

# Cal North District Cup Rules

## **1. GAME RULES**

Tournament shall be governed by FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by US Youth Soccer and as further modified herein.

## **2. SPORTSMANSHIP**

Good sportsmanship is required of teams, officials, and spectators at all times. Coaches and managers are responsible for the conduct of their team's players, parents, and other affiliated spectators.

A coach may not enter the field of play except on a referee's signal. Coaches, players, and spectators shall not harangue, harass, or attempt to distract players or referees. Offensive, insulting, and abusive language will not be tolerated. Breaking these rules will result in a warning, to be followed by ejection if the unacceptable behavior does not stop immediately. Appropriate disciplinary action will be determined by the Tournament Director.

## **3. CREDENTIALS**

USYS or USClub passes are required for all players and coach and coaches as described in tournament registration materials. These passes will be checked at initial check-in. For guest player limits, please check the table below. Max roster size – 26. Max number of players who can be dressed for any match - 18(11v11), 16(9v9), 14(7v7) and 10(5v5).

At each game, teams must have these documents available for inspection if required:

- Official Team roster
- Valid Player Passes from the current seasonal year
- Medical release form for each player, with an original signature by a parent or guardian

## **4. TEAM AGE**

The teams' age in this tournament shall be based off the current seasonal Calendar Age Matrix.

## **5. CHECK-IN PROCEDURES**

Failure to check in will result in an automatic disqualification (without refund of fees) from the Tournament. Tournament check-in will be performed ON SITE 30 minutes prior to your team's first match of the tournament.

## **ACCEPTANCE, PLACEMENT IN DIVISIONS, BRACKETS, QUALIFYING FOR QUARTER-FINAL, SEMI-FINALS, CHAMPIONSHIP, & CONSOLATION GAMES**

## **6. TEAMS ACCEPTANCE AND PLACEMENT IN DIVISIONS AND BRACKETS**

Teams will be accepted on an as needed basis. Registering your team does not mean your team has been automatically accepted. The Tournament Director shall deem a team accepted. Specific Division applications are not accepted. Withdrawal due to disagreement with the placement will not entitle the team to any refund. Adjacent age groups may be grouped in the same division. Mixed levels may also be grouped in bigger divisions that will incorporate specific level Champions.

## **7. TOURNAMENT POINTS AWARDED IN PRELIMINARY GAMES**

Points will be awarded to teams for preliminary games as follows:

- 3 points for a win
- 1 point for a tie
- 0 points for a loss
- 3 points if your opponent forfeits
- 0 points for both teams if both teams forfeit

## **8. TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES – TOURNAMENT POINTS**

If teams have the same number of points at the end of preliminary games and this affects placement in later games, ties will be resolved using these criteria in the order shown below:

1. Head-to-head competition results
2. Most total wins
3. Goal differential (goals scored less goals allowed) with a maximum of 4 GD per game
4. Most goals scored (maximum of 4 per game)
5. Fewest goals allowed
6. Most total shutouts
7. Fewest red card ejections
8. If both teams are present at the field when the tie is determined - Penalty kicks as described by FIFA until a winner is determined.
9. Coin toss by the Tournament Director or member of the Tournament Committee at Tournament Headquarters.

## **9. POST PRELIMINARY PLAY PAIRING**

In divisions with quarter-finals, semi-finals or any other pairing, criteria for team placement will be as specified in each division's schedule. Teams that have already played each other in the preliminary games will not play each other in these games (including quarter-finals and semi-finals) *if avoidable*. If required to prevent this situation, the re-pairing will match the highest-point qualifier with the lowest-point qualifier that it did not play in the preliminaries (i.e. Only the lowest-point qualifiers will be swapped. Under no circumstances the top seeds (S1/S2 in Semis and S1-S4 in QFs will be paired in these games).

## **GENERAL GAME RULES**

### **10. LOGISTICS**

Teams will set up on the side of the field designated by referees, with spectators on the opposite side. Spectators are not allowed on the goal ends of the fields. Each team must have at least one properly credentialed adult present on the sidelines of each match.

### **11. GAME LENGTH**

The games shall be of the following durations:

<b>Division</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Championship &amp; Consolation *</b>	<b>Preliminaries, Semi Finals, &amp; Other Games</b>	<b>Guests</b>	<b>Referees</b>
U7-U8	5v5	2 x 20 minutes	2 x 20 minutes	3	1
U8-U10	7v7	2 x 20 minutes	2 x 20 minutes	4	1
U11-U12	9v9	2 x 25 minutes	2 x 25 minutes	5	3
U13-U19	11v11	2 x 30 minutes	2 x 30 minutes	7	3

*\*Number of guest players and referees are subject to change at the Tournament Director's Discretion*

### **12. HOME TEAM**

The team listed first on the schedule for the preliminary round of games will be the Home Team. For Championship and Consolation games, the team with the highest total points of the paired teams will be the Home Team. If both teams have the same number of points, a coin toss by the Field Marshal/Referee will determine the Home Team. In the event that both teams have the same colored jerseys, the Home Team will switch to alternate jerseys as determined by the referee. To simplify matters, we strongly suggest the Home Team wear a dark color and the visitor wear a light color.

### **13. GAME START**

All games will start at the scheduled time. Teams must report to the Center Referee 10 minutes before each game for check-in. If a team has not taken the field with at least eight (8) players within 5 minutes of a scheduled game time, the game will be forfeited to the team with at least eight players in attendance. For 9v9 games, the minimum number of players is six (6) and for 7v7 is four (4). All preliminary games will be called not less than five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the following game, regardless of the amount of time played up to that point. A game is "complete" upon completion of at least one half of play regardless of the circumstances of termination during the second half. Final results will be based on the score at the time the game is called. Preliminary games can end in a tie.

### **14. HALF TIME**

Half Time will be exactly 5 minutes. The Tournament Director reserves the right to extend the half time under special circumstances. Field Marshals may alter the length of any game at their discretion. Except for Championship & Consolation Games, games tied at the end of regulation time will be recorded as ties.

### **15. TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES FOR GAMES**

Quarter-final, Semi-final, Consolation games to determine 3<sup>rd</sup> place or other games that must produce a winner that end in a tie will go directly to penalty kicks as described by FIFA until a winner is determined. Championship games that end in a tie in regulation time will be extended by two 5-minute overtime periods (with no rest period between them). Golden Goal rule will apply. If the game is still tied

after the overtime periods, both teams will take penalty kicks as described by FIFA until a winner is determined. Only the players who are on the field at the end of the game may participate in the penalty kick shootout (small-sided games limited to 3PKs – see special small-sided games rules). Ties are an acceptable final outcome for all other games.

## **16. SUSPENDED and TERMINATED GAMES**

Tournament Officials may suspend and/or terminate games for reason. If a game is terminated, the game may be resumed at the discretion of Tournament officials, but is subject to ending five (5) minutes prior to the next scheduled game start. If a game is terminated due to field issues, or due to the serious injury of a player, play may be resumed at the discretion of the Tournament officials.

Tournament officials may also conclude the game, require completion of the game, or utilize penalty kicks to determine the winner of the game, depending upon the circumstance. If in the opinion of Tournament officials, a game must be terminated due to the serious or violent misconduct of players, coaches, or spectators; the offending team may be immediately suspended from further play and all remaining games. All previous points earned remain as played. Additionally, the home league and/or State Association will be contacted as appropriate.

Delays of game will only be allowed for an injury to a player that is unable to be moved from the field and/or requiring professional medical attention. Primary regard will be to the safety of the injured player. The delay will result in appropriate time being added to the full game time, based on the judgment of the referee. Preliminary games shall not be extended to affect game start of the next game as described herein. If more than a quarter of preliminary game cannot be completed due to a serious injury suspending game play, the game shall be determined by penalty kicks.

## **17. SUBSTITUTIONS**

Unlimited substitutions during the game at any stoppage are allowed *with the referee approval*. In addition, a player receiving a yellow card caution may immediately be substituted, but this is not required.

## **18. SPECIAL RULES FOR SMALL-SIDED DIVISIONS**

The tournament will follow the US Soccer Player Development Initiatives rules except for 'NO HEADING RULE WILL APPLY' to all small sided games.

In addition, the tie-breakers PKs will be limited to 3 (vs. 5 for 11v11 games)

### **Final/Consolation/Semifinals PKs**

If the games that need to have a winner go into PKs, the FIFA rules regarding 5 PKs will be modified to limit the number to 3 PKs.

## **19. EJECTIONS and CAUTIONS**

A player, parent or coach who has been ejected in a single game shall not return for that game and will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game. Ejections will be reviewed by the Tournament Committee and may result in a more severe penalty, including additional game suspensions in the tournament and potentially contacting of club, league, and playing association for additional penalties. Fighting by players, violent conduct or harassment of referees by players, coaches, parents or spectators will be considered serious misconduct.

## **20. REFEREES**

Game conduct is under the total jurisdiction of the referee. The tournament will not overrule a referee's decision.

## **21. PROTESTS**

All game results will be considered final. No protests will be allowed.

## **22. FORFEIT PROCEDURES**

All teams that forfeit will have the game(s) scored a 0-2 loss. The winner will be awarded three (3) points. Teams failing to report ready to play within five minutes of the scheduled kick off time will forfeit. Cal North holds no responsibility to compensate a team whose opponent forfeits a match.

# **EQUIPMENT**

## **23. GAME BALLS**

Game balls will be provided by the Home Team and are subject to Referee approval.

- All balls for U8-U12 will be size 4.
- All balls for U13 and older will be size 5.

## **24. PLAYER EQUIPMENT**

The following restrictions will apply:

- a. **CLEATS** - Players shall only wear soccer cleats or turf field shoes. No metal studs are allowed on turf fields. b. **SHINGUARDS** - Shinguards are required for all games. They must be worn properly and shall be professionally manufactured and unaltered. Shinguards must cover a minimum  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the shin, but they do not have to be longer than 10". The shin runs from the ankle to the knee. Players wearing shinguards that are too short will not be allowed to play.
- c. **CASTS and SPLINTS** - All players, coaches, parents, and referees are required to take reasonable precautions concerning player safety. This includes preventing players from wearing any equipment or device that is dangerous to themselves or others. Dangerous equipment and devices include, but are not limited to, orthopedic casts, air splints, or metal splints. Players wearing any dangerous equipment or device including orthopedic casts, air splints, or metal splints, shall not be eligible to participate in any tournament game.
- d. **BRACES** - It is strongly recommended for safety reasons that a player not wear a limb brace during tournament play. A brace may be allowed covered for the entire match. Elastic-type supports without any metal, carbon fiber, and hard plastic or like devices are permitted, provided the referee does not deem the support to be potentially harmful to other players.
- e. **EYEGLASSES** - Players who must wear eyeglasses are encouraged to wear sports goggles. Any glasses worn must be safe, with unbreakable lenses and frames made of unbreakable plastic or sturdy metal.
- f. **JEWELRY** - Except for Medical Alert Warning Bracelets (which are to be taped as necessary), absolutely no jewelry may be worn while participating in any tournament play.

## **FIELD RESTRICTIONS**

### **25. ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELDS**

There are specific rules to safeguard the life of these fields. The rules are typically posted at the entrance to the fields. No food will be allowed onto the fields, particularly seeds or any kind of gum as these are especially harmful. Please ensure that your team and their parents are aware of these restrictions and guidelines. Tournament staff will be observing that these rules are followed. Anyone caught disregarding these rules can be ejected from the facility by tournament staff and/or the field marshals.

### **26. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

Alcoholic beverages at all tournament venues are prohibited, without exception.

### **27. LITTERING**

Please respect the fields made available to the Tournament. At the conclusion of your games, please collect and dispose of all garbage generated by your team in trash receptacle or in the garbage bag provided by the Tournament. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

## **OTHER RULES**

### **28. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

All injuries shall be reported to the Tournament Director or Field Marshal so that an Accident Report Form can be completed. In case of serious injury, Emergency Services (911) will be called if requested by the referee or the player' coach, manager or parent. Tournament Headquarters will be notified of the medical emergency.

### **29. WEATHER**

In the event of inclement weather, winners will be decided based on tournament points earned up to then for those games that have been completed or begun, with tie breakers determined as described elsewhere in these rules.

In case of cancellation due to weather, tournament officials retain the right to keep up to one-third (1/3) of the registration fee to cover expenses. There will be no make-up games due to weather.

### **30. RULES CHANGES**

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to modify these rules at any time prior to the start of the Tournament. Any rule changes will be announced at the team check-in. Any situation not covered by these rules will be resolved by the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee may alter these rules as necessary, and such changes will be final and no appeal will be accepted.

### **31. WITHDRAWAL**

Withdrawal requests must be made in writing and addressed to the Tournament Director. [ddenkers@calnorth.org](mailto:ddenkers@calnorth.org)  
Withdrawal after your team's acceptance to the competition means no refund can be issued to your team.