

The following rules and procedures apply to U8-U12 teams participating in Loudoun Soccer End-of-Season events.

A. Age and Eligibility: Competition is open to all teams of Loudoun Soccer registered and rostered players during the period associated with the Tournament. SFL league players are not permitted. Guest players are permitted by prior approval of the Tournament Director. Players must be currently registered Loudoun Soccer players. These players are assigned before the tournament and listed on the roster. Any team using players who played on a different Loudoun Soccer team during the season without permission of the tournament director will forfeit all games which they have taken part in. Travel Players are not permitted.

B. Laws of the Game: All Rules and Regulations stipulated by FIFA and adjusted to Loudoun Soccer standards will apply, just as they were during the regular season. Consult your rulebook for any questions.

C. Field of Play: Field sizes will vary according to age groups and field availability. Assigned fields may change at the discretion of the Tournament Director or Site Coordinator.

D. Equipment:

1. Ball. - The size of the ball used will be as follows: Size 3: U8, Size 4: U9 - U12

2. Uniforms - All teams are required to play in Loudoun Soccer Jerseys. The home team will play in red, the visiting team in white. Home team is listed first on the schedule. Players will be allowed to wear sweatshirts or sweat pants underneath their uniforms, as long as the colors do not interfere with the opposing team.

E. Referees: If the referee does not arrive on time, the Field Coordinator will attempt to locate a referee. If a referee cannot be found, the game may be played with a volunteer referee agreed upon by both coaches. If the assigned referee arrives, the game may be turned over to him or her at a stoppage of play or at a break in action (quarter/halftime breaks) after establishing the score and time remaining.

F. Assistant Referees: Each team is required to provide a volunteer linesman for a side of the field if an official assistant referee is not assigned. The referee will determine who will be assigned to which side.

G. Duration of the Game:

All games will be in accordance with Loudoun Soccer policy as referenced below:

U8-U10: 4 Quarters of 10 minutes

U11-U12: 2 Halves of 25 minutes * this is a change for U12

Once the game has commenced, the Referee will not stop the game clock for any reason and no time may be added to the duration of any game. Should an injury occur, the game clock would continue to run while the injured player is being treated. Should a scheduled break in action (quarter or halftime) be reached prior to the resumption of play, the referee will declare a break in action and measure the required break

time interval. The Tournament Director may shorten a game length at their discretion to keep the tournament on schedule.

H. Fouls and Misconduct:

1. The goalkeeper may not be charged.
2. When a player is ejected, the offending team may replace this player. **Please Note: Since this is a House Tournament, substitution will be permitted for a player ejected by the referee (red card or equivalent) at the time of ejection.** This will allow teams to play at full strength and give other players a chance to participate. Additionally, an ejected player is disqualified from the remainder of the game and the next game in which that player's team participates.

I. Conduct of Players, Coaches and Spectators:

The two teams will be positioned on one side of the field and all spectators will be located on the opposite side of the field. All coaches and substitutes must stay within 10 yards of the midfield line. All spectators must stay between the 18 yard lines and 3 yards behind the touchline. No one will be permitted behind the goal line.

Players are expected to conduct themselves within the spirit as well as the letter of the Laws of the Game. Displays of temper or dissent by word or action against an opponent or referee will be dealt with severely by the referee or tournament officials. Violent conduct or serious foul play will be cause for ejection. An ejected player is disqualified from the remainder of the game and the next game in which that player's team participates.

Coaches are also expected to conduct themselves within the spirit as well as the letter of the Laws of the Game. Displays of temper or dissent by word or action against an opponent, referee or tournament official will be dealt with severely by the referee or tournament officials. Coaches, who during a single game, receive two cautions or are sent off (ejected from a game) will leave the tournament site immediately. In addition, that coach will not be permitted to be present at any tournament sites until the team he or she was coaching at the time of the ejection has finished playing its next scheduled game. Should the coach be coaching other teams participating in the tournament, he or she will be barred from appearing at any tournament site for the other team's games until the team he or she was coaching at the time of their ejection has completed its next scheduled game.

Spectators will conduct themselves in a gentlemanly and sportsmanlike manner. If a coach was ejected as a result of a spectator's conduct, the same penalties shall be applied to the spectator as the coach. **Please Note: Coaches will be held responsible for the conduct of their spectators.**

Ungentlemanly or violent conduct by substitutes, coaches or spectators will be reported to the local soccer association. Teams and/or individuals guilty of behavior detrimental to referees or tournament officials will be barred from participating in the tournament the following year.

J. Failure to Appear and Forfeits: Teams must be at the field and ready to start play at the scheduled time. If the minimum number of players cannot be assembled, the start of play may be delayed. A grace period, after the scheduled starting time, not to exceed 10 minutes will be allowed. When the grace period expires, a forfeit will be declared by tournament officials and the game awarded to the opposing team. Forfeits will be recorded as a 3-0 win. No team forfeiting a game is eligible for first or runner-up in their respective division.

K. Game Reports/cards: Both coaches and the referee will immediately sign the Game Card in the Field Coordinator Book. This card will be used to record yellow and red cards as well as the score of the game. The winning coach will report the score to the scorer's table. In case of a tie the home team is responsible for reporting the score.

L. Inclement Weather: In the event of inclement weather, Tournament Officials reserve the right to adjust playing time or cancel games according to field conditions. The Referee, in consultation with the Field Marshall, will decide if individual games are to be halted due to unsafe field conditions. If the Referee determines the fields are unsafe to play, his/her decision is final.

The Field Marshall, in conjunction with the Tournament Committee, will decide if games are to be halted, postponed, or rescheduled on a site-wide basis (e.g. due to adverse weather or field conditions). The Tournament Committee also reserves the right to make the following changes:

1. Relocate and/or reschedule any game.
2. Reduce up to 50% the scheduled duration of any game. Games will be played as 4 six-minute quarters.
3. In the event of major weather problems, entire age group competitions may be cancelled.
4. In the event inclement weather forces cancellation of a game after at least half of regulation time has been played, the game shall be considered official and the score at the point of cancellation shall be the final score.

If the entire tournament must be cancelled, partial refunds will be given to teams, based on expenses already incurred. These include lining the fields, referee assignments and administrative costs. Please be patient in finding out about refunds. Information will be posted on the website as well as emailed to coaches. If you have any doubts as to the status of tournament games, please call the Loudoun Soccer hotline at 703-777-5897 for the latest tournament information. Regardless of weather conditions, coaches and their players must be available at the site, ready to play, at the scheduled time unless Tournament Officials have suspended competition. Failure to appear will result in forfeiture of the game. Only Tournament Officials may cancel or postpone a game.

M. General Rules

1. Tournament Officials: The Tournament Officials shall decide upon all matters pertaining to the tournament. The Officials' interpretation of these rules of play and participation shall be final. The tournament director reserves the right to forfeit a game for unsportsmanlike conduct by the team coaches, players, or parents.

2. Tournament Awards: Awards will be presented for Champion and Finalist in each division of competition. There will be one award for each player. The award presentation will take place at the Loudoun Soccer Tournament Booth after completion of divisional play for U8 and after each final played for U9 and above.

3. Abandonment of Matches: Tournament Officials shall decide the outcome of any match abandoned by the referee for reasons other than inclement weather. If abandonment results from the conduct of one or both teams, the Tournament Officials, after consulting with the referee, shall determine the outcome and any disciplinary measures. No points will be awarded toward final determination for the responsible team(s). Should termination occur during a final match, no awards will be given to the team(s) judged responsible.

4. Cancellation of Games: Should it be necessary to cancel preliminary round games prior to their official completion for any reason, Tournament Officials shall restructure the tournament competition to provide an equitable basis for completing the competition and determining division champs. Restructuring actions may include disregarding games already completed during a round of play if all cancelled games scheduled in that round for the division or flight cannot be rescheduled.

5. Games Ending in A Tie Score:

a) U8 Festival - Ties will stand at the end of regulation play for all games.

b) U9-U12 Tournaments - Ties will stand at the end of regulation play for all preliminary games. For final games, following a 5-minute break, two complete overtime periods of 5 minutes will be played. There is no sudden death during this time. If the match remains tied at the end of the overtime period, Co-Champions will be declared in that division. No penalty kicks will be taken to determine the Champions of a division.

6. Division Standings (U9-U12): After the preliminary round games are considered complete, teams will be ranked in order of points earned for wins and ties. Points awarded will be:

Three (3) points for each win (also applies to a win by forfeit)

One (1) point for each tie

Zero (0) points for a loss

7. Tournament Tiebreakers:

a) U8 Festival -When determining Champions and Finalists by way of points, tie-breaking procedures established in the General Rules 1-6 will be utilized. In the event there is still a tie after the tie-breaking methods are applied, Co-Champions will be named in that division. There will be no final games.

b) U9-U12 Tournament - When determining the teams who shall participate in the Final games, tie-breaking procedures established in the General Rules will be utilized.

c) Tiebreakers

- 1) Winner of head to head competition 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.)
 - 2) Most wins.
 - 3) Team with highest goal differential. (example: a team wins by a score of 5-3 receives 2 bonus points) A maximum differential of three goals per match will be counted. Therefore a blowout is NOT necessary.
 - 4) Fewest Red and Yellow cards received.
 - 5) Least number of goals allowed.
 - 6) Most shutouts.
 - 7) Penalty Kicks in accordance with FIFA rules. (for U9-U12 ONLY)
8. Parking: Local Law Enforcement Officials have been notified about the Tournament. They will be enforcing "NO PARKING" areas for safety considerations. The Tournament Officials have worked hard to create a good neighbor policy with business, public and private establishments around the tournament sites, so please respect their rights. This will allow us to continue our use of these sites.
9. Disclaimer: The Tournament Committee, Loudoun Youth Soccer Association and the Virginia Youth Soccer Association will not be responsible for any expense incurred by any team, club or individual if the tournament is cancelled in whole or part.
10. Protests are not allowed.