

TOURNAMENT RULES

Team Eligibility and Registration

Teams accepted will provide at, or prior to registration: Approved State Roster, individual Medical Release Forms, USYSA or US Club player passes with picture permanently attached, and Permission to Travel Forms if needed. Online registration will be available.

You may not mix and match US Club and USYS cards for your roster. If you use a US Club roster, all of the cards must be US Club. If you use USYS roster, all of the cards must be USYS.

US Club Soccer Teams - May participate in the August Cup with properly validated 2016 - 2017 US Club Soccer team rosters.

Properly validated USYS 2016 – 2017 Player Passes will be accepted for all rostered players.

Guest players must have credentials from either the 2016-2017 or the 2017-2018 seasonal years. Guest Player passes must match the roster, US Club card= US Club roster, USYS card=USYS roster. No mixing and matching of US Club and USYS cards.

A properly validated team roster containing player names and dates of birth must be present at all games. The team roster must be presented if requested by field marshal or referee. Failure to produce the roster will result in a forfeit.

7v7 U9 and U10

U-9 - U-10 teams are allowed a maximum of 12 players (6 guest players).

9v9 U11 and U12

U-11 - U-12 teams are allowed a maximum of 16 players (6 guest players).

11v11 U13 thru U19

U-13 teams are allowed a maximum of 18 players (6 guest players)

U-14 – U-19 teams are allowed a maximum of 22 players (6 guest players). Teams with rosters of up to 22 players can only have 18 players dressed for each game in the tournament.

The medical release does not have to be notarized and you can download a form if needed from the website.

Permission to travel forms for all teams outside of Region 1 must be presented at team registration.

A player may be rostered to play on only one team during the duration of this tournament.

Teams must receive tournament approval before submission of the tournament application to play up, play down or play in an age group of the opposite gender. Teams found to have violated this rule after the application deadline date may be disqualified without refund.

TOURNAMENT RULES

GENERAL

All tournament matches will be played in accordance with “The Laws of the Game” as issued by FIFA except as modified in the “Tournament Rules.”

Hotel Policy

All out of town teams are mandated to book any hotel reservations through Montgomery County CVB to insure their place in the tournament. Any teams that do not comply will be at risk of forfeiting their acceptance.

For Hotel Information visit <http://www.rushforthecup.com/clubsite/?p=6564>

Please [click here](#) to e-mail the tournament director or call (240) 793-1760 if you have any questions.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

The tournament is limited to the following ages. We use the new USYS age groups set by birth year.

U-9 through U-19

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to combine age groups if necessary.

REGION 1 TRAVEL POLICY

- Region I has established the following policy concerning permission to travel when attending US Youth Soccer sanctioned tournaments in Region I. The purpose of this policy is to make it as simple as possible for the US Youth Soccer Region I teams to travel to tournaments within Region I.
- Teams from outside Region 1 must provide permission to travel forms signed by their association.
- The new policy states that any US Youth Soccer State Association **teams** within Region I that is accepted into a tournament in Region I do not need permission to travel papers. Permission to Travel is not required in friendly games within Region 1.

STATE ASSOCIATIONS FROM REGION 1

Connecticut Soccer Assn
Delaware Youth Soccer Assn
Eastern New York Youth Soccer Assn
Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Assn
Soccer Maine
Maryland Youth Soccer Assn
Massachusetts Youth Soccer Assn
New Hampshire Soccer Assn

New Jersey Youth Soccer Assn
New York State West Youth Soccer Assn
Pennsylvania West State Soccer Assn
Soccer Rhode Island
Vermont Soccer Assn
Virginia Youth Soccer Assn
West Virginia Soccer Assn

TOURNAMENT RULES

MD SOCCERPLEX RULES

----PLEASE READ CAREFULLY----

- **NO PETS ALLOWED**
- **NO SMOKING**
- **NO ALCOHOL**
- **NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR BEVERAGES PERMITTED**
- **NO WARMING UP OR PLAYING ON CLOSED FIELDS**
- **NO WARMING UP IN GOAL MOUTHS**
- **DO NOT MOVE OR REMOVE FIELD EQUIPMENT (GOALS, CORNER FLAGS, WATER COOLERS, ETC.)**
- **PARK ONLY IN DESIGNATED SPACES**
- **DEPOSIT ALL TRASH IN GARBAGE CANS PROVIDED**

PROTESTS-DISPUTES

All decisions of the referee are final and binding. The Tournament Director reserves the right to decide on all matters relative to the tournament and their decisions are final.

- The Tournament Director reserves the right to make the following changes in the event of inclement weather:
 - Relocate and/or reschedule a match
 - Reduce scheduled duration of a match
 - Change division structure
 - Cancel a match
 - Cancel any or all games
- Cancel the Tournament due to inclement weather

Under no circumstances whatsoever will the Tournament Director, Maryland Rush Montgomery Soccer Club, Damascus Soccer Club, Alliance Soccer Club, Maryland Soccer Foundation or any official sponsor, or MSYSA be responsible for expenses (including tournament entry fee) incurred by any team. This includes a situation where the tournament or any game(s) is cancelled in whole or part.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather forcing play to be halted and preventing the match from completing during the scheduled time, the score shall stand if at least one-half of the game has been played. In the case of matches halted prior to the completion of at least one half, the Tournament Director reserves the right to declare the match final thereby counting the score at the time the match was halted. Regardless of weather conditions, teams and coaches must be at the game site and ready to play at the time as scheduled. Failure to appear will result in forfeiture of the game.

The Maryland SoccerPlex has a lighting detection system. All teams must adhere to the lighting detection policy/warnings.

TOURNAMENT RULES

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Applied Teams Withdraw before Acceptance:

Teams withdrawing from the event before acceptances are issued via e-mail, will be issued a full tournament refund. The tournament is not responsible for any hotel or additional costs incurred by the team.

Accepted Teams Withdraw after Acceptance:

Payment must be received in full before a team will be accepted

Teams withdrawing from the event after being accepted will not be refunded.

CANCELLATION POLICY

If the tournament is cancelled due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, there is no guarantee of refunds.

REFEREES

All referees will be USSF certified. A one-man system will be used for all U-09 - U-12 small sided. A three-man system will be used for all U-12 through U-19 11v11 games.

SIDELINES

Coaches and players will share the same side of the field as designated by the field marshal. All spectators will take up a position on the **OPPOSITE** side of the field during the time that the match is in progress. Coaches, players and spectators for all participating teams must remain on their respective sides of the field during the time of the match. Behavior of spectators associated with the team remains the responsibility of the coach. The referee and field marshal are authorized to remove any spectator whose behavior, in their opinion, interferes with the play of the game.

On small sided games being played on **grass** fields, coaches, players and spectators will occupy the same side of the field. There will be no coaches, players or spectators permitted in between grass fields.

No coaching will be permitted within 18 yards of the goal line or behind the goal line. Coaches, players or spectators are not permitted to stand behind the goal line at any time during the time the match is in progress.

Only coaches, assistant coaches, team managers and players listed on the approved team roster will be permitted on the players side of the field during each game.

Alcoholic beverages will not be permitted at any tournament site; violators will be subject to criminal prosecution.

TOURNAMENT RULES

START OF PLAY

The home team is responsible for providing a person other than the coach or assistant coach to be the field marshal. The field marshal will sit on the player's side of the field by the team bench. A walkie talkie and scorebook will be located on the bench for the field marshal to retrieve.

A U13– U19 team that cannot field seven (7) players at the scheduled start time of a match shall forfeit the match. A U-09 - U-12 small-sided team, which cannot field five (5) players at the scheduled start time of a match, shall forfeit the match. Any team forfeiting the match shall be declared the loser. The score of a forfeited match shall be recorded as 3-0 in favor of the team receiving the forfeit.

If there is **no** referee present at the starting time of the scheduled start time, the field marshal will contact tournament HQ.

Player passes and roster must be present at the field for the duration of every game. Games balls will be provided by the teams. Each team will be given one ball prior to the tournament.

The home team is responsible for providing the game ball.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT

Shoes must meet FIFA specification. All players must wear shin-guards. Casts will be allowed:

- If they are well padded in foam or other protective material.
- AND the player with the cast does not attempt to use it to an advantage or to harm other players,
- AND the referee approves the cast.

In the event of a uniform conflict the HOME team must change. The Home Team is listed first on the schedule.

BALL SIZE

U-12 and younger	Size 4
U-13 and older	Size 5

HEADING THE BALL

“Heading the ball is prohibited in U11 games and younger. At age group divisions U11 and younger, whenever the ball strikes a player in the head, play is stopped. If deliberate, then the proper restart is an indirect free kick to the opposing team. If this occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If the play by the head is deemed inadvertent, then the proper restart is a dropped ball.”

TOURNAMENT RULES

DURATION OF MATCHES

ALL MATCHES WILL START ON TIME. The duration of halves is listed below. The interval between halves shall be five (5) minutes. The referee is the official timekeeper of the match. During the preliminary matches there will be no injury time allowed.

- ⇒ U9-U12 will play two 25 minutes halves with 5 minute halftime.
- ⇒ U13 - U14 Two (2) 30 minute halves with five (5) minutes half-time
- ⇒ U15 – U16 Two (2) 35 minute halves with five (5) minutes half-time
- ⇒ U17, U18 & U19 Two (2) 40 minute halves with five (5) minutes half-time.

- ⇒ **U9 and U10 will play small-sided games 7v7**
- ⇒ **U11 and U12 will play small-sided games 9v9**
- ⇒ **U13—U19 will play 11v11**

TOURNAMENT OVERTIME

All preliminary games will remain a tie. In semi-final and final matches, if regulation play ends in a tie score, the following steps will be taken:

1. The tie will be broken by penalty kicks in accordance with FIFA tiebreaker rules.
 - Only the players on the field at the end of regulation will be eligible to participate in penalty kick procedure.
 - The players from each team must stay on the field of play and will meet at the center at the end of the game.
 - Captains will meet for the coin toss to decide who kicks first.
 - Referee decides which goal will be used.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions can be made at any stoppage with the permission of the referee.

DIVISION STANDINGS

Division standings will be decided by the following point system:

- Win +3 points
- Tie +1 point
- Loss +0 points

TOURNAMENT TIE BREAKERS

(Determination of wild cards, first and second place winners)

Total points ties within divisions and/or brackets will be broken by the following tiebreakers in order:

1. The team that has given the least number of forfeits advances.
2. Head to head competition during the tournament of the two teams tied. (Disregard if more than two teams are tied—**NEVER revert back to this tiebreaker if more than two teams are tied.**)
3. Goals Against (Least Goals Allowed)
4. Team with the highest goal differential. A maximum differential of three (3) goals **per match** will be counted.

TOURNAMENT RULES

5. Most wins
6. Goals for (Total Goals Scored)
7. Most shutouts
8. Least Red Cards
9. Least Yellow Cards
10. If still tied after steps 1 through 9, both teams will proceed to an available field, at a time and place directed by the Tournament Director, and take penalty kicks in accordance with FIFA tie breaker rules.

TIE BREAKER CLARIFICATION

Once a criterion is used to determine the tiebreaker, teams must continue to the next criteria and may not revert back.

Example:

Step 1: Three teams each have 6 team points. "A" is winner over "B," "B" over "C" and "C" over "A". Three teams are tied so #2 above (head-to-head) is disregarded.

Step 2: Team "A" has allowed 7 goals. "B" and "C" have each allowed 5 goals. Therefore "A" is eliminated.

Step 3: You DO NOT revert back to #2 (head-to-head); the next criteria considered is #4 (goal differential) to determine winner between "B" and "C." etc.

WARNINGS – EJECTIONS

If a player is ejected from a match – red card or two yellow cards in the same match by the referee – the player must sit out the remainder of that match plus his team's next tournament match. No substitution will be made for the ejected player during the match that the red card was issued.

Two yellow cards to the same player in the same match equal a red card and will result in immediate ejection from that match. Coaches in receipt of a **red** or **two yellow cards** in the **same match** are subject to the same penalties as outlined above for players. A coach ejected from a match will not be allowed in the vicinity of the field for the remainder of that match and for his team's next match.

Coaches are responsible for their players, parents and guests on the sideline. No team or club official may enter the field of play regardless of the circumstances unless that person has been given permission to enter the field of play by the referee. Because of the seriousness of such instances, red cards issued after the end of regulation play or as a result of physical assault are subject to review by the Tournament Director and more strenuous penalty, which is not subject to appeal, may be employed.

AWARDS

There will be individual award for players of 1st and 2nd place teams.

PROBLEMS/QUESTIONS

In the event of a problem, or if a team has a question about the tournament, they should first check with the field marshal at their respective field location. The field marshal will check periodically with the Tournament Headquarters and can handle most problems. The tournament Director will ultimately decide all issues not resolved on the field locations. Decision of the Tournament Director is final.