



CHAMPIONS CUP TOURNAMENT

2026 RULES

I. REGISTRATION

1. Coaches must submit rosters, team passes, medical releases, and guest player forms at least 30 minutes prior to their first game.
2. If any of the items are missing, your player will not be allowed to participate, no exceptions.
3. Premier or select level teams are expected to play up at least 1 level when possible.

II. ELIGIBILITY

4. No player is allowed to register with more than one team within an age group, and no player may switch from one team to another during the tournament.
5. Any team found to be playing with an ineligible player will result in a forfeit of ALL games played.
6. Up to 3 Guest Players allowed per team. A copy of the player pass with photo must be provided for each guest player.

III. UNIFORMS & PROPER EQUIPMENT

7. Coaches and players are responsible before the games to ensure that players are properly equipped (socks over shin guards, proper jerseys, etc.) and are not wearing any jewelry or long pants on field players.
8. Each team should bring 2 sets of jerseys.
9. NO CLEATS ALLOWED. Rubber-soled or turf shoes only. Should the referee discover a player or players wearing cleats, the offending player will be asked to leave the field.
10. No player may play with a hard cast.

IV. HOME AND AWAY TEAMS

11. Home team is required to change jerseys or forfeit game.
12. Home team attacks on opening kickoff

V. GAME LENGTH, ROSTER SIZE AND NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON FIELD

13. All matches are 25 minutes in length.
14. Number of players on field:
 - U12 and younger: 8v8 (includes keeper)
 - U13-HS: 7v7 (includes keeper)
15. Maximum roster size:
 - U12 and younger: 14
 - U13-HS: 16

V. GENERAL RULES

All rules are FIFA rules except the following outlined below:

16. Substitutions are unlimited and may be made when ball is out of play or on any stoppage.

17. Kickoffs can be played in any direction. Home team will kick off.
18. On a goal kick or goalie throw, if ball goes over half line without bouncing or touching a player from either team, the other team shall be awarded an indirect kick from half line.
19. Goalie cannot punt the ball past the center line. Opposing team receives an indirect free kick from half line. Keeper may become a field player entitled to kick ball over the half-line if keeper places the ball on the ground and touches it out of his/her penalty box. Opposing team may challenge for the ball once it is on the ground.
20. If ball strikes ceiling the ball remains in play at the referee's discretion. If the referee determines a restart is required, it will be an indirect kick from the half line.
21. The ball must be put into play from a restart within 5 seconds. If not, at the referee's discretion, the ball will be given to the opposing team for delay of game (throw-in or free kick to opposing team, corner/goal kick switch).
22. On free kicks, goal kicks, corner kicks, penalty kicks and kick-offs, opposing team must be 5 yards away from ball.
23. The goal area and penalty area are the same area.
24. Penalty kicks are to be taken from the penalty spot for U12 and under divisions, and from the top of the penalty area for U13 and up divisions.
25. There is no off-side rule.
26. Slide tackles are prohibited and result in an indirect kick and may result in a red card.

VI. CONDUCT

27. Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to act in a responsible and respectful manner. Abusive language and dissent will not be tolerated. Anyone involved in a fight will be ejected from the tournament.
28. A player or coach receiving a red card will be ejected from the game and at a minimum, will sit out the next game.
29. EJECTED PLAYERS MAY NOT BE SUBSTITUTED.
30. A coach or player receiving a total of three (3) yellow cards cumulatively during the tournament will also at a minimum sit out the next game.
31. Coaches and players who are sitting out due to a red card or 3 yellow cards are not permitted on the field or sidelines during the game they are sitting out. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in their team forfeiting the game and subject the individual or team to further disciplinary action.
32. Any further carding of a coach or player previously suspended may result in ejection from the tournament.
33. Food and drink are prohibited on turf area. Only food and drink purchased at the Hudson Valley Sports Dome are allowed in the facility. Smoking and spitting are strictly prohibited throughout the facility. Coaches and players are responsible for the cleanliness of their team areas. All garbage is to be placed in appropriate garbage receptacles.

VII. FORFEITS

34. Non-Appearance at the start of your scheduled game will cost your team a forfeit. The team will receive 0 points. The opposing team will receive 2 goals and 3 points.

VIII. SCORING AND STANDINGS

35. Scoring: Points will be awarded as follows:

Win: 3 points

Tie: 1 point

Loss: 0 Points

36. Forfeits: A team winning a game by forfeit shall be credited with a 2-0 win and 3 points.
37. Tiebreaker methodology.

In case of a tie in the final standing within a division group:

- a. Head-to-head
- b. Most wins
- c. Goal differential
- d. Most goals scored
- e. Most shut outs
- f. Coin toss

IX. OTHER NOTES AND DISCLAIMERS

38. There will be no refunds for nonappearance due to inclement weather or any other reason. Refunds will be provided only in the event the tournament committee cancels a division due to lack of participation.
39. The tournament director has the sole responsibility of interpreting the rules. The director's decision is final. No protests will be accepted.