TEAM ELIGIBILITY & PLAYER CRITERIA

The Academy Festival teams can consist of:
Boy and girl players in the U6 through U11 age groups, including:

- Recreational
- Recreational Select (Rec Plus)
- Academy
- Competitive

The Festival Teams will complete the tournament print roster with their players names, dates of birth and parent/guardian's signature. Teams should keep a copy of the completed Roster/Liability form with them for each match. The coach or manager must have the Signed Signature Roster on hand during the tournament and must at the request from tournament staff, supply the required Signature Roster and copy of birth certificates within fifteen (15) minutes of request, or the player and/or team in question will risk immediate disqualification from the tournament. This is non-negotiable.

Teams will be required to register and play in the age group shown reflecting the oldest player on the team, or teams may request to play up to one age group. Play-up requests will be evaluated by tournament officials with the final decision to grant such requests falling to the Tournament Director. Playing down will not be allowed. *Each player must be properly registered with a US Soccer Affiliate or be direct-registered prior to the tournament start date, through the Oklahoma Soccer Association link provided on the tournament website*. Player passes are not required. Players may play on multiple teams, but we will not schedule around individual players that are playing on multiple teams. The total number of roster team players cannot exceed the maximum roster limits shown below.

Age Group	Format	Entry Fee	Max Roster
U7/U8	4v4	$200	8
U9/10	7v7	$240	12
U11/12	9v9	$280	16
U13/19	11v11	$325	22

ACADEMY FESTIVAl RULES AND POLICIES

Team Check-In Requirements – The check-in procedure can be found onthe LSC website. www.lawtonsoccerclub.org

Seeding & Bracketing – The Academy Festival is a Friendly Tournament with printed rosters. The Bracketing Committee will pair teams based on the results information found on the listed coach's club/league websites or GotSport to determine team strength. The Committee will take care to avoid, when possible, having teams who normally play each other in league play being paired to play each other in the tournament. If a team withdraws after bracketing is complete, there will be no reseeding of brackets and games will be shown as forfeits. The tournament committee has the right to and may combine the following age groups together **U8**, **U9 & U10**, **U11 & U12**, **U13 & U14**, **U15 & U16**, **U17 & U18 & U19** or when possible, play each age bracket pure age. Coed teams will automatically be placed in the boy's division.

Game Schedules – Each team will be scheduled to play three (3) games. Scheduler will attempt to avoid conflicting games for coaches who identify that they are coaching multiple teams (via email to academy@lawtonsoccerclub.org). Schedules are published as early as possible to allow coaches time to review for conflicts, but due to the complexity of scheduling, there is no guarantee that all conflicts can be resolved. Coaches are encouraged to have a registered assistant coach present at the tournament.

Schedule Requests – The Academy Festival is a one/two-day tournament and no schedule requests will be allowed other than a request to avoid conflicting games by coaches coaching multiple teams.

Refunds/Cause for Dismissal/Application Acceptance – Any refund of registration fees is at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Bracketing, seeding, or schedules shall not be a basis for a refund request. No refund shall be provided to a team removed from the tournament due to disciplinary reasons or for providing false or misleading information at registration/check-in. Once a team is accepted the payment form will be charged for the registration fee. Failure to provide correct or adequate payment information will result in the application being dismissed or acceptance being delayed until the issue is corrected. In the event the tournament reaches capacity for an age group any applications with unresolved issues will be declined.

Flight Structure – Teams will be bracketed into three match schedules as determined by the Tournament Director. There are no championship matches.

Scoring – Scoring will not be published as all matches are friendlies. Tie Breakers – Tie breakers do not apply as scores will not be published.

Inclement Weather and Playing Conditions – Teams will be expected to play regardless of weather conditions. The Tournament Director will determine if playing conditions warrant the postponement or cancellation of any scheduled games. The Tournament Director has the authority to modify any and all tournament rules in order to safely and fairly end the tournament successfully. Referees shall retain the right to decide if safe playing conditions exist.

- **Lightning** – If lightning is detected, all games will be suspended and all players,

officials, and spectators will be required to leave the fields and take shelter, preferably in their personal vehicle. If possible, games will resume once lightning has cleared the area.

- **Rescheduled Games** – In the event games are rescheduled due to weather, it is the responsibility of the team's coach or manager to check with Tournament Director or the LSC website for reschedule information on the same day as the match is suspended.

- **Field Closures** – Refer to the LSC website homepage for field closures and live updates during delays.

- **Incomplete Matches** – Festival Matches will be considered complete if at least one half has elapsed, and play is terminated by the Field Referee or Tournament Director. The Festival Match score at stoppage of play will be considered the Festival Match final score. If one half of the Festival Match has not elapsed and the Festival Match is stopped, every effort will be made to reschedule the Festival Match.

- **Cancellation** – In the event the tournament is cancelled, either in whole or part, the Lawton Soccer Club is not responsible for any expenses incurred by any team. However, a portion of the entry fee may be refunded at the Tournament Director's discretion, after any outstanding tournament expenses are deducted.

Forfeits – If a scheduled team does not report for play within fifteen (10) minutes of the scheduled starting time, the match may be declared a forfeit.

Awards – Team trophies and player medals will not be awarded.

Uniforms and Player Equipment – The home team should wear white or light uniform and the away team should wear black or dark uniform. All members of the same team must wear jerseys of the same color, with the exception of the goalkeeper who will wear a different color to distinguish them from both teams and the referees.

Team shorts and socks should be of the same color.

- Each player on a team (with the exclusion of U6 players) must have a unique number on their jersey.
- In the event that both teams show up wearing the same or similar color jersey, it is the responsibility of the team in the wrong color, be it home or away, to change to an alternate color jersey. Home team should wear white or light uniform and away team should wear black or dark uniform.
- All players are required to wear shin guards with socks completely covering the shin guards.
- No player shall wear anything that is dangerous to their self or other players, including but not limited to rings, earrings, watches, necklaces, etc.
- Protective head gear, casts, and splints may be allowed if adequately padded and wrapped to prevent injury to another player and must be approved by the center referee.
- Players wearing medical devices are encouraged to check in with the referee staff prior to game time to allow adequate time for alterations.
- Please refer to FIFA Law IV for questions concerning player equipment. The center referee will have final authority as to what is allowed on the playing field.

FESTIVAL MATCH RULES

Rules of Play – Tournament matches will be played in accordance with current FIFA "Laws of the Game" as modified herein:

- Oklahoma Soccer Association Rules of Competition will apply to all matches unless otherwise noted.
- All players should play at least 50% of every game.
- US Youth Soccer guidelines for small-sided games will apply for all small-sided matches.

Kickoff – Kickoff will take place at the time shown on the tournament schedule. If a team is not present and ready to play within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled kickoff time, the match may be considered a forfeit.

Match Format/Length – All matches will be as shown below, conditions permitting. The Tournament Director reserves the right to shorten games in the event of inclement weather or other warranted conditions.

Age Group	Format	Ball Size	Offside	Game Length	Max Roster
U7/U8	4v4	3	No	Two 20-minute halves	8
U9/10	7v7	4	Yes	Two 20-minute halves	12
U11/12	9v9	4	Yes	Two 25-minute halves	16
U13/19	11v11	5	Yes	Two 30-minute halves	22

NOTE: The game clock will not stop except in the case where an injured player must be removed from the field by medical personnel. In the case of extreme hot or humid conditions, water breaks may be designated by the tournament director. The clock will not stop for water breaks.

Heading Rule: Players on U12 teams and younger shall not be allowed to head the ball. If a player deliberately heads the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the other team at the site of the penalty. (U12 competitive teams may head, if agreed upon by both coaches and center referee before the game starts.) Recreational teams playing in a competitive bracket shall adhere to competitive standards of play.

Substitutions:

- U6-U12 – At the referee's discretion, substitutions shall be unlimited and will be permitted at any stoppage of play. Substitutions at times other than halftime shall be made at the halfway line. Players may only enter the field with the permission of the Referee or Assistant Referee after the substituted player leaves the field.
- U13-U19 – Substitutions shall be unlimited. Substitutions at times other than halftime shall be made at the halfway line. Players may only enter the field with the permission of the Referee or Assistant Referee after the substituted player leaves the field. Substitutions may be made at the following times:
- Prior to a throw-in by either team (at referee's discretion).
- Prior to a goal kick by either team.

- Following a goal by either team.
- After an injury by either team, if the injured player is substituted. o After a caution is issued for the cautioned player only. (The opposing team may substitute an equal number of players)
- At half time.

Conclusion of Match/Reporting – At the conclusion of the match, the Field Referee shall complete the scorecard in detail and submit to the appropriate tournament staff within 30 minutes of completion of the match. The Tournament Committee will maintain an up-to-date list of all red and yellow cards issued during the tournament. A player that receives three (3) yellow cards will be prohibited from playing in the next scheduled game. A red-carded Player or Coach will receive an automatic one-game suspension and the Tournament Director will review continued participation. Field Referees will be notified if a team has an ineligible player or coach for their match.

Protests and Appeals – No protests or appeals will be heard.

Team Discipline – The Tournament Committee will uphold all suspensions of players and/or coaches, as appropriate.
An ejected (red-carded) player or coach who is "Sent Off" is ineligible for their team's next scheduled match. Any player ejected (red-carded) due to violent conduct will be sent off immediately from game and prohibited from playing the remainder of the tournament.

Any player who receives two (2) yellow cards in one match will be treated the same as having received a red card.
Any player who receives an accumulation of three (3) yellow cards during the tournament will be treated as having received a red card. The team's coach is responsible for the actions of his or her team staff, players, and spectators. Verbal abuse of referees, players, and/or spectators will not be tolerated, and a team's head coach may be disciplined for such. Such actions may also result in termination and forfeiture of the match and/or expulsion from the tournament. Any coach who has been ejected from the match must remove him or herself out of "sight and sound" from the playing field within two (2) minutes of ejection or risk match forfeiture. Communication from an ejected coach to the team or team staff is not permitted and may result in the match being a forfeit.
Any coach, or trainer, who withdraws his or her team from the field during a match will receive a red card and his or her team will forfeit the match.
Field Referees will note all prior ejections of players, coaches, or trainers as furnished by the Tournament Director before the match time and ensure that any such ineligible player or coach does not participate in the match. Field Referees will also notify the Referee Assignor of any yellow or red cards in the match just completed by clearly noting it on the match form turned in at the Referee Headquarters.
The Tournament Director will make note of the card(s) issued and the offenses in order that a written report may be made to the player's or coach's respective club, league, or association for further action, if needed.

Tournament Director
It is the responsibility of the Tournament Director to understand and employ these rules in a manner consistent with fair play and the spirit of the game. For issues not specifically addressed herein, and/or for issues that become subject to interpretation, all decisions made by the Tournament Director are final and binding.