



2023 FC UNITED MIDWEST CLASSIC TOURNAMENT RULES (June 2023)

LAWS OF PLAY

Play will be governed by the FIFA Laws of the Game, except where amended by USYSA Rules of Play, the State Soccer Association Rules of Play and/or the tournament Rules. These rules may be modified before the beginning of tournament play. The final Tournament Rules will be published in the Tournament Program. A player may only play for one team during the tournament. Any ineligible player discovered will cause the team on which he played for to forfeit any game.

TEAM, PLAYERS AND COACHES CREDENTIALS

Players must be registered to the team making application. Teams must be registered and in good standing with their US Youth Soccer/Canadian affiliated state/provincial association/US Club. Teams may have up to 5 guest players; guest player forms will be required. Player picture identification cards are to be present and available at all matches. Teams must comply with their state association's travel procedures. A player can only play on one team in any single age-group/flight during the tournament. A player may be dual-rostered, as long they are not competing in the same age group or playing down into a younger age group. All Dual Roster player requests must be pre-authorized by the Midwest Classic Tournament Committee. Any and all exceptions must be directed to the Tournament Director or the Tournament Registrar. A roster certified by your state association must be submitted before or at tournament check in. Any Team participating must carry valid 2018-19 player's passes. All player and coach passes must be laminated. All teams must follow the applicable procedures of the US Youth Soccer Travel Policy. Out of state teams must have US Youth Soccer Permission to Travel Papers on file at your state association office (if applicable). All teams are also required to carry written medical releases from parents/guardians in case emergency medical care is necessary. Foreign teams or a team coming from a CONCACAF nation: Players must present passports at registration or, if from a nation that the United States does not require a passport, proof of entry into the United States that is required by the United States. Teams are also required to have player picture identification cards. You must also have the required completed form from your Provincial or National association approving the team's participation in the tournament.

HOME TEAM

The home team will kick-off. The “Away” team is responsible for wearing an alternate color jersey, if necessary, as determined by the referee. The team listed first in all rounds shall be the home team. Both teams (players) shall use the side of the field with team benches and spectators shall use the opposite side of the field.

EQUIPMENT/UNIFORMS – SHINGUARDS ARE MANDATORY

Teams must have matching uniforms, and should have numbers on the jersey back. Goalkeeper must have a different color, preferably not black. If team colors conflict the “Away” team is responsible for changing colors. All player equipment is subject to Referee approval. **All players must wear shin guards and the referee has the right to request players to put on shin guards that are sized properly.**

PLAYING CONDITIONS

Teams will be expected to play according to the schedule of games regardless of weather. Only the Tournament Director(s) may reschedule games or alter the competitive format because of inclement weather or other just cause. Games shall be considered complete if one half has been completed and play is stopped by the Field Representative or Referee, Commissioner of Referees or the Tournament Director(s). When necessitated by playing conditions or just cause, the game format may be altered to include shortening of games, penalty kicks or coin tosses.

BRACKETING

4-TEAM BRACKETS: (one four-team bracket): Round robin games with each of the other teams in the bracket. High point team will be Champion.

5-TEAM BRACKETS: (one five-team bracket): Bracket play is round robin games with each of the other teams in the bracket (each team gets 3 game min). The high point team is the Champion.

6-TEAM BRACKETS (two three-team brackets): Each team will play three games including one crossover match-up game. Would play 2 games against teams within bracket and one match-up game versus the opposite bracket in ranking order (highest point from pool A v highest point from pool B, etc)

8-TEAM BRACKETS (two four-team brackets): Bracket play is round robin with high point teams in each bracket (one from each 4 team bracket) advancing to a Championship game.

10-TEAM BRACKET (two five-team brackets): Each team will play 3 round robin games within their bracket. The highest point total team from each bracket (one from each 5 team bracket) will advance to the Championship game. If there is a tie for points in a bracket, please refer to Tournament Tiebreakers.

PLAYOFFS – Playoff format may be modified as necessary at discretion of the Tournament Director.

POINT SYSTEM AND BRACKET WINNERS

Bracket winners will be determined by the following point system:

Win ----- 3 (three) points

Loss ----- 0 (zero) points

Tie ----- 1 (one) point

Shutout ----- 1 (one) point

A team that forfeits a game will give up 3 (three) points to the declared winner of the game and shall not advance to a final match. The match will be scored as a 4-0 win for the declared winner. If a team is not scheduled for three bracket games, that team's point total will be prorated based on the number of scheduled games played. Point total thus determined will not be rounded off. Registered teams forfeiting a game agree to a \$200 fine (forfeiture fee), along with forfeiture of their registration fee.

AWARDS

U11 – U19 team player awards will be given to the champion in your flight.

U9-U10 will play in a festival format. No Championship or Final.

TIEBREAKERS

If at the conclusion of bracket play, two or more teams have the same point total, advancement to the semifinals will be determined using the following tiebreakers in the order listed until a team is eliminated. Once a team is eliminated, advancement among the remaining teams shall again be determined by the tiebreakers in the order listed starting with head to head competition.

1. Head to Head
2. Goals Scored Minus Goals Allowed (Max. diff. of 4 goals – ex. game score of 7-1 would be scored 5-1)
3. Goals Against
4. Goals For (Max 4)
5. Most Shutouts
6. Fewest Red Cards
7. Earliest to Register for the event.

SUBSTITUTIONS

U09 - U12 – at any Stoppage and unlimited (at the discretion of the Referee)

U13 - U18 – Unlimited. At any stoppage, with the consent of the Field Referee, substitutions may be made from the center of the field, prior to **either** team's throw-in or **either** team's goal kick, after a goal scored by **either** team, during a stoppage of play for an injury and in accordance with the Laws of the Game. A cautioned player may be substituted for before restart of play with the Referee's permission, this is not mandatory.

GRACE PERIOD

U9 – U12 A minimum of five players constitutes a team.

U13 – U14 A minimum of seven players constitutes a team.

A (5) five-minute grace period shall be extended beyond the scheduled kick off time if five (U9U12)/seven (U13-U14) are not available at the scheduled kick off time. A team of five (U9-U12)/seven (U13-U14) players must start the game as soon as seven players are at the field after the originally scheduled start time. If at the end of the 5-minute grace period the team does not have five (U11-U12)/seven (U13-U14) players, the referee shall suspend the game and report the failure of the team to appear to the Tournament Director(s). The Director(s) may declare a forfeit. Any team that forfeits a game will not be allowed to advance out of their group to the finals.

GAME LENGTH

Age Game length, format and Overtime

U9 & U10 (7v7) Two 25 minute halves. Halftime 5 min.

U11 & U12 (9v9) Two 30 min. halves. Halftime 5 min. (pk's if necessary in the event of a tie, only if there is a scheduled championship match/final)

U13 - U14 (11v11) Two 30 minute halves. Halftime 5 min. (pk's if necessary in the event of a tie, only if there is a scheduled championship match/final)

Overtime – No OT. Teams would move to pk's if necessary only in a championship match/final)

U15 - U19 (11v11) Two 35 minute halves. Halftime 5 min. pk's if necessary in the event of a tie, only if there is a scheduled championship match/final)

Due to the restrictions of the event and tournament format, any injury time may not be added onto the match time. The referee shall have discretion, as long as the match time does not infringe on the subsequent game scheduled kickoff time.

Game duration for all ages may be modified at the Tournament Director's and Committee's discretion.

SHOOT-OUTS (PENALTY KICKS)

Penalty kicks used in any championship matches resulting in a 6-team division, will be run in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game. The referee chooses the goal at which the kicks will be taken. The referee tosses a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss will take the first kick. Both teams take five kicks; kicks are taken alternately by the teams.

If before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could score, even if it were to complete its five kicks, no more kicks are taken. If after five kicks the score is tied, kicks continue until one team has scored a goal more than the other (sudden victory) from the same number of kicks.

Only the players on the field at the end of the match are allowed to take kicks. A different player must take each kick and all eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick. If the player is under suspension they may NOT participate in the kicks.

U9-U12 TOURNAMENT SPECIFIC RULES RELATED TO THESE AGE GROUPS

The following rules apply to all U9-U12 games

- No Punting allowed
- DROP-OFF RULE – To encourage building out and player development, teams will need to drop off to the designated line as indicated below, during opposing team goal kicks and ‘punts’:
 - U9-10 - Teams must drop off to the mid-field line.
 - U11-12 – Teams must drop off to the top of the center circle.

RED CARDS

The player(s) receiving the Red Card and the Coach must report to Tournament Headquarters following the game. Player will be suspended for a minimum of 1 game. The suspension may be increased depending on the severity of the incident, at the discretion of the Referee and the Tournament Director. If a Red Card is received in Final Match, the player will have to serve suspension in the following year’s event.

MISCONDUCT AND ABUSE

Referee, player and spectator abuse will not be tolerated during the tournament. Abuse by the player, coach or fan will be reported to their Home State Association within 48 hours of the end of games. The player, coach or fan will be removed from the soccer complex and will not be allowed to return for the day. As such, re-entry may be approved only by first reporting to the Tournament Headquarters.

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND GAME STOPPAGE POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, at the discretion of the Midwest Classic Tournament Committee games may be modified (shortened game times), rescheduled, or canceled. Should a game need to be delayed or stopped for any reasons, weather included, the game will be considered a full match if the match completed the first half. The final score will be reported as the actual score at the time of the stoppage.

REFUND

There are no refunds, unless games are not played due to weather. In the event matches are canceled by the Midwest Classic Tournament Committee and/or the City of Cedar Rapids, the refund policy shall be as follows:

65% - No games played

30% - 1 game played

0% - 2 games played

No other refunds will apply.

TEAMS, PLAYERS AND COACHES

All teams and players must be affiliated with the USYSA or a US Soccer sanctioned affiliate. Players may be registered to only one team playing in the tournament. Player passes and roster may be checked prior to each match.

GAME ROSTER

After check-in/registration, teams may not alter their rosters or make additions/subtractions at any time. Tournament roster will be limited as follows: 7v7 at 14 active players, 9v9 at 16 active players, 11v11 at 18 active players.

TEAM DISCIPLINE

A coach is responsible for the words and actions of his players and their fans. Verbal abuse of the opponents or referees by players, coaches or spectators will not be tolerated. Violations may result in forfeiture of the game and/or expulsion from the tournament. A coach may be carded for failure to control his/her players and/or team fans.

A red carded player and his/her coach must report to tournament headquarters immediately after the game in which the card was given to determine the player's status for subsequent games. Decisions will be based upon the rules of the Iowa Soccer Association, the sanctioning organization for the Midwest Classic.

PROTESTS

Protests must be presented in writing by the head coach to the tournament headquarters within one hour of the completion of the game, and must be accompanied with a \$100.00 cash bond, which will be returned only if the protest is upheld. Only protests that concern the Laws of the Game and ineligible players will be considered. Referee judgment will not be a basis for protests. Decisions of the Tournament Director are final and may not be appealed.

COMPLIANCE

All players must be properly registered with US CLUB SOCCER, USYSA and/or an approved US Soccer affiliate.

Any damage to vehicles or personal articles are not the responsibility of the Midwest Classic tournament, it's Directors or Agents, or the City of Cedar Rapids. Any vehicles ticketed or towed due to non-compliance of complex or tournament rules, are the responsibility of the vehicle owner.

Any spectator asked to leave the complex must report to headquarters prior to being allowed re-entry.