



To All Coaches: TOURNAMENT CONDUCT

The following are guidelines for the tournament. Please inform your parents and players of these guidelines, sign below to indicate that you have done so, and **bring the signed form with you to registration**. Please keep in mind that these guidelines will be strictly enforced. If you have any questions, please let us know.

We are very interested in doing all we can to see that you have a very positive experience at our tournament. In recent years the amount and level of misconduct by players, coaches and spectators at soccer games around the country has increased. In an effort to curb this trend and improve your time with us, we feel it necessary to give you our guidelines for conduct at our tournament. Often it seems that spectators in particular are unaware of proper conduct.

- 1) No coach, spectator, or bench personnel are to enter the field of play during a game, **particularly** if an incident occurs on the field. Coaches and substitutes may enter the field only when indicated to do so by the referee.
- 2) Only the team captains or coaches of the team may address the referee before, during or after a game, and then only for the purpose of information, not to question decisions. Remember, this applies from the time the referee arrives at the venue until he/she leaves, not just during the game.
- 3) Under NO circumstances should anyone ever touch a referee. Please be aware that just touching a referee can be judged as referee assault.
- 4) We are interested in providing the best refereeing we can, and a significant amount of effort goes into that process. As such, we desire your feedback about the job we do. Please do not directly address referees with your comments. Instead, put your comments down **in writing** and give them to one of the Field Marshals or any Tournament Official. We will forward those comments on to the Referee Administrators and will also use the information to improve our referee scheduling in the future.

Violation of these guidelines can result in barring the offending person(s) from the fields, suspension or cancellation of games, or ejection of person(s) or teams from the tournament. Also, all infractions will be reported to state associations.

I have received copies of the official tournament schedule and tournament rules and have notified my parents and team of these rules and guidelines.

Coach's Signature

Cell Phone #

Team

Age



2009 Gaylord Sheppard Tournament RULES

1. All games will be played under FIFA rules modified by USYSA/NMYSA/DCSL. The Tournament committee will settle all disputes. Protests of referee's decisions are not allowed.
 2. Home team, listed first, changes their jersey in case of color conflict.
Sidelines : Teams will occupy the same side of the field. Parents and other spectators will occupy the side of the field opposite that of the players.
No one is allowed to stand behind the goal or end line during the game.
 3. Bracket standings may be determined by the following point system.
3 points for a Win
1 points for a Tie
0 points for a Loss
Forfeits shall be scored as follows:
Teams failing to check in within ten (10) minutes of their scheduled kick off time will forfeit the game. A forfeit game will be scored at a 3-0 win in calculating games points for tiebreaker determination and a negative two (-2) points to the forfeiting team. If a team forfeits a game, it will be disqualified from semi-final and final games.
Semifinal and final games will have two overtime periods (U14 and below 5 minute periods; U15 and above 10 minute periods), followed by kicks from the mark if required to determine a winner.
If the referee stops the game due to inclement weather, field conditions, or other situations beyond the tournament's control:
 1. If after the first half of play the game stands.
 2. If during the first half of play the tournament staff shall decide how to complete the game, (a shorter game or shoot-out).There will be no refunds for suspended or canceled games.
- In the event of a tie, bracket winners and runners-up may be determined as follows:
1. Head-to-head results.
 2. Cumulative Goal Differential between goals scored and goals allowed in all games played within your bracket. Maximum difference allowed is four (4) goals per game.
 3. Least number of goals allowed.
 4. Most number of shutouts.
 5. FIFA Penalty Kicks.
- This tie-breaking procedure shall be used if necessary to determine 1st and 2nd place standing within a bracket. If more than two (2) teams are tied at the end of the preliminary round, the tie-breaker criteria listed will be used in order shown, to either advance or eliminate one team. The remaining teams will then be compared, beginning again with criteria #1 to determine the ultimate placement.

4. Matches will consist of two halves of the following length, with a 5 minute halftime:

U7/U8:	Two 20 min. halves
U9/U10:	Two 20 min. halves
U11/U12:	Two 25 min. halves
U13/U14:	Two 30 min. halves
U15/U16:	Two 35 min. halves
U17/U18/U19:	Two 40 min. halves

(NOTE: There is no OFF-SIDE call at U7/U8)

U7/U8 will play 4v4 with without a goalkeeper (minimum of 3 players required to play the match). U9/U10 will play 6v6 with one of the players being a goalkeeper (minimum of 5 players required to play the match).

U11/U12 will play 8v8 with one of the players being a goalkeeper (minimum of 6 players required to play the match).

U13/U19 will play 11v11 with one of the players being a goalkeeper (minimum of 7 players required to play the match).

Completion of at least one half of play will constitute a completed game, regardless of the circumstances for terminating the game in the second half.

5. A player receiving a red card shall be expelled from that game and is automatically disqualified from participating in their team's next scheduled tournament game. In the event a player is ejected (red carded) from a game for fighting, that player will not be permitted to play in any other games in the tournament.

Any coach that is red carded shall be expelled from that game, must leave the field of play to the satisfaction of the referee, and is automatically disqualified from coaching their team at any time during their next scheduled tournament game.

A fan or parent displaying behavior that is unacceptable to the referee can cause their coach to be red carded and ejected. The coach is responsible for control of their spectators and sidelines. Any player or coach receiving a red card, who then plays in or coaches the next scheduled tournament game, will cause their team to automatically forfeit that game.

Each red card a team receives will result in a loss of 2 points.

6. Any player who is involved in a fight for any reason will be ejected from the tournament. Any player, coach, or spectator who enters the field during a fight will be ejected from the tournament, regardless of the reason for entering the field. In the event more people are involved than the referee can clearly identify, the game will be terminated and the entire team or teams will be ejected from the tournament.

7. With the referee's permission, players may be substituted from the halfway line at the following times:

prior to a throw-in in your favor; at half time;

prior to a goal kick by either team; after a goal is scored;

for an injured player, one for one; for a cautioned (yellow carded) player.

8. In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament committee reserves the right to modify all tournament rules, in order to safely and fairly end the tournament successfully. This may include relocating, rescheduling, game cancellation, change in game duration, and/or change in game format. In the event of inclement weather, the tournament committee will determine whether the fields can be used for the tournament.

Coaches must be available to be contacted by the tournament staff. It is your (coach) responsibility to make sure you supply your local phone number (preferably a cell phone number) and hotel room name/number at check-in, in case we need to contact you for any reason. There will be no refund of tournament fees in the event of tournament cancellation due to inclement weather.

9. In case of an emergency while at the tournament, contact a tournament field marshal (wearing a bright orange vest) or the tournament tent for assistance.