

Tournament Rules & Guidelines

Hartland Haunted Invitational Rules / October 17-19, 2025

1. Registration & Required Documents

- Online registration only – no field registration.
- Teams must submit two copies of their stamped roster, player pass cards, liability forms, risk management cards for coaches/managers, and guest player documents if applicable.
- Proof of medical release forms, concussion certificates for coaches, and parent-athlete concussion forms must be available.
- Non-MSYSA teams must provide proof of medical insurance.

2. Risk Management & Safety

- SafeSport Certification (valid within one year) is required for all coaches and team officials.
- MSYSA teams: Risk management cards required.
- Non-MSYSA teams: Equivalent proof required.
- Concussion Policy: Coaches must have a CDC Heads Up or NFHS Concussion certificate (valid for 3 years).
- Permission to Travel: Required for out-of-state and foreign teams.

3. Age Groups & Roster Limits

- Age Brackets: U7 (2019) – U19 (2007)
- Roster Limits:
 - 4v4 (U7-U8): Max 6 players
 - 7v7 (U9-U10): Max 12 players
 - 9v9 (U11-U12): Max 16 players
 - 11v11 (U13-U19): Max 22 players (only 18 may dress per game)
- Dual Rostering: Allowed within the same club but in different age brackets.
 - Example: A 2013 player may guest play on a 2012 team but not on another 2013 team.
 - Teams must notify the Tournament Director of dual-rostering requests at LFCtournamentdirector@gmail.com.

4. Guest Players

- Maximum 5 guest players (outside club).
- Unlimited club passcard players, provided 50% of rostered players are from the team's league roster.
- Satellite clubs may be considered part of the same club if:
 - They share the same Board of Directors.
 - They share the same Tax ID number.
 - They are in the same MSYSA District.

5. Game Format & Rules

- Game Lengths:
 - 4v4: 4x10 min quarters (no finals)
 - 7v7: 2x25 min halves
 - 9v9: 2x30 min halves
 - 11v11: 2x35 min halves (U13+)
- 7v7 Specific Rules:
 - Build-out line applies: Opposing players must retreat behind the line until the ball is in play.
 - No punting by goalkeepers.
- 4v4 Specific Rules:
 - No goalkeepers.
 - Unlimited substitutions at any stoppage.
 - All free kicks are indirect.
- Substitutions:
 - Allowed at goal kicks, throw-ins (if both teams sub), goals, halftime, injuries (one-for-one), and after yellow cards.
- FIFA rules apply, except where modified by tournament guidelines.
- Heading restriction: No heading for U11 and younger.

6. Forfeits & Illegal Players

- Forfeits:
 - A team that fails to field the minimum number of players (7 for U13+, 6 for U11-U12, 5 for U10 and below) within 5 minutes of kickoff will forfeit 4-0.
 - Forfeiting teams cannot advance.
- Illegal Players:
 - Any team using an ineligible player forfeits all games.

7. Field & Spectator Conduct

- Teams & spectators sit on opposite sides of the field.
- No artificial noisemakers allowed.
- Coaches are responsible for spectator behavior.
- Unruly behavior may result in:
 - Sideline clearance of all spectators.
 - Game suspension or forfeiture.
 - \$200 fine for referee abuse or misconduct.

8. Officials & Athletic Trainers

- Certified referees assigned through Game Officials.
- Out-of-area referees must provide photo ID verification.
- Athletic Trainers available for tournaments with 64+ teams at U11 and older.

9. Tournament Format & Standings

- Points System:
 - Win = 3 pts
 - Tie = 1 pt
 - Loss = 0 pts
- Tiebreakers:
 - Head-to-head (if only two teams)
 - Goal differential (max +4 per game)
 - Least goals against
 - Most goals scored (max +4 per game)
 - Penalty kicks
- Division of 5 Teams:
 - Round robin format with champions based on total points.
 - Tiebreakers apply if needed.
- Wild Card Teams:
 - Selected based on highest points among non-group winners.
 - Placement of wild card teams is at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

10. Playoff & Overtime Rules

- Championship/playoff games:
 - If tied after regulation: 2 x 5 min overtime (both halves played in full).
 - If still tied: Penalty kicks (FIFA Laws apply).
 - Only players on the field at the end of OT can take PKs.

11. Weather Policy

- Game interruptions:
 - Before halftime: If time permits, continue; otherwise, 0-0 tie.
 - After halftime: Score at stoppage stands.
- Lightning: 30-minute delay after last strike/thunder.

12. Player Equipment & Game Balls

- Mandatory shin guards.
- Jersey tucked in at all times.
- Ball Sizes:
 - U8: Size 3
 - U9-U12: Size 4
 - U13+: Size 5
- Home team provides game ball & changes jerseys if necessary.

13. Head Injury Substitution Protocol

- Follows SCAT3/Child SCAT3 guidelines.
- Players cannot return without HCP clearance.
- Temporary substitutions allowed for head injuries.

14. Other Important Rules

- Ball Hitting Ceiling (Indoor Play): Opponent is awarded an indirect free kick.
- Drone Use: Only allowed with prior approval.
- Alcohol & Drugs: Prohibited for players and coaches.
- Home Team: Listed first in schedule, changes jerseys if necessary.
- Referee Decisions Are Final: No protests or appeals.

15. COVID Refund Policy

- 100% refund if the event is canceled due to COVID-19.

16. Contact Information

- Tournament Director: Danny Price / LFCtournamentdirector@gmail.com / (810) 986-7888