



# **TOURNAMENT RULES**

Arizona Soccer Club warmly welcomes you! Thank you for the opportunity to host you during a great weekend of soccer in the Southeast Valley! We are excited to have this opportunity to partner with you to continue a lasting Arizona Soccer tradition for your athletes that inspire a sense of P.R.I.D.E. in our community. **Passion - Respect - Integrity - Discipline -Excellence**

Our hope is to provide soccer players and their families with a fun and memorable weekend. This rules document contains important information about the tournament. Please read and understand them before arriving.

### **Match Play**

1. All games will be played under FIFA rules as modified by US Youth Soccer/ASA unless otherwise stated in these rules. The Tournament Director or site representative will settle all rules disputes. Tournament rules may be modified by the Tournament Committee.

2. **Under-7 / Under -8** will be played in accordance with the modified playing rules for Academy Teams.

a. The maximum number of players on the field will be four (4).

b. The match will be divided into (4) 10-minute Quarters with a 5-minute halftime.

c. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the player(s).

d. All free kicks shall be indirect kicks. A goal may not be scored until the ball has been touched by a 2nd player from either team.

e. All fouls will result in an indirect free kick with the opponents 6 yards away.

f. No offside will be called.

g. No penalty kicks will be taken during the match for fouls.

h. There are no scores kept for Academy teams.

i. No referees are provided for U7/U8 games, Coaches must work together to referee the match

3. **Under-9 / Under -10** will be played in accordance with the modified playing rules for Academy Teams.

a. The maximum number of players on the field will be seven (7), one of whom may be a goalkeeper.

b. The match will be divided into (2) 25-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime.

c. Offsides will be called beyond the build out line.

d. Minimum number of players to start a game is 5.

e. Scores are kept.

4. A team playing **11 a-side** must have a minimum of seven (7) players available at the start of the game and during the game to avoid a forfeit. Teams playing in 9 a-side must have at least six (6) players present. Teams failing to meet this minimum requirement at any point in the match will forfeit the match.

5. Coaches should be prepared to start the game on time. Five minutes after the official game start time is forfeit time. Tournament officials may waive this rule, if in their opinion it is in the best interest to play the game. In the event of a delay in the start of a game, the game may be shortened to allow the game to finish as scheduled.

6. Headers - Heading is NOT allowed in age groups Under-11 and younger. If, during a match, a header is performed in these age groups play will be stopped and resumed with an indirect kick for the opposing team.

7. Team bracket shall be as follows:

Age Bracket	Halves (each)	Half Time	Format	Ball Size
U13-U19	35 mins	5 mins	11v11	5
U11-U12	30 mins	5 mins	9v9	4
U9-U10	25 mins	5 mins	7v7 w/ GK	4
U7-U8	10 min qtrs	5 mins	4v4 NO GK	3

8. Unlimited substitutions will be permitted with the Referee's permission at any stoppage of play.

### 9. Forfeits

- a. Teams failing to check-in prior to the start of the match may, at the discretion of the Tournament Committee, will forfeit the match. To be awarded a forfeit win, the opposing team must be present and ready to play. In the event of a forfeit the match score will be recorded as a 3-0 win.
- b. If a team forfeits during a game (usually due to a rule violation) the opposing team, if losing at the time, will be awarded a 3-0 win. If the opposing team is winning the score will stand as is.

### Pre-Tournament Check-In

All teams must provide player/coach credentials at the Tournament Check-In prior to the start of the tournament. Arizona Soccer Club is using an online check-in process for the Tournament. All check-in documents are due by the date and time listed for each tournament on the AZSC website. If for some reason any portion of your check-in uploads are not accepted, you will be notified by Arizona Soccer Club Staff.

1. The following documents are required to be uploaded. Players may not play without this documentation being turned in.

- a. Current Copies of Player Pass
- b. Signed Medical Release must be available at the fields. (R002 form for US Club passed teams)
- c. Travel Permission Papers (If required by your State Association)
- d. Loan Paperwork (If applicable, up to 5 total loan players) Loan forms must be properly signed by the required parties must be submitted for each loan or guest player, as required by the team's sanctioning organization. Players loaning within the same club do not need loan forms. Players loaning to a different club must have loan forms.

2. To upload your documents please follow the procedures found on the tournament website.

- a. Log into your GotSport account
- b. Select the Team Management tab
- c. Select the appropriate team
- d. Select the Team Registrations tab
- e. Select the appropriate event
- f. Select the Registration Tab
- g. Then press the edit button
- h. You will then be able to upload the necessary documents

i. Please note that you will only be able to upload one document per section

3. Rosters are frozen once a team completes the online check-in process.

### Player Eligibility

1. Official team rosters must be verified and approved by the Tournament Committee at the pre-tournament check-in prior to the start of the tournament.
2. Only players who are officially registered or loaned to a team may play in the Tournament and must have a player pass with a photo of the player. See section below for the maximum number of loan players.
3. All participating players, regardless of the number of games to be played, must be listed on the official team roster prior to the start of a team's first game of the tournament. Players will not be added to the roster after the start of the first game. **No write ins will be allowed.**
4. No player may play for more than one team in the tournament. If any player is found playing for more than one team, and either team won its game, the game will be forfeited. If either team lost the game, the existing score would stand. Under both conditions, the player will not be allowed to play for the remainder of the tournament.
5. Player's playing age is determined by the following chart for 2024-2025. A player is not allowed to play down. The tournament committee will decide and inform the requesting team 2 weeks prior to check in. The tournament is under no obligation to grant approval for playing down.
6. Teams with loan players must not exceed the maximum roster limit.

Age	Format	Maximum Roster	Maximum Suited Up	Maximum Loan Players
U7	4v4	8	8	4
U8	4v4	8	8	4
U9	7v7	12	12	5
U10	7v7	12	12	5
U11	9v9	16	16	6
U12	9v9	16	16	6
U13	11v11	22	18	7
U14	11v11	22	18	7
U15	11v11	22	18	7
U16	11v11	22	18	7
U17	11v11	22	18	7
U19	11v11	22	18	7

### No Sunday Play Teams

1. All Tournament Games will be played on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday
2. Semi-final and final games will be played on Sunday.
3. If a No Sunday Play team makes it to a Sunday scheduled semi-final or final game, they will be eliminated from the tournament and the next highest-ranking team in the bracket will be placed into the semi-final or final game in their place.

## **Pre-Match Check-In**

1. Teams must present player passes to the referee prior to the start of each.
2. Players must be match ready at check-in with the referee including correct uniform, shin guards and cleats. Metal cleats are not allowed. Objects such as jewelry metal barrettes, bobby pins, bows, etc. must be removed prior to play.
3. If a player not on the official game roster is found participating in a game, the game will be forfeited per tournament rules. The player will not be allowed to play for the remainder of the tournament.
4. Players wearing an orthopedic or immobilizing cast may not be allowed to play. Final decision on whether the item presents a hazard to any player will be up to the referee.

## **Tournament Play Formats**

### **Four (4) team bracket**

One (1) group of four (4) teams. Each team will play the other teams in their group once, for a total of 3 games. The winner and second place is determined by points. If needed, tie breaker criteria will be used to determine the winner.

### **Five (5) team bracket**

One (1) group of five (5) teams. Each team will play the other teams in their group once, for a total of 4 games. The winner and second place is determined by points. If needed, tie breaker criteria will be used to determine the winner.

### **Six (6) team bracket Academy:**

Two (2) groups of 3 teams; Bracket A and Bracket B. Teams will play the other three (3) teams in the opposite bracket. No Final.

### **Six (6) team bracket 9u-19u:**

Two (2) groups of 3 teams; Bracket A and Bracket B. Teams will play the other three (3) teams in the opposite bracket. The top two teams in the overall division standings will meet in a Final. Clarification – NOT A1 vs B1 – it is overall points across all 6 teams.

### **Seven (7) team bracket**

Bracket A (4 teams) has each team playing the other three. Bracket B (3 teams) does the same. In Bracket A, each team will have played 3 games, Bracket B each team will have played 2 games. Championship: 1<sup>st</sup> in A vs 1st in B, 3rd Place 2nd in A vs 2nd in B, and a Consolation 3rd in A vs 3rd in B. If needed, tiebreaker criteria will be used to determine the teams advancing to the final.

### **Eight (8) team bracket**

Two (2) groups of four (4) teams. Each team will play the other teams in their group once. The winner of each group shall advance to finals. If needed, tiebreaker criteria will be used to determine the teams advancing to the final.

## **Conduct and Sportsmanship**

1. A player receiving a red card, or two yellow cards will be ejected from the current game and may not be replaced. Red card suspensions will be reported to ASA. The tournament red card

sanctions will mirror the ASA Red Card Suspension Standards. Red cards must be cleared by ASA in GotSport for return from suspension. It is the team's responsibility to work with ASA to clear suspension.

<b>OFFENSE</b>	<b>MIN. SUSPENSION FOR PLAYERS</b>	<b>MIN. SUSPENSION FOR TEAM OFFICIALS</b>
Second Caution	1 game	2 games
Foul or Abusive Language directed at someone other than a match official	1 game	2 games
Serious Foul Play- Denies a goal or an opponent a goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball	1 games	N/A
Serious Foul Play- Denies a goal or an opponent a goal scoring opportunity by a committing a foul punishable by a free kick committed in a non-dangerous way (example pulling a jersey)	1 game	N/A
Serious Foul Play- other than above	2 games	N/A
Violent Conduct- Pushing, Striking, Spitting or retaliation	3 games	4 games & maybe referred to ASA disciplinary committee
Foul or abusive language directed at a match official	3 games	4 games & maybe referred to ASA disciplinary committee
Abusive language (Discrimination)- prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, age, sex, or religion	3 games	4 games & maybe referred to ASA disciplinary committee
2nd Offense Violent Conduct or Serious Foul Play (other category)	4 games & maybe referred to ASA disciplinary committee	5 games & maybe referred to ASA disciplinary committee
3rd Offense Violent Conduct or Serious Foul Play (other category)	5 games & maybe referred to ASA disciplinary committee	6 games & maybe referred to ASA disciplinary committee
Pushing, Striking or Spitting at a Match Official (A Match Official shall be defined as referee, assistant referee, referee assignor, referee administrator, tournament staff including volunteers, tournament director)	3 games & maybe referred to ASA disciplinary committee	4 games & maybe referred to ASA disciplinary committee
Coaches/team officials who are ejected from a match for Irresponsible Team/Bench Behavior	N/A	2 games

2. A coach ejected from the game, whether by red card or referee expulsion, shall leave the field to the satisfaction of the referee. Coaches who either refuse to leave or deliberately continue to coach after ejection (including but not limited to using a cell phone or proxy coach), will forfeit the game.
3. The Tournament Committee will determine the length of suspension as directed by SAAZ guidelines for players and coaches and notify the team prior to the next game. There are no appeal options and all decisions are final. In the event a player or coach is ejected from the game for fighting, that player or coach will not be permitted to play in the remainder of the tournament.

4. If a coach is ejected and there are no remaining registered assistant coaches and or a team manager with a valid laminated sanctioned pass, the team will forfeit the game. A parent or spectator who is not officially registered on the team and does not have a valid laminated pass cannot coach the team.
5. The team of any player or coach that receives a red card shall receive minus one point against their tournament standings.
6. Coaches have complete responsibility for the conduct of their players and all sideline spectators. Referees will have complete authority immediately before, during, and immediately after games, and will not allow abusive or profane language or threats of any kind. If, in the opinion of the referee, a game must be terminated due to misconduct, the offending team shall be declared to have forfeited the game per the tournament rules.
7. All last game ejections whether by red card or not, are forwarded to the ASA Disciplinary Committee for review. The ASA Disciplinary Committee will respond directly to these expulsions. Passes withheld following the last game will be sent to the ASA office with exception of Out of State and US Club Soccer passes.

### **Home and Away Responsibilities**

1. Coaches and Team Officials are responsible for ensuring team players and parents adhere to all guidelines and tournament rules.
2. Teams will sit on opposite sides of the field from each other. Teams will sit behind the Assistant Referee, with spectators sitting on the same side as their teams but to the left of the midline. Spectators will sit a minimum of five (5) yards back from the touchline when facilities permit. No spectators on the team sidelines or behind the goals. Each coach is responsible for the behavior of their spectators. The Referee has the option, but not the obligation to display a yellow or red card to a coach, team official or bench personnel for irresponsible behavior or for the irresponsible behavior of its spectators or sideline.
  - a. At Mansel Carter (academy) Teams will sit on the same side and parents on the opposite.
3. Benches and canopies will not be provided, and it is the responsibility of each team to provide their own bench and canopy.
4. The home team chooses direction and away team kicks-off.
5. Managers/Coaches agree to ensure that all players are listed on the tournament roster, are properly carded, checked in and equip.
6. Teams must exit the field within 5 minutes after games to maintain tournament schedules.

### **7. Team Requirements**

#### **Home Team**

- a. Light color jersey\*
- b. Must change jerseys in case of a color conflict.
- c. Will take the North or West half of Player's sideline, unless specified otherwise.
- d. Will clean up their side of the field.
- e. Will provide 3 game balls for the match

#### **Visiting Team**

- a. Dark color jersey\*
- b. C. Will take the South or East half of Player's sideline, unless specified otherwise.
- c. Will clean up their side of the field.

8. Coaches are asked to be flexible in case a team (usually a recreational team) has only one color of jersey. The tournament site director may decide the visitor must change color if the home team has only one color of jersey.

### **Scoring**

1. Final team standings will be determined using the following point criteria:
  - a. A WIN is three (3) points.
  - b. A TIE is one (1) point.
  - c. A LOSS is zero (0) points.
  - f. Minus one (1) point for each red card issued to a player or coach during a match.
  - g. In the case of a shootout, the score shall be recorded as 1-0.

At the end of each game the coach **MUST** verify and sign the game card. Once the game card is signed the score stands and will not be changed regardless of the circumstances including but not limited to a team's points, advancement, awards, etc.

2. Retrieve your player cards from the referee at the end of each game. The tournament is **NOT** responsible for cards left behind during the day or overnight.
3. TIES (Bracket Play)
  - a. If two or more teams are tied in points at the end of the preliminary (bracket games, the following tie-breaker criteria shall apply:
    - i. The winner in head-to-head competition
    - ii. Highest goal differential [goals scored - goals allowed]
      1. Goals for Limit = 4 per game
      2. Goals against limit = 4 per game
      3. Goal differential limit = 4 per game
    - iii. Fewest Goals allowed (maximum of four (4) per game)
    - iv. Most Goals scored
    - v. Most Shutouts
    - vi. Penalty Shootout
  - b. In the event of a 3-way tie at the end of bracket play, the winner for advancement to a Final will be determined as above without consideration for comparison of head-to-head competition to eliminate one team. Then advancement for the remaining two teams is determined as above with consideration for head-to-head competition.  
If three teams are still tied and FIFA Kicks have to be taken there will be a draw by the Tournament Committee or site director. The first team drawn will receive the bye; the next team drawn will be the home team against the remaining team in the first contest of penalty kicks. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in penalty kicks to determine the group winner. The bye team will be the home team.
4. TIES (Playoffs/Finals)
  - a. In the event a match is tied at the end of regulation in a semifinal or championship match, teams will go immediately into PK's There is not overtime.

### **Awards**

1. Participation medals will be awarded to all players in U7 through U10.
2. Placement medals will be awarded to all players on teams placing 1st or 2nd in U11 through U19.
3. A Tournament Trophy will be awarded to teams placing 1st in U11 through U19.

### **Protests, Disputes, Clarifications**

1. The tournament director, site director or tournament committee will settle all disputes. Once the information is reviewed and decision made, it is final and there will be no further discussion.

2. In the case of errors, missing information or confusion with any section of this document, Tournament Rules, the tournament director, site director or tournament committee will interpret, clarify and make all decisions for any issue, and all decisions are final.

3. Decisions will always be made in the spirit for the good of the game.

**4. Under no circumstances can or will the tournament director, site director, field marshal or tournament committee overrule a referee's game time call.**

### **Inclement Weather Policy**

In the event of inclement weather or other events which affect our ability to play as planned, the Tournament Committee may modify Tournament Rules to complete the tournament successfully safely and fairly. The Tournament Committee will make their decisions on what is best, considering the health and safety of the players.

AZSC utilizes city-provided fields for all play. During inclement weather, the cities will take into consideration the need to prevent the destruction of the fields and facilities. AZSC does not own the fields, nor does it have any authority over their usage. Coaches and team managers are asked to remain flexible to the changes in fields/locations as required and to keep in contact with tournament officials for these changes.

1. Play all games as scheduled.

2. Eliminate pre-game warm-up on fields.

3. Shorten matches.

4. Play at alternative sites.

5. In the event the field conditions are unplayable as determined by the Tournament Committee or the city, games in question may be decided by penalty kicks from the mark. (FIFA rules apply).

6. If matches are unable to continue due to any reason(s), tournament placement will be based upon the last fully completed round of play. Bracket tiebreakers will be used to satisfy any ties that remain. If bracket tiebreakers cannot resolve a tie, the Tournament Committee will utilize a coin toss to resolve the situation.

7. In the unlikely event of game cancellation(s) due to inclement weather, entry fees may be forfeited, in whole or in part. AZSC will make no guarantee of any refunds. However, AZSC recognizes the financial commitments of teams entering the tournament. As such, AZSC may, at its discretion, refund a portion of the entry fee(s) after all other expenses have been paid.

8. It is the team's responsibility to ensure appropriate phone numbers (preferably cell phones) and email addresses are entered into the team's tournament application. The Tournament Committee will utilize the tournament website, email, social media and sometimes telephone to communicate with teams in the event of changes to the schedule.

### **General Rules**

**NO SMOKING** allowed in the vicinity of the players.

**Parking:** Park in designated parking areas. Do not park along curbs. Curbs may be fire lanes and may not be painted red but have the identifying signage. No parking in desert areas. No overnight parking.

**Dogs:** Dog are not allowed in the vicinity of the fields. While city parks may allow dogs on or near the fields, this tournament does not.