



2009 Tournament Rules

All tournament matches will be played in accordance with FIFA laws, except as specifically modified herein. The following statement of Rules and Regulations supplements the “Laws of the Game.”

AGE & ELIGIBILITY

Participation is open to accepted teams composed of no more than twelve (12) players for U9 and U10, fourteen (14) players for U11 and U12, and eighteen (18) players for U12 through U18

Guest Players are allowed – up to three (3), not to exceed the maximum allowed players as previously specified. Guest players are subject to eligibility requirements and must be registered with a National State Soccer Association affiliated with USYSA/USSF. **Recreational team’s guest players must have played in the same league as the registered team for the Fall 2009 season.**

Each team must be registered with a National State Soccer Association affiliated with USYSA/USSF and must present a valid state or county roster from the Fall 2009 season. Coaches of recreational teams must have proof of age available at all times in a form that is in accordance with USYSA/USSF *Travel and Tournament Policy Manual*. Age determination follows FIFA rules. For example, players with birth dates between August 1, 1995-July 31, 1996 will play U14. Player credentials will be verified. The Tournament Committee has the right to verify eligibility at any time. Any team fielding an ineligible player will be disqualified and that team’s tournament entry fees forfeited.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT

- All players must wear individually numbered jerseys. Jersey numbers must coincide with the player's name/number on the team roster. The individual numbers must be different for each player.
- In the event of a color conflict, the home team will change. The home team will be listed first on the game schedule.
- All players must wear shin guards in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game.
- Players with any kind of casts may play at referee’s discretion.
- Mouth guards for oral appliances recommended – not required.
- Secured eye glasses or eye protection recommended – not required.
- No jewelry except a MEDIC ALERT.

BALL SIZE

U9-U12 size 4

U13-U18 size 5

Each team shall provide game ball for their match. The referee’s judgment shall be final on the ball’s quality.

FIELD and TEAM POSITION

- Dimensions of all fields will be in accordance with FIFA rules and procedures for specific age groups.

- Both teams will take the same side of the field. All other spectators from both teams will take the opposite side.
- Players, coaches, and spectators on the sideline during the match must remain at least six (6) feet from the touchline. Players and team officials must stay within the marked Technical Area.
- No one will be allowed to stand behind the end lines and may not stand closer to the end line than the 18-yard line.
- In accordance with Maryland State Youth Soccer Association policy regarding the use of soccer fields, all spectators must comply with park rules as posted at each park.
- Check in time with assigned Field Marshall is 30 minutes prior to scheduled match.
- Game time is forfeit time.

DURATION OF PLAY

The duration of play will be two 25-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime interval. There will be a running clock at all times except at halftime.

SUBSTITUTIONS

FIFA Laws of the Game concerning substitutions will be followed with the modifications outlined below and with the referee's permission:

- After a goal has been scored (for either team)
- On goal kicks (for either side)
- On throw-ins (possession only)
- For an injured player(s) one for one
- An injured player who is bleeding must leave the match for treatment and a one for one substitution will be allowed. The player may return after treatment, at the next available substitution time and must check back in with the referee to indicate treatment has been complete.
- All substitutions must enter and leave the field from the half way line.

Unlimited number of substitutions is allowed during a match. Players cautioned (yellow card) per FIFA rules do not need to be substituted at the time of the caution. Players receiving a second caution (yellow card) during a single match will be sent off and the team will play down a player (no substitution). Players sent off for a Red Card will not be substituted for and the team will play down a player for the rest of the match.

CONDUCT

COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR CONDUCT AS WELL AS THE CONDUCT OF THEIR PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS. TEAM MANAGERS AND TOURNAMENT FIELD MANAGERS ARE ASKED TO ASSIST THE COACHES IN THEIR EFFORTS.

- Accumulated Yellow Card Policy – Any player receiving two (2) yellow cards in the Tournament will sit out the next match following receipt of the second yellow card. This rule applies to any play off or championship match as well. Please note this is policy of Maryland State Youth Soccer Association.
- Players are expected to conduct themselves within the spirit, as well as, the letter of the laws. Display of temper or dissent is cause for ejection from the match and surrounding field area. Repeated violations may result in the suspension or expulsion of the team from the Tournament as decided by the Tournament Director.
- Players, coaches, or team officials ejected from a match (red card) by the referee shall be ineligible for the next two (2) scheduled matches including championship matches.
- Red cards issued after the end of regulation play or as a result of physical assault are subject to review by the Tournament Committee and more strenuous penalties may be imposed. If a coach receives a red card, the Tournament Committee will review the referee report and make a final determination regarding the remaining and future participation in the Mountain Road Tournament.
- Any player, coach or team official ejected from a match for violent conduct (fighting) shall result in immediate expulsion from the Tournament.
- In accordance with the USYSA *Tournament Hosting Agreement*, all red and yellow cards and other matters involving team conduct will be reported to the home club and State Association of the team involved as well as the US Youth Soccer National Office.

NO PROTESTS ARE ALLOWED ON PENALTIES IMPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE AND ALL REFEREE DECISIONS ARE FINAL.

GAME AND SCORE REPORTING

- Games scores will be reported to Tournament Headquarters each day. Scores and standings will be posted on the tournament web site www.mrsoccer.com and at Tournament Headquarters.

DETERMINATION OF DIVISION WINNERS

Each team will be awarded three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and no points for a loss. At the end of the preliminary rounds, the division winner will be the team with the most points in their division. In the event of a tie within a division, the following criteria will be used to determine the winner:

1. Winner of head-to-head competition
2. Most wins
3. Total bonus points (3 points per game maximum – see below)
4. Least goals allowed during preliminary matches.
5. Most shutouts during preliminary matches.
6. Most total goals scored during preliminary matches.
7. Coin toss.

If three or more teams are tied for first, the first tiebreaker will be Step 2, Most Wins and Step 3 through Step 7 will follow. Once one team is eliminated, the process from Step 2 is repeated until only two teams remain. The remaining two teams revert back to Step 1 (head-to-head) and follow Steps 2 through 7 to determine the winner.

Bonus points are calculated for the winning team of each preliminary match. Bonus points are equal to Goals Scored minus Goals Against. No more than 3 bonus points will be earned for any one game. Zero (0) bonus points are earned for tie games or the losing team. There are no negative bonus points.

In the semifinals (if any) and championship matches, FIFA Penalty kicks will decide the outcome of a match that ends in a tie score at the end of regulation play. The penalty shootout will be conducted as follows:

- Only the players on the field at the end of regulation play are eligible to participate in the penalty kicks.
- The referee shall decide the goal at which all the kicks shall be taken.
- The team winning the coin toss shall take the first kick.
- No player may shoot a second time until all eligible teammates (including the goalkeeper) have taken a kick.
- Each team takes five (5) shots, alternately. The team scoring the most goals wins.
- If the score is tied after five (5) shots by each team, the taking of shots continues, alternating, until one team scores and the other team does not.
- Other than the shooter and the two (2) goalkeepers, all eligible players must remain in the center circle while the shots are in progress.

A match that has been canceled by the Tournament Committee will be awarded a 0-0 tie.

If a team withdraws from the Tournament prior to a semi-final or championship match, the next place team in that bracket will replace the withdrawn team in the match. If that team is unavailable, the next place team after that will replace them. Tiebreakers will be determined as outlined above.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, the referee or Tournament Committee will have the authority to change matches as follows:

1. Relocate or reschedule any match(s).
2. Change the duration of any match(s).
3. Cancel any preliminary match(s) that have no bearing on the selection of division winners.
4. Preliminary matches terminated after one half of play because of weather shall be considered official as of the time of termination.
5. Cancel the Tournament in part or whole.

6. Any team disregarding a decision by the referees and/or the Tournament Committee to either suspend or cancel tournament play, will be disqualified for the remainder of the Tournament and team entry fees will be forfeited. Additionally, Mountain Road Soccer will file a written complaint with that team's National State Association.

Unless notified by a member of the Tournament Committee, coaches and their teams must appear on the field of play, as scheduled, ready to play. Failure to appear will result in forfeiture of the match. Only the referee or Tournament Committee can cancel or delay a match. Weather related delays will be posted on the tournament web site.

In the event inclement weather forces cancellation of a match after at least half of regulation time has been played, the match shall be considered official and the score at the point of cancellation shall be the final score. If a match must be stopped before halftime, the Tournament Committee will rule on its rescheduling. Such a game may be temporarily halted and resumed, picking up where play stopped. Regardless of weather conditions, coaches and their team **MUST** appear on the field, ready to play, as scheduled, unless otherwise officially notified.

FORFEITS

- Game time is forfeit time. Teams not ready to play at their scheduled time will forfeit their match. A minimum of seven (7) players for U12 through U18 and five (5) players for U9 through U11 constitutes a team, and if the minimum number of players is present, the match may begin. If during the course of the match a team falls below the minimum number of players, the match will be forfeited to their opponent.
- Any team that has forfeited a match may not be awarded a division winner or wild card team. If an apparent group winner forfeits, the group team with the next best record will be named the division winner.
- A forfeit shall be recorded as a 1-0 match.
- A forfeit in the preliminary rounds shall be awarded as three (3) points for the win. For tie breaking purposes, a one (1) goal differential point will be awarded. No refunds will be issued to a forfeiting team.
- Forfeiting teams are responsible for the referee fees for **both teams**.

GENERAL

- Harassment of Officials, Tournament Staff and/or Tournament Officials by Coaches, players and/or spectators will not be tolerated. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to impose sanctions and/or penalties for this kind of conduct, including removal of offending party from the field and/or complex site. These sanctions and/or penalties cannot be appealed.
- The Tournament Committee or any individuals associated with the Mountain Road Soccer Tournament will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team (including tournament entry fees) in the event the Tournament is canceled in whole or in part.
- The Tournament Committee's interpretation of these rules shall be final.
- The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decide on all matters pertaining to this Tournament.
- The Tournament Committee, based on these rules, will determine the teams to advance into the final rounds.
- Players are not allowed to play for more than one team in the Tournament.
- Referee fees will be paid, in cash, on the field, prior to the start of the match.
- Smoking is not permitted at any field sites.
- No alcoholic beverages are permitted at game sites.
- Mechanical noisemakers are prohibited.
- Concessions sales must be approved by the Tournament Committee, in advance.