

## 2024 EFC Spring Invitational Tournament Information Packet and Law Modifications

### **Section A: Code of Conduct**

Harassment of the officials from coaches, spectators or players will not be tolerated.

#### 1. Sideline Organization:

a. Both teams will sit on the same side of the field. Only coaches, team managers, and trainers may stay on the player's sideline.

b. Spectators are permitted on the opposite side of the field from the coaches and players and are limited to being in the designated area from penalty box to penalty box.

c. No spectators are allowed behind the goal areas.

#### 2. Sideline Behavior:

a. Any player or coach ordered off the field by the referee for misconduct may be suspended from at least the next game, as determined by the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee shall review each incident based on the report of the referee. The Tournament Committee's decision with respect to any suspension shall not be subject to review or appeal.

### **Section B. Administration**

#### 1. US Teams Check-in/Registration Requirements (all online, player cards at each game)

a. Copy of official roster; either USYS State Association or US Club Soccer

b. Copy of Guest Player Roster (if applicable)

1) Roster provided by team's state association, or

2) Roster provided by tournament (see registration information on tournament website)

c. Permission to Travel paperwork.

1) Not Required for US Club Soccer teams

2) Required for all USYS teams that are not from Kentucky

d. Copies of player / coach passes; either USYS State Association or US Club Soccer

1) Copies of player passes for guest players if applicable.

2) Originals may be requested by referees prior to each game.

### **Section C: IFAB Laws of the Game (LOTG) Modifications.**

All matches will be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game unless otherwise modified as stated below.

## 1. The Field of Play.

a. The Tournament Director has the right to make any changes or modifications to the fields and/or goals. All decisions of the Tournament Director are final.

### b. Build out Line.

1) U9 - U10 matches will use a build out line, which will be the **half-way line** for this tournament.

2) The build out line promotes playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting. When the goalkeeper has the ball in his or her hands during play from the opponent, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play.

3) Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw, or roll the ball into play (punts and drop kicks are not allowed). After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the buildout line and play resumes as normal.

4) The opposing team must also move behind the buildout line during a goal kick until the ball is put into play.

5) Ideally, the goalkeeper will wait to put the ball into play once all opponents are past the build out line. However, the goalkeeper can put the ball into play sooner but he or she accepts the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes.

6) To support the intent of the development rule, coaches and referees should be mindful of any intentional delays being caused by opponents not retreating in a timely manner or encroaching over the build out line prior to the ball being put into play. Coaches are responsible for addressing these types of issues with their players. Referees can manage the situation with misconduct if deemed appropriate. Referees should be flexible when enforcing the 6 second rule and counting the time of possession should only begin when all opponents have moved behind the buildout line.

## 2. The Ball

a. U9-U12 matches utilize size 4 ball.

b. U13-U19 matches utilize size 5 ball.

## 3. The Players

a. U9-U10 matches will be 7 v 7. Teams are limited to 14 players identified at registration.

b. U11-U12 matches will be 9 v 9. Teams are limited to 18 players identified at registration.

c. U13-U19 teams are limited to 22 players identified at registration.

d. Three (3) guest players per team will be permitted for all age groups. Players may not participate with more than one team in this tournament.

e. Teams not on the field ready to play with a minimum of 7 eligible players (U11-U19), 5 eligible players (U9-U10) at the scheduled game time will forfeit the match at the discretion of the tournament director. Forfeited scores will be counted 4 – 0. Teams forfeiting games will not be able to advance to the playoff rounds.

g. Substitutions will be unlimited for both teams and at the discretion of the referee.

#### 4. The Player's Equipment

a. Team listed first is the designated Home Team and must change jerseys when the referee determines a conflict to exist. However, as a matter of protocol, **home teams are expected to wear their light uniforms and away teams are expected to wear their dark uniform.**

b. Casts, splints or body braces made of a hard substance in its final form such as leather, rubber, plastic, plaster or fiberglass must be covered on all exterior surfaces with no less than 1/2 inch thick, high density polyurethane, or an alternate material of the same thickness and similar physical properties to protect the injury. A medical release for the injured player signed by a licensed physician must be available at the game site. **Players may not play with these casts without the approval of the Referee.**

c. No metal-rimmed glasses or jewelry of any kind will be permitted. **This includes hair beads that are not secured to the player's head.**

#### 5. The Referee. **No Change.**

#### 6. The Other Match Officials

a. U9-U10 matches shall have 1 referee only, no assistant referees.

#### 7. The Duration of the Match

a. U9-U10 matches will be 25-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime.

b. U11-U12 matches will be 30-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime.

c. U13-U16 matches will be 35-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime.

d. U17-U19 matches will be 40-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime.

#### 8. The Start and Restart of Play. **No Change**

#### 9. The Ball in and Out of Play. **No Change**

#### 10. Determining the outcome of a Match.

a. No overtime in preliminary games. Preliminary games can end in a tie.

b. OVERTIME – Overtime rules will be in effect for Championship games (Semi-Finals and Finals) only. For championship games – Two five-minute overtime periods will be played with "Golden Goal" rule. A team scores, they win! If a Championship game is still tied at the end of the overtime periods, the winner will be determined by penalty kicks. Only those players on the field at the end of the second overtime are eligible for penalty kicks.

11. Offside. **No Change**

12. Fouls and Misconduct

a. The decisions of the referee regarding the application of the Laws of the Game are final.

b. "No Heading" Rule for all U11 and younger games. Players are prohibited from deliberately striking a soccer ball with any portion of their head (aka heading). The rule is as follows:

1) If a U11 or younger player engages in heading a soccer ball during the tournament the parents /guardians and the player accept the risk and/or peril of doing so.

2) When a player deliberately strikes the ball with his/her head during the tournament, Referees and Assistant Referees of that game must consider the act to be Dangerous Play and handle the matter accordingly as an infraction of the laws of the games.

3) An indirect free kick (IFK) is awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the infraction. If the infraction is within the goal area, the IFK should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infraction occurred.

4) If the ball makes contact with the player's head and the player has not deliberately played or attempted to play the ball, they play should continue as if no infraction has occurred.

5) A player shall not be cautioned nor sent-off for persistent infringement, because of a heading infraction. A player shall not be cautioned or sent off for denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity because of a heading infraction.

c. "No Punting / Drop Kicking" Rule for U9/U10.

1) If keeper punting occurs the restart is an Indirect free kick (IFK) to the opposing team at the spot of the offense. If the offense occurs within the goal area, the IFK is to be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

c. Misconduct.

1) A player receiving a red card, including a second yellow, during a match will not be permitted to play in his/her team's next match.

2) If the severity of the red card offense justifies it, a player may be suspended from playing in the next two matches. The decision to impose a two-match suspension shall be made by the Tournament Director and the Referee Coordinator.

3) If a player receives a red card in the team's final match, it will be returned to his/her team and a report sent to the correct state's Youth Soccer Association. Any further penalty shall be at the discretion of the team's host organization.

13. Free Kicks. **No Change.**

14. The Penalty Kick. **No Change.**

15. The Throw-In. **No Change**

16. The Goal Kick. **No Change.**

17. The Corner Kick. **No Change.**

### **Section C. Inclement Weather.**

1. Please check the web page for all updates.

2. The Tournament Rules Committee reserves the right to make changes to the schedule in the event of inclement weather. These changes may include relocation or rescheduling of matches, change of division structure, reduction of the duration of a match, or even cancellation of matches.

3. In the event of inclement weather forcing play to be suspended and preventing the match from being completed during the scheduled time, the score shall stand if at least one-half of the match has been completed. If a Match cannot be completed at all during the event it will be marked as a 0-0 result. The tournament director and facility managers shall have the sole final decision on field closure. See Severe Weather Policy for more info.

### **Section E. Refund Policy**

1. If the application is accepted then teams acknowledge that their payment will be deposited upon acceptance and if payment is refused, application may be revoked, and teams acknowledge that 1) Payment must be made prior to first game due to Covid. 2) Application must be reviewed by tournament directors before the team is accepted. 3) Submitting an application does not guarantee acceptance 4) If application is not accepted team will receive a full refund and a letter of notification.

### **Section F. Establishing the Divisions and Rules for Advancement**

1. Placement of Division: Divisions will be placed at the discretion of the tournament committee. U9-15 will have 1st and 2nd place winners.

2. Game Points:

- 3 points for a win
- 1 point for a tie
- 0 points for a loss

3. Tie Breakers:

- a. Head to Head
- b. Goal Differential (max 4 goals per game)
- c. Goals Against
- d. Goals For
- e. Most Shut-outs
- f. Penalty Shoot-Outs at first field availability and as determined by the tournament director. If

three or more teams are tied, the criteria are followed from 1 through 5 until one team is eliminated and then the criteria starts over again at Rule #2. Rules are repeated until one team remains. The decision of the tournament director shall be final on all questions regarding advancement.

### **Section G. Protest:**

1. Protests: There will be no protests. All officiating decisions are final.

2. Exceptions: The Tournament Director reserves the right to modify any rule/regulations at any time with or without notice.