

TAMPA BAY SUPER CUP COMPETITION RULES

2025 Senior Boys (U13-19) - November 1-2, 2025

Senior Girls (U13-19) - November 14-16, 2025

Contact: info@tampabaysupercup.com

REGISTRATION & TEAM ELIGIBILITY:

This Tournament shall be open to all teams composed of properly registered youth players (as defined by the rules of the affiliated organization) in all age groups listed in the "Tournament Rules", provided such team is in good standing with its youth association. Pre-Tournament Online Check is required for all teams. Teams should be available for check-in with the referee or field marshal 30 minutes prior to the scheduled game time.

Documentation required at initial Pre-Tournament Online Check-In:

Teams from the *United States*:

- Players and bench personnel must present picture identification cards issued by the team's federation Organization Member (USYS, US Club, AYSO, USSSA, other).
- Identification cards must be verified, photo attached, and laminated (or encased in plastic sleeves if lamination is not allowed).
- Teams from a US Youth Soccer National State Association outside of Florida must provide/upload proof of permission to travel.
- Teams must provide/upload a certified/approved tournament roster.
- Teams must provide/upload a completed medical release form for every player.
- Teams must provide payment to be accepted.

Teams coming from a *Concacaf nation*:

- Players must present passports or proof of entry into the United States if required.
- Teams must have player picture identification cards.
- Must provide a letter or form from its Provincial or National Association approving the team's travel and participation.

Multiple divisions within an age group are not guaranteed but may be offered when a sufficient number of teams apply. The Tournament Committee's decision for team placement is final. Falsification of player registration forms, team rosters, or other records will result in immediate disqualification.

PRE-GAME PROCEDURES:

Documentation required for pre-game check in:

- Teams must have player and bench personnel picture identification cards if requested.
- Identification cards may be checked against tournament-generated frozen rosters.
- Teams must have on hand a tournament roster and passes in case of discrepancies.

U13-U19 Game Roster:

- The game roster shall have a maximum of 18 players - Players not on the game roster are allowed to sit on the bench in the team's opposite uniform or street clothes.
- Each team is limited to 4 coaches on the bench, all of which must be listed on the team roster. In no case will a team be allowed to participate without a properly registered coach or assistant approved by the tournament official.
- Player jersey numbers must match the tournament roster.
- Late players may enter after verification and referee approval.
- Only at the pre-game procedure may a player be challenged by the opposing manager/ coach. Challenged player(s) will be noted by the referee on the game report and will be allowed to participate in the game (if said player has been certified as eligible by the Credentials Committee).
- Any team using an ineligible player will forfeit all tournament matches - past, present and future. A report will be filed with the offending teams national Organization or National State Association. If you are not sure of a player's eligibility, please contact the tournament director.
- In the case of lost or stolen ID cards the tournament committee reserves the right to use alternate identification or make tournament specific ID cards.

All teams must upload required online check in documents immediately after applying to ensure acceptance. For Clubs/States that do not use Gotsoccer, each team must enter a roster complete with bench personnel into the tournament's on-line tournament system(Gotsoccer). The minimum required information is Name, Date of Birth, player ID number, uniform number and gender. Revisions can be made to the roster up to the Monday prior to the event. This information will appear on the tournament match reports to be used by the referees for check-in on the field prior to each game. Teams failing to input this information are subject to removal from the event.

MANDATORY LODGING:

- Teams over 75 miles from Tampa Bay Sportsplex must book lodging through the designated travel provider.
Addresses for distance determination: Tampa Bay Sportsplex and the Club's physical address.
- Google Maps or approved mapping services will be used.

PLAYER AND AGE ELIGIBILITY:

- The age classifications for this tournament are: U8 through U19.
- Guest players: maximum of 5 per team depending on age group; Guest players must have permission to participate/travel from their National and State Association, Federation or any other USSF affiliated organization. Teams may only have guest/loan players from the same Federation organization, and all players must be legally registered through their respective Federation organization. (i.e., USYS teams can only have players with USYS passes; US Club teams may only have players with US Club passes, etc.)
- Club pass players allowed and not counted towards the guest maximum.
- Players may only play on one team.

PLAYING UP GUIDELINES:

- U9-U14 may roster up to 2 years older, subject to heading restrictions; that no player may participate in any sanctioned competition in which heading is permitted before their 11th birthday
- U15+ may play up any older age group.

CONCUSSIONS:

- Pursuant to Florida Statutes (FS 943.0438) Florida in 2012 enacted a very stringent Head injury and Concussion Law, If a referee suspects a head injury, play stops immediately.
- Players must leave the field and cannot return without medical clearance.
- The player may not resume participation until he/she has been cleared by a medical doctor. The Referee *HAS NO FURTHER* responsibility beyond removing the player from the match in which the player was injured. The referee crew must ensure, that *UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES* or due to the appeal from any coaching staff that the player is allowed to return to the game.

HEADING GUIDELINES:

- Deliberate heading is not allowed in age groups U12 and younger
- If a U12 or younger player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.
- If the deliberate header of a U12 or younger player occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infraction occurred.

LAWS OF THE GAME:

- **LAW 1: Field of Play**
 - U13 - U19 No change per FIFA "Laws of the Game"
 - U9 & U10 (7v7) and U11 & U12 (9v9) must play in accordance with the US Youth Soccer Official under 12 & 10 Playing Initiatives.
- **LAW 2: The Ball**
 - U13 and older Size 5 - U12 and younger Size 4
- **LAW 3: Number of Players**
 - U13 and older Eleven (11) per side per FIFA - minimum Seven (7) players
 - U11 and U12 Nine (9) per side - minimum player Eight (8)
 - U9 and U10 Seven (7) per side - minimum of Six (6)
- **SUBSTITUTION TIME**
 - Substitutions shall be unlimited.
 - Players may substitute at any stoppage of the ball with the referee's permission.
 - The substitute shall not enter the field of play until the player he/she is replacing has left, and then, only after receiving a signal from the referee.
 - When an injured player (inclusive of the goalkeeper) is attended to on the field of play, the player must leave the field of play for treatment and evaluation. A substitution may be made for the injured player.
- **SUBSTITUTION AGE LIMITS**
 - U9-U19 ages, free substitution is allowed.
- **LAW 4: Players' Equipment**
 - Equipment must conform to FIFA rules. All players will wear shin-guards (under the socks). A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry). Player equipment shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Affiliate and FIFA rules. *Additionally:*
 - Screw in cleats are permitted; however, judgment as to their safety is at the discretion of the referee. b) Orthopedic casts can be worn at any sanctioned tournament with written approval from a doctor and written permission from a tournament official, final judgment as to its safety is at the discretion of the referee.
 - No player is allowed to wear ANY jewelry while participating in the Tampa Bay Super Cup. The only exception that may be allowed is a medical alert bracelet or necklace when taped to the body. The referee shall make the decision as to the safety of the player and the referee's decision is final.

- Teams will wear uniforms of matching design and color with a minimum of six (6) inch numbers affixed to the back of the uniform shirt.
 - The designated home team per the tournament schedule will be required to wear white/light color jerseys. In cases where the schedule does not designate a home team the first team listed on the game report will be considered the home team. f) The uniform of the goalkeeper must be distinctly different in color from the basic colors of the competing teams and the referee.
- **LAW 5: The Referee**
 - The Center Referee for all matches must be certified by the Federation.
 - Referees are required to submit a completed official USSF or a tournament specific game report to the Site Director containing any information relating to any game incidents involving players/coach, spectator misconduct, or injuries. In the event, the assigned referees fail to appear and the assignor and/or Site Director fails to provide a replacement, the senior assigned assistant referee shall assume the duties and shall find an alternate assistant. The game will be played as scheduled and will be deemed official.
- **LAW 6: The Assistant Referee**
 - Two (2) assistant referees will be used in matches U11 and above. A single center referee with no assistant referees will be used for U9 and U10 7v7 matches.
 - In the event, the assigned assistant(s) fail to appear; the referee must find suitable replacements. The game will be played as scheduled and be deemed official.
- **LAW 7: The Duration of the Match**
 - Pool Play
 - U8-U12 2x25 = 50
 - U13-U19 2x30 = 60
 - 5 minute halftime per each game
 - No overtime in Semi's of Finals - PKs to determine winner of semi or final, if game is tied after regulation
- **LAW 8-10:** No Change per FIFA "Laws of the game."
- **LAW 11:** Offside
 - U9 - U10: Offside will be called in accordance with the US Youth Soccer Official under 10 Playing
- **LAW 12-17:** No Change per FIFA "Laws of the game."

TOURNAMENT & MATCH SCHEDULES:

- During the preliminary stage of the tournament teams will play in a World Cup pool play format. Ties shall remain.
- Min 4 teams, max 32 per age/flight.
 - The tournament reserves the right to have multiple flights within an age group.
- Guaranteed 3 games, max 6.
- Max 2 games per day with rest between.
- Playoff rules detailed including wildcards.

POST-GAME PROCEDURES:

- Teams congratulate each other, clean the sideline.
- Manager/Coach confirms scores.
- Referees submit reports to the Tournament Director.

SIDELINE CONDUCT:

- Players, coaches, and fans must follow laws.
- The Tournament Director can remove violators.
- Marshals assist at games.
- Coaches responsible for fan behavior.

CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE:

- Teams responsible for their suspended players.
- Discipline Committee of 3 reviews conduct.
- Ejected individuals miss the current and next game.
- Severity may lead to longer suspensions.

FORFEITS:

- U13-U19: min 7 players.
- U9-U10: min 6, U11-U12: min 8.
- Forfeits scored 4-0.
- Teams forfeiting cannot win flight/group.

PROTESTS:

- No protests allowed - Referee decisions are final.

GROUP WINNERS DETERMINATION

Points:

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

Tiebreakers:

- Applied when two or more teams are tied
- Examples are provided for clarity
- The Tournament Committee will use the criteria below to determine team advancement
- If multiple teams are tied, the criteria will be followed to either **Advance** or **Eliminate** a team.
Once a team is eliminated, remaining ties will restart the tiebreaker process as described below

IF TWO (2) TEAMS TIE IN TOTAL POINTS

1. Head-to-Head Result *(not considered in cases of three or more teams tied - See below)*
2. Net Goal Differential
3. Most Goals Scored
4. Least Goals Allowed
5. Most Shutouts
6. Penalty Kicks according to FIFA Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark

IF THREE (3) OR MORE TEAMS TIE IN TOTAL POINTS

1. Net Goal Differential
2. Most Goals Scored
3. Least Goals Allowed
4. Most Shutouts
5. Penalty Kicks (according to FIFA Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark)

Tiebreaker Scenarios

- **Scenario 1:** If one team has defeated all other tied teams, that team advances
- **Scenario 2:** If no clear winner emerges, tiebreakers will start at Goal Differential and proceed down the list until a winner is determined

Note: Once a team is eliminated based on the tiebreakers, if a tie remains among other teams, the process restarts from the top of the tiebreakers (Head-to-Head for two-team ties)

SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL GAME WINNERS

- If a semi-final or final game is tied after regulation time, the winner will be determined **directly by penalty kicks**

EXTERNAL CONDITIONS/WEATHER:

- Matches may be shortened, rescheduled, canceled, or go to penalty kicks.
- Referees or directors suspend matches; max suspension 60 minutes.

TERMINATED GAMES:

- Decisions by the Tournament Director are final.
- Pool play and playoff rules outlined.
- Final matches may declare co-champions.

CHAMPIONSHIP CEREMONY:

- Teams report to the Tournament Director for awards.

REFUNDS:

- No refunds after acceptance, except partial refunds under certain conditions.

GENERAL:

- Tournament not responsible for participant expenses.
- Rules interpretation is final.
- The director may alter tournament structure.
- Prohibited items: smoking, alcohol, pets (except service dogs), disruptive noise.
- Respect officials, pick up trash.
- No approaching referees about officiating
- VEOs and cameras must be on the parent sideline.

TEAM WITHDRAWAL:

- Registrations must be completed by Sept 30, 2025.
- Late applications on waitlist.
- Accepted team withdrawal: non-refundable fee.