



Tournament Rules

LAWS OF THE GAME

All matches shall be played in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game except where interpretations are provided for Youth Matches within USYSA, NCYSA and/or these rules.

These rules may be modified before the beginning of tournament play.

All referees will be USSF certified. A one-referee system will be used for all U09-U12 matches. A three-referee system will be used for all U13-U19 matches.

TEAM, PLAYERS AND COACHES ELIGIBILITY

All teams and players must be affiliated with USYSA or a sanctioned affiliate.

Teams must be registered and in good standing with their US Youth Soccer/US Club Soccer affiliated state/provincial association. All players from each team must be registered by the same sanctioning organization. No combination USYS/US Club Soccer teams will be allowed.

Coaches are responsible for ensuring the eligibility of their players. Player and coach passes (US Club Soccer or USYS) must be present and available at all matches. Any team participating must carry valid players' passes with a picture permanently attached. If a player or coach does not have a pass, he/she will not be allowed to participate. **A player can play for only one team and a team can be entered only in its age-appropriate division.** No double rostering allowed. Any ineligible player discovered will cause the team on which he played for to forfeit any game. The Director(s) may declare a forfeit. Any team that forfeits a game will not be allowed to advance out of their group to the finals.

Teams may have up to 6 guest players; guest player forms will be required.

Permission to Travel forms for all teams outside of Region 1 must be presented at team registration. **Region 1 Travel Policy:** Any US Youth Soccer State Association teams within Region 1 that are accepted into a tournament in Region 1 do not need Permission to Travel documents. Permission to Travel is not required for friendly games within Region 1.

Region 1 includes Connecticut, Delaware, Eastern New York, New York State West, Eastern Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania West, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

All teams are also required to carry written medical releases from parents/guardians in case emergency medical care is necessary.

Foreign teams or a team coming from a CONCACAF nation: Players must present passports at registration or, if from a nation that the United States does not require a passport, proof of entry into the United States that is required by the United States. Teams are also required to have player picture identification cards. You must also have the required completed form from your Provincial or National association approving the team's participation in the tournament.



MARYLAND RUSH TOURNAMENTS

CHECK-IN PROCEDURES

Check-in procedures will be completed online prior to the tournament weekend. There will NOT be team check-ins at the event.

A roster certified by your state association must be submitted before the tournament begins and to complete online check-in. After check-in, teams may not alter their rosters or make additions/subtractions at any time

Managers/Coaches need to provide a copy of an approved stamped roster to the referee prior to each game. Only the approved stamped roster can be accepted. Electronic copies will not be accepted on site.

Referee is not to collect player passes but they may be checked prior to each match. Referee will keep the approved stamped roster and turn it in with a game card.

EQUIPMENT/UNIFORMS – SHIN GUARDS ARE MANDATORY

Home team – white/light color; Away team – dark color. The home team will be responsible for wearing an alternate color jersey, if necessary, as determined by the referee. The team listed first in all rounds shall be the home team. If one team has an inability to switch, it is up to the Tournament Director to decide who changes.

Each player on a team shall wear the same uniform, consisting of a jersey with different number, shorts, socks and shin guards. Goalkeeper must have a different color, preferably not black. The jersey may not be exchanged with another player for the duration of the game. Long sleeve shirts may be worn under the jersey. No long pants may be worn, except by the goalkeeper (unless extreme weather permits).

The assigned referee will conduct a pre-game inspection of players and their equipment. All player equipment is subject to referee approval. The referee has the right to request players to put on shin guards that are sized properly.

COACHES

There must be at least one registered coach of the same affiliation as the team present at each game. Coaches may not enter the field of play once the game begins unless summoned by the referee. No coaching will be permitted within 18 yards of the goal line or behind the goal line.

Coaches, players and spectators are not permitted to stand behind the goal line at any period while the match is in progress. All other spectators must remain at least two (2) yards from the touchlines and ten (10) yards away from the area behind goal lines. Teams use the side of the field with team benches and spectators shall use the opposite side of the field.

Coaches shall conduct themselves in a manner becoming of their respective organizations.

Negative comments and complaints about the referees will not be tolerated. This will be strictly enforced. Profanity will not be accepted and can result in dismissal and or forfeit. Coaches who violate this rule will be carded. Coaches shall be responsible for the words and actions of their players, parents, and spectators. Verbal abuse of the opponents or referees by players, coaches or spectators will not be tolerated. Violations may result in forfeiture of the game and/or expulsion from the tournament. Coaches shall encourage clean competition and good sportsmanship and participate in positive coaching. Coaches shall abide by and uphold the Rules and Regulations of their respective organizations and FIFA's Laws of the Game.



MARYLAND RUSH TOURNAMENTS

FIELD MARSHALS

If you have any questions before, during or after games, please contact a field marshal on duty at your field. The field marshal will be wearing appropriate identification.

TOURNAMENT AGE GROUPS

The tournament will be by age groups, i.e. 8U, 9U, 10U, etc. boys and girls using the following format:

Age Group	Game Format	Maximum players on field	Minimum # players to start game	Maximum # players on Roster
8U	4 aside	4	4	8
9U-10U	7 aside	7	5	12
11U-12U	9 aside	9	5	16
13U-19U	11 aside	11	7	22

Teams that use the 22-man roster **can only dress a total of 18 players per game**. All players over the 18 designated players must remain on the spectator side of the field during the games.

If the minimum number of players is not met, the offending team will forfeit the game by a score of 3-0. Once a game has started, it may not continue with fewer than the stated minimum. If a match cannot start or continue because of a team having fewer than the minimum, that team shall forfeit the game.

USYSA may register a maximum of twenty-two (22) and US Club may register a maximum of twenty-four (24) players for the U14, U15, U16, U17, U18 and U19 age groups. However, U14-U19 age groups will only be able to have 22 eligible per game. In the U13 age group teams may have a maximum of 18 players (all being eligible to play). In U11-U12 teams are allowed a maximum of 16 (all being eligible). In U9-U10 teams are allowed a maximum of 12 (all being eligible).

GAME BALL

9U, 10U, 11U & 12U: Size 4
13U - 19U: Size 5

The game ball shall be provided by the home team.

GAME LENGTH

(Five minute break between periods)

9U-10U	Two 25-minute halves	7v7; Modified offsides (defensive build up line); no heading
11U-12U	Two 25-minute halves	9v9
13U-14U	Two 30-minute halves	11v11
14U-19U	Two 35-minute halves	11v11

The Tournament Director may shorten the time of any game. Games shall be played as scheduled (there is no excuse for late or non-appearance). Only the referee in charge of the game, with



MARYLAND RUSH TOURNAMENTS

concurrence of the Tournament Director, has the authority to cancel any game. A team shall have a five (5) minute grace period from the scheduled kick off time to take the field before the match is awarded to their opponent as a 3-0 forfeited win.

In the event a team refuses to continue a game (walks off the field) after the start of the game, that team shall forfeit the game by a score of 3-0 or the score at the time the game was terminated, whichever is more disadvantageous to the forfeiting team.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Teams may substitute only with the referee's permission at any stoppage in play, unless otherwise specified. Unlimited substitutions allowed at the discretion of the referee.

HEADING RULES FOR U11 AND YOUNGER

Heading the ball is prohibited in U11 games and younger.

At age group divisions U11 and younger, whenever the ball strikes a player in the head, play is stopped. If deliberate, then the proper restart is an indirect free kick to the opposing team. If this occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If the play by the head is deemed inadvertent, then the proper restart is a dropped ball.

BUILD-OUT LINE (7v7 – U9 and U10)

These lines allow for goalkeepers to pass, throw, or roll the ball out from the defensive third of the field to his/her teammate in a less pressured setting.

When the goalkeeper has possession of the ball, either during play or for a goal kick, the opposing team must move and remain behind the build out line until the ball is put in play.

The goalkeeper is not required to wait until the opposing team is behind the line to put the ball in play. The goalkeeper can pass, throw, or roll the ball into play.

PUNTING AND DROP KICKS ARE NOT ALLOWED. If the goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, restart is an indirect free kick on the penalty area line parallel to the goal at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

The ball is considered in play as soon as it leaves the goalkeeper's possession, at which time play resumes as normal.

The buildout line will also be used to denote where offside offenses can be called. Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the hallway line and the build out line. Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build out line and goal line.



MARYLAND RUSH TOURNAMENTS

DIVISION STRUCTURE

- 3-teams – Each team will play the other two teams in the group. On Sunday, #2 will play #3 in the SemiFinals. The winner of the Semi-Final will play #1 in the Final.
- 4-teams – Each team will play the other three teams in the group. #1 will play #2 in the Final.
- 5-teams – On Saturday, each team will play two group games (opponents determined at random). On Sunday, #4 will play #5 in the Consolation. #2 will play #3 in the Semi-Finals. The winner of the Semi-Final will play #1 in the Final.
- 6-teams – Two groups of three. Each team will play the other two teams in their group. Bracket A #1 will play Bracket B #2 and Bracket A #2 will play Bracket B #1 in the semi-finals and Bracket A #3 will play Bracket B #3 in and consolation. The final will be made up of the semi-final winners.
- 7-teams – Division of 7: 1 group of 3 and 1 group of 4. Group with 4 plays round robin with two games Saturday and one game Sunday. Group of 3 will play two group games Saturday. On Sunday, 1st place teams in each group play for the final. 2nd place teams in each group will play in a consolation game. 3rd place teams in each group will play in a consolation game.
- 8-teams – Two groups of four. Each team will play the other three teams in their group. Bracket A #1 will play Bracket B #1 in the Final.

POINT SYSTEM

The Tournament Committee will determine the competition format subject to the number of teams entered. Teams may be seeded in pool play. There will be no overtime in pool play. Ties will be recorded as such. The greatest number of points determines pool standings.

Points are awarded as follows:

- Win = 3 points
- Tie = 1 points
- Loss = 0 points

A team that forfeits a game will give up 3 (three) points to the declared winner of the game and shall not advance to a final match. The match will be scored as a 3-0 win for the declared winner.

Scoring issues should be reported immediately to the Tournament Director for re-verification. All scores will be verified and signed off on by the winning coach.

POOL PLAY STANDINGS - TIEBREAKERS

If at the conclusion of bracket play, two or more teams have the same point total, advancement to the semifinals will be determined using the following tiebreakers in the order listed until a team is eliminated. If more than 2 teams are tied, proceed to step 2.

1. Head-to-Head Competition During the Tournament (disregard if more than 2 teams are tied)
2. Most Wins
3. Goal Differential (maximum differential of five (5) goals per match will be counted)
4. Least Goals Allowed
5. Most Shutouts
6. Goals For (maximum five (5) per game)
7. Least Red Cards
8. Penalty Shootout



MARYLAND RUSH TOURNAMENTS

In single pool competitions that end in a tie after all tie breakers have been considered, there will be a shootout. In the event three or more teams are tied after steps 1 through 4, a three-way coin flip will be conducted. The teams that tie in the coin flip will compete in FIFA Penalty kicks from the spot to determine the advancing team.

SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL MATCHES - KICKS FROM THE MARK

In case of a tie at the end of regulation time, teams will go directly to kicks from the mark. Kicks from the mark are used in semi-final and final matches will be run in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game. The referee chooses the goal at which the kicks will be taken. The referee tosses a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss will take the first kick. Both teams take five kicks; kicks are taken alternately by the teams.

If before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could score, even if it were to complete its five kicks, no more kicks are taken. If after five kicks the score is tied, kicks continue until one team has scored a goal more than the other (sudden death) from the same number of kicks.

Only the players on the field at the end of the match are allowed to take kicks. A different player must take each kick and all eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick. If the player is under suspension, they may NOT participate in the kicks.

AWARDS

In the 9U to 19U divisions, medals will be awarded to **1st and 2nd Place teams**. No awards will be given in the 8U division and no standings will be posted. Additional awards may be made at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

INJURIES

Any injury to a participant, or property damage caused by a participant, must be reported to the Tournament Director. The costs of all injury treatments are the sole responsibility of the injured player, coach, sanctioning national association, or their health plan insurer.

WEATHER POLICY

Teams will be expected to play according to the schedule of games regardless of weather. Only the Tournament Director(s) may reschedule games or alter the competitive format because of inclement weather or other just cause.

It is possible that weather conditions may lead to stoppages in play. Games will not be stopped due to rain unless it is a severe downpour and/or there is standing water on the fields. In the event of lightning in the area, we will notify teams and spectators to vacate the fields. Games will be stopped for 30 minutes from the last lightning strike.

The following procedures for weather delays may be used:

- Relocate and/or reschedule match
- Change division structure
- If a delay occurs while the game is in progress and the game cannot be restarted before the start of the next scheduled game, then the score of that game will be considered final. This is regardless of the length of time that the game has been played.



MARYLAND RUSH TOURNAMENTS

- Games shall be considered complete if one half has been completed and play is stopped by the Field Representative or Referee, Commissioner of Referees, or the Tournament Director(s).
- When necessitated by playing conditions or just cause, the game format may be altered to include shortening of games, penalty kicks, or coin tosses. In the event that conditions prevent a game from being played at all, the game will be listed as a 1-1 tie.

In the event of inclement weather, tournament staff will update coaches and team managers via email, text, and the tournament homepage. Under no circumstances whatsoever will the Tournament Committee, Maryland Rush Soccer Club, sponsors, or MYSA be responsible for expenses (including tournament entry fee) incurred by any team. This includes a situation where the tournament or any game(s) are canceled in whole or part.

REFUND POLICY

No refunds will be given once the application form and fees have been received and accepted.

Shall be determined by the tournament staff. If the tournament is canceled due to COVID-19, teams will receive a full refund minus a \$25 admin fee.

The tournament cannot be responsible for matters outside of its control. Weather or natural disasters may cause the cancellation of the tournament or prevent its continuation. Other unforeseen events may interfere with the orderly conduct of the tournament or with the enjoyment of the participants in the tournament. In the event any such act of nature or man outside of the control of the tournament requires the cancellation of the tournament or prevents its continuation, tournament fees will be refunded in the following increments:

- a. No games played = 75% credit or 50% refund
- b. One game played = 50% credit or 25% refund
- c. Two games played = 25% credit

If there are not enough teams to form an age group, the entered teams will be given one of two options:

Option (1) – Tournament Committee will recommend an alternative placement.

Option (2) – Withdraw from the tournament and the entry fee will be refunded.

REFEREES

All referees will be USSF certified. A one-referee system will be used for all U09-U12 matches. A three-referee system will be used for all U13-U19 matches.

REFEREE ABUSE

Referee abuse will not be tolerated during the tournament. Referee abuse by the player, coach, or fan will be reported to their home state association. The player, coach, or fan will be removed from the field.

DISQUALIFICATIONS, CAUTIONS, AND EJECTIONS

If a team uses a player deemed to be ineligible, that team shall forfeit all games in which that player participated. The Tournament Director may disqualify any team, at any point in the tournament, if the team refuses to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the tournament.



MARYLAND RUSH TOURNAMENTS

All players and coaches sent from the field (red card) or cautioned (yellow card) must be reported to the Tournament Director immediately after the end of the game by the game referee.

Any player that receives two cautions (yellow card) in a single match will be issued an ejection (red card). A player that has received a red card may not return and may not be replaced. Any player that has received a red card is allowed to remain on the team bench but remains under the responsibility of the coach. Failure to control an expelled player may result in dismissal of the coach for future games. A player ejected will not be able to return for that match or the next.

Any player ejected for **Violent Conduct** or **Serious Foul** will be subject to removal for **two matches**. Any player or coach that assaults a referee, coach, or player will be expelled from the tournament. Coaches that are ejected from a match must also serve a **one game** suspension. While serving a game suspension coaches must be out of site and serve no contact with a team during match play. Failure to adhere to these rules can result in team expulsion from the tournament. Red Card decisions are final and cannot be appealed or reversed by any tournament staff.

PROTESTS

No Protests. The game official shall consist of a center referee who shall be responsible for making all decisions as related to the game. All decisions of the tournament director are final.

The tournament director and/or tournament coordinators will decide upon any situation or subject not covered by the aforementioned rules and regulations. All decisions by the Tournament Director are final and are not subject to appeal. To contact the Tournament Director, please visit Tournament Headquarters and they will locate the Director for you.