasions. For 7v7 and 9v9 games you should expect only one official for the match.

Heading Rules

U11 players and younger may NOT head the ball intentionally. If in the opinion of the referee a player heads the ball intentionally, the restart is an indirect free kick for the opposition. U12 players and older may head the ball intentionally. If a player plays “up” an age division, that player will play by the age group rule.

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7v7 Guidelines

In 7v7 competition, the opposing team must be behind the halfway line for goal kicks to promote playing the ball out of the back.

* Please note – the offside rule for 7v7 games will be adhered to, however, please note that it may be loosely enforced. If there is a blatant advantage from an offside – the referees will give the call. If a player is a yard offside, but no advantage is gained, then referees will use their discretion. At 7v7 we want the game focus to be on development and multiple touches with minimal stoppages, rather than coaches and teams focusing on the offside trap.

Substitutions

This event will follow FIFA rules where substitutions can be made at **ANY** stoppage with the consent of the official. This includes, free-kicks, corners and opposition stoppages such as the other team's throw-in. Unlimited re-entries are allowed.

Weather

In the case of inclement weather every attempt will be made to play all scheduled games in the tournament. At the sole discretion of the tournament director/committee, some games may be declared a 0 – 0 tie and not made up. The following priority will be given to making up games:

1. Teams that have not yet played a game in the tournament.
2. Teams that have only played one game in the tournament.
3. Games that will have a material impact on the final standings.
4. All other games.

The lightning policy for the tournament is as follows: At the first visible sign of lightning (regardless of the estimated distance from the field) all play will be stopped, and players and spectators will be asked to move to a safe location. For all games that were in progress the game clock will continue to run. If time runs out and the game was at or past half time when play was stopped, the result at the time of play being stopped will stand. If 5 minutes or less remain in the first half and the score has 2 or more differential the game will be declared final.

If the game had not reached 5 minutes or less before half time every attempt will be made to make up the game at a later date and time. However, this may not be possible and will be based upon field availability. Play will not resume until 30 minutes after the last visible lightning strike seen (regardless of the estimated distance from the field). When play is resumed, the game, which was scheduled closest to the re-start of play, will begin. For example if play is stopped at 2:50 pm and restarted at 5:20 pm, the teams scheduled to play closest to 5:20 pm will play, NOT the teams scheduled to play at 2:50 pm.

Every attempt will be made to make up the 2:50 pm game at a later date and time. When play is stopped, or resumed, due to lightning, it is at the sole discretion of the referees and the tournament director/committee. Both referees and tournament officials will enforce strict adherence to the above policy. No appeals will be allowed. **Personal safety is the number one concern of the tournament and it will supersede any game situation.**

Maximum Goal Differential

All games will have a maximum goal differential of 4. If the margin of victory was greater than 4 then it will be recorded on the website as the actual result. However, as per below, a 4 goal differential will be used to determine who advances, first and foremost.

Team withdrawals

If a team is fully responsible for the termination of a game due in part to poor sportsmanship towards a referee, opposing team/fans will result in a forfeit. The team responsible for the forfeit will incur a 0-3 loss.

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No shows/forfeits: If a team does not show with the minimum number of players or fails to show – this will result in a forfeit of a 0-3 loss that will be recorded.

Advancement to Championship Play (if applicable)

Section winners are determined by the total points earned within their bracket (Win = 3 points, Tie = 1 point, Loss = 0 points). In the event of teams being equal in points within their group after the qualifying games, advancement to championship play will be determined according to the following:

- 1. Head to Head**
- 2. Goal Differential** (subject to the 4 goal maximum goal differential rule stated above)
- 3. Goals For** (number of goals your team has scored – NOT subject to maximum goal differential rule)
- 4. Goals Against** (number of goals allowed – NOT subject to maximum goal differential rule)
- 5. Most Shutouts**
- 6. Penalty Kicks**

In the case of a two-way tie the above rules will be applied until one team is eliminated. However, in a Three-way tie, the Head to Head criteria becomes moot and advancement rules will start at criteria 2.

If a winner cannot be determined the following procedure will be used:

Knock out competition under the supervision of an official Referees through a FIFA “Penalty Shootout”. Upon agreement of both coaches, the Referees’ Committee and the Tournament Committee, a coin toss may be substituted for the “Penalty Shootout” competition if so desired.

Championship Games

Championship games will be regular in duration with a five-minute interval between halves - unless the tournament committee determines that championship games need to be shortened due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

In the event of a tie at the end of regular time, two equal overtimes halves will be played. **Two 5 minute halves must be played in full during overtime.** There will be no break between overtimes (although the players will change ends).

In the event the game is still tied, FIFA rules for the “Taking of kicks from the penalty mark” shall apply. Teams will alternate kicks at the same goal, with the goal selected by the referee. Best of five, (or more, if necessary), kicks shall prevail. All eligible players, including the goalkeepers, must kick before any player may repeat. Only players on the field at the end of extra time will be eligible to take kicks, these players must remain within the field of play after the conclusion of extra time.

If one of the two teams qualifying for the championship game declines to appear, at the discretion of the Tournament Committee, the next highest ranked team in that division, based upon tournament record may be substituted for the team declining to appear.

Player Safety

The following shall be permitted for player safety:

- A soft splint or cast shall be allowed per the referee has determined that the cast is not a danger to themselves or other players.
- A brace, joint, or prosthetic is allowed per the referee has determined that is not a danger to themselves or other players.
- Sport Spectacles/plastic prescription frames sports are allowed, however eyewear with glass, metal, or sharp edges are barred.
- Soft foam headgear is allowed per the referee has determined it is not a danger to themselves or other players.

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If a referee has determined a player is wearing articles that are not allowed – the referee shall order the said player to remove them. If the player fails to remove the article – they will not be allowed to return to the match.

Player Department

Shirt must be tucked inside shorts. Shin guards must be firmly in place and covered by socks.

Nonstandard attire, accouterments, and apparel must be cleared prior to the Tournament with written U.S.S.F. approval; otherwise, Rule 4 of the FIFA rules applies. The Referees' Committee will continue to be the sole arbiter as to what is legal and what is not legal.

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 and reported immediately to the tournament directors.

A player receiving two cautions (yellow cards) in a single game is considered to have been given an ejection (red card). A player who has been ejected (sent off) will not be replaced. A player who has been ejected will not return for that game and will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game.

A coach who has been ejected (sent off) will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game. Any player or coach ejected (Red Card) from a game shall be ineligible to take part in any further in action with the team during that match.

The referee, referee coordinator and tournament staff/director will assess the ejection and decided upon further suspension. The discretion will be solely down to the tournament director and referee coordinator.

Assault or abuse by players, coaches, or supporters will result in immediate suspension for the balance of the tournament and notification will be sent to team's home state or USCS for further action.

Field Marshals

Field Marshals will be present at all fields. All participants should be aware that the Marshals have the authority and right to remove any unruly or uncivil spectators or coaches from the game field perimeter and/or the field complex area.

Tournament Committee

In the event of conditions beyond the Tournament Committee's control, final decisions with respect to game cancellations, shortenings or terminations shall lie solely with the Tournament Committee and director. The Tournament Committee/Director, in conjunction with the Referees' Committee/Coordinator, reserves the right to change field assignments. In addition, the Tournament Committee/Director reserves the right to change sectional and divisional assignments in the interest of fair and balanced competition.

Protests

No protests will be considered.

Refunds

If the entire tournament is cancelled due to weather prior to your first scheduled match, GPS will either partially or fully refund your team once all tournament expenses have been fully covered. If weather curtails the tournament thereafter, every reasonable attempt will be made to assure teams play at least 2 games but no refunds will be given.

If you must pull out your team – refunds are as follows:

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Before Brackets are released: Full Refund

After Brackets are released: 50% refund or charged 50%

After Schedule is released: no refund or charged full amount

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