

2012 Early Bird Spring Soccer Invitational TOURNAMENT RULES

I. TOURNAMENT NAME:

2012 Early Bird Spring Soccer Invitational

II. TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS:

Spindler Road Fields, 2121 Spindler Road, Hilliard, Ohio, 43026. The onsite tournament telephone number is 614 – 270 – 6062.

III. REGISTRATION & TEAM ELIGIBILITY:

1. Team check-in for the tournament will be held on Friday, March 24, 2012 from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM at the MOSSL Office, 670 Lakeview Plaza Blvd. Suite D, Worthington, OH 43085. In addition, teams are required to be at their assigned fields a minimum of 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start of their scheduled matches. A team representative must report to the tournament headquarters at each tournament site prior to each game.

2. When checking in on Friday, March 24th, a team representative must provide the following documents; Team roster, approved player passes from their state association or other recognized sanctioning body.

A. In addition, if the team is from outside the boundaries of the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association, the team must also present an approved travel permit from their home state association. (This may also be submitted prior to the team registration, either via e-mail or by fax to 614-898-9320.) The travel permit shall also serve as proof that the team has been approved to participate in the tournament.

B. Furthermore, if the team is from outside the United States, the team members must have proof of their entry into the United States. They must present player passes and approval from their Provincial or National Association to participate in the tournament.

IV. PLAYER AGE - ELIGIBILITY:

1. The tournament is open to boys and girls teams in the U-8 through U-19 age groups. U-8, U-9 and U-10 age teams, both boys and girls, may have a maximum of 12 players on their team roster and will play in a 6 v 6 format. U-12 age teams, both boys and girls, may have a maximum of 14 players on their roster and will play in an 8 v 8 format. U-13 through U-19 age teams, both boys and girls, may have a maximum number of 22 players on their team roster and will play in a 11 v 11 format. This includes any guest players.

2. A maximum of 5 guest players may be rostered to U-8 through U-19 team for participation in the tournament. A maximum of 18 players may in uniform during any U-13 or older game.

3. U-8 recreational teams are not required to have player passes. However, all players on U-8 teams must have proof of their registration with Ohio South Youth Soccer Association or other affiliated member of USSF by having either a player pass or player registration form, (a.k.a. membership form), signed by a parent or guardian.

V. TEAMS:

1. For each match in the tournament, the team that is listed first in the schedule shall be the home team.
2. If in the opinion of the referee there is a uniform conflict, the home team will be required to change. Therefore, all teams should bring two sets of uniforms to every match.
3. Both teams shall be on the same side of the field. Spectators and supporters of both teams shall be on the opposite side of the field from the teams.

VI. PLAYER CREDENTIALS AND UNIFORMS:

1. Player passes of all players that will be participating in a match must be present and available at all times during the match, except as noted in Section IV (3) above.
2. The player passes must be checked by the referee prior to each match.
3. All players must wear a uniform that has a number on it that is a unique number in relationship to the other uniform numbers of the other players on the same team. Players are prohibited from changing uniform numbers during the course of the tournament.

VII. LAWS OF THE GAME:

Modification – Notes on the Laws of the Game:

1. All matches will be played under international rules (FIFA) with the exceptions as shown in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 below:

2. The length of each match and ball sizes will be as follows:

Division	Preliminary	Championship	Ball
U-8, 9, 10 Boys & Girls	20 Minute Halves	25 Minute Halves	# 4
U-11, 12 Boys & Girls	25 Minute Halves	30 Minute Halves	# 4
U-13, 14 Boys & Girls	30 Minute Halves	35 Minute Halves	# 5
U-15, 16 Boys & Girls	35 Minute Halves	40 Minute Halves	# 5
U-17, 18, 19 Boys & Girls	35 Minute Halves	40 Minute Halves	# 5

3. Substitutions. Free substitution may be made in all age groups with the permission of the referee as follows:

- A. Before a throw-in in your team's favor.
- B. Before a throw-in that is not in your favor is a player from the other team is also substituting.
- C. Before a goal kick for either team.
- D. After a score by either team.

- E. At half-time.
- F. After an injury, 1 for 1, if the injured player is substituted.
- G. After a player is cautioned, the cautioned player may be substituted.
- H. After a cautioned player is substituted, the other team may substitute a player.

4. Coaches may be given cautions, (yellow cards) or sent off, (red cards).

5. Player equipment. All players must wear shin guards. No hard casts are permitted. Soft casts are permitted with the permission of the referee.

6. SPECIAL NOTE TO TEAMS:

- 1. The standard offside rules **WILL NOT APPLY** in the U-8 age divisions.
- 2. The standard offside rules **WILL APPLY** in all U-9 through U-19 age divisions.

VIII. TOURNAMENT AND MATCH SCHEDULES:

1. Tournament Format. Teams will be organized in to groups of 4, 5, 6, or 8 teams. Teams in a division of either 4 or 5 teams will play in a round robin format. Teams in a 6 team division will play be divided into two groups with each team playing a crossover game with a team from the other group. Teams in an 8 team division will play be divided into two groups. The winner of each group, in both 6 and 8 team divisions, based on points accumulated within their groups, including any crossover games, will advance to the championship match.

2. Match Schedules. Each participating team will play a minimum of three matches, with a maximum of 2 matches being scheduled on any one day.

3. Procedures for Determining a Winner. In divisions of 4 teams, the two teams with the most points will play in the Championship game. In divisions of 5 teams, the Champion and Finalist teams will be determined by the total number of points accumulated in matches played during the tournament. There is no Championship game played where the teams are in a division of 5 teams. In divisions of 6 or 8 teams, the team with the most points in each group, including any crossover games, will play in the championship match.

4. At the end of all preliminary and round robin matches, there will be no overtime period played. Preliminary and round robin matches may end in a tie. If at the conclusion of a championship match, the score is tied, two 5 minute overtime periods will be played to the conclusion of each of the two overtime periods. There will be no "Golden Goal" or "Silver Goal" used to determine the winner of a match. If the score remains tied after both overtime periods, the winner will be determined per FIFA procedures for "Penalty Kicks".

5. Referees. All matches except U8 and U9 will use the three referee system of control, using referees certified by USSF. U8 and U9 will have one center referee.

6. Match Delays, Suspensions, Cancellations. Inclement weather is always a possibility and such types of weather may result in delayed, abbreviated or cancelled matches. The tournament committee will attempt to reschedule matches to insure that each team will play

a full schedule for the tournament. Matches may be shortened or postponed or scheduled at a different site in order to meet this goal.

7. In the event of tournament cancellation due to inclement weather, there is no guarantee of a refund. If the tournament is cancelled, either before any matches are played or before all matches can be completed, refunds will be made available to all teams requesting them. The amount of refund will be determined after subtracting the costs and obligations associated with organizing the event. A full refund would not be available due to these costs.

IX. FORFEITS:

1. Teams not reporting to the field within ten minutes of the scheduled starting time of their match may be required to forfeit that match.

2. U-8, U-9 and U-10 teams must have at least five players to start a match. U-11 and U-12 teams must have at least 6 players to start a match. U-13 through U-19 teams must have at least 7 players to start a match.

3. If a team forfeits a match, for any reason, they may be required to forfeit all of their matches in the tournament as determined by the tournament committee and they may be prohibited from advancing to the Championship round.

4. A forfeit will be recorded in the standings as a 3 – 0 loss for the team that forfeited the match.

X. STANDINGS AND TIE-BREAKERS:

1. Groups standing will be determined as follows;

A. Point total: **WIN = 3 points TIE = 1 point LOSS = 0 points**

B. A forfeit is treated as a 3 - 0 result.

2. The tournament committee is responsible for interpreting the rules and scheduling tie breaker activities. Tie-breaker procedures, in the following order, will be used to determine a group winner:

A. Result of the match between the tied teams. This does not apply if three teams are tied, unless one team has beaten both of the teams with which they are tied.

B. Cumulative goal differential of all matches played; defined as total goals scored minus goals allowed, with a maximum of three goals per match.

C. Lower number of goals allowed, with no limit on goals allowed.

D. Least number of cards, red & yellow, accumulated during the tournament by coaches and players.

E. Penalty kick elimination, as per FIFA rules of the match.

XI. MATCH AND SCORE REPORTING:

1. Following each match, the referee will hold the game card. These games cards will be collected by the tournament's field marshals. The referee shall record all red and yellow

cards issued during the match on the game card. In addition, the referee shall turn over to the field marshal, the pass of any player or coach to whom a red card was issued.

2. At the conclusion of all matches, a member of the coaching staff of each team must sign the game card in order to confirm the accuracy of the information on the game card, including the final score of the match.

XII. PROTESTS:

1. Protests regarding interpretation of the tournament rules, player eligibility, etc. must be filed in writing with the tournament site headquarters within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the match, along with a \$100 cash fee. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld.

2. If there is a protest or dispute, a Protest Committee consisting of the tournament director, the site coordinator, and one other disinterested party who is knowledgeable of the USYSA and Ohio South rules will hear the complaint and make a ruling within 30 minutes of the receipt of the protest.

3. Referee judgment will not be considered a valid basis for a protest. The ruling by the Protest Committee on any protest or dispute shall be final and binding and that ruling cannot be appealed.

XIII. CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE:

Team and Spectator Conduct. All teams, including players and coaches, their supporters and other spectators are required to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the ideals of FIFA, USSF, and the Ohio South Youth Soccer Association as they relate to FAIR PLAY and good sportsmanship. Persons not conducting themselves in that manner may be required to remove themselves for the vicinity of a particular match, be removed from that entire venue, or not be permitted to participate or attend any function of the tournament for the remaining portion of the tournament. This includes spectators entering the field of play during a game, without the permission of the referee.

IX. General Rules.

1. No air horns are permitted. The tournament committee will be using air horns in cases of emergency, i.e. lightning, tornado, etc.

2. No pets of any kind or size are permitted in the parks. This includes but is not limited to: Dogs, (big and small), Cats, Parakeets, Goldfish, Monkeys, etc. Pets are too unpredictable around large crowds, especially small children and we decline to accept responsibility for the actions of your pets. Anyone with a pet will be instructed to remove the pet from the park – No Exceptions.

3. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at any tournament match venue.

4 Players, coaches and referees are not permitted to use any form of tobacco in the vicinity of any match field.

5. Ejections. Players who are sent off (red card) during a match may not play in their next match. Coaches may be given cautions or sent off. Players who are sent off may sit with their team during the team's next match in the tournament but may not be in uniform. Coaches who are sent off cannot participate as a coach or as a spectator at their team's next match. The Tournament Committee will hold the player or coach pass until the suspension is served in the tournament. If a player or coach is sent off during the final match of the tournament for a team, that player or coach's card will be held by the tournament committee and mailed to the league office which has registered the player or coach.

Spectators are prohibited from entering a field during a game, except by the permission of the referee. Spectators who enter a field during a game or otherwise commit misconduct may be ordered by the referee to leave the vicinity of the field.

6. The tournament may take additional action against teams, players and coaches for serious acts of misconduct by their players, coaches and/or team supporters. This action may include removal of the team from the remainder of the tournament.

7. If a player or coach accumulates 3 yellow cards in three separate matches, this accumulation of cards shall be treated as a red card and the player or coach will be required to sit out their next match in the tournament.

8. Reports of Disciplinary Action. For all USSF teams, all reports of any disciplinary action will be sent to the team State Association or National Association that registered the team.

9. For CONCACF teams, all reports of disciplinary action will be sent to USSF and to the Provincial or National Association that registered the team

IX. GAME BALLS:

The Tournament Committee may choose to supply FIFA approved balls for all tournament matches.