

Cal North District 6

5v5 Tournament Rules & Policies

Tournament Overview

This tournament shall be open to all teams composed of properly registered USSF affiliated players. The tournament will be in a 5v5 format with a maximum of 10 players per team roster. A maximum of five players per team will be allowed on the field at all times – one goalkeeper and four field players.

Teams will be placed in boys and girls brackets for U10, U12, U14, U16 and U19 and have a minimum of three games scheduled. Co-ed teams will play in the boys division. Players may play up one age division if desired. Players are strictly forbidden from playing down age divisions. Team administrators are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents and spectators.

Registration/Cancellation

- All teams must fully complete a team registration prior to the registration deadline.
- The team registration fee will be processed at the time of team acceptance into the tournament.
- No refunds will be issued after a team is accepted.
- To withdraw a team from the tournament prior to team acceptance an email with the team name, age and gender must be sent to the event registrar at smiller@calnorth.org by the person that registered the team.

Player/Coach Eligibility

A laminated valid member pass including photo sanctioned by a USSF affiliate must be presented at team check-in for each player. Players will be only considered eligible for the tournament if all of the guidelines are adhered to:

- Player is eligible for the age category of the team.
- Player is listed on the team roster by midnight of the Wednesday prior to the tournament.
- Player is checked in with the tournament as a member of the team, therefore on the team roster for the tournament.
- Player is wearing the participant wristband provided during check-in.

Only team officials that have been checked-in by the tournament are allowed in the team area during games. All teams must have a minimum of one team official age 18 or older present at all times during games. Any team lacking a tournament approved team official during a game will forfeit the match.

Definitions

- Bracket: A group of teams in a division selected to play one another on the basis of age, gender or ability.
- Flight: Two or more brackets of teams in a division selected to play one another on the basis of age, gender or ability.

- Division: One or more brackets or flights of teams selected to play one another on the basis of age, gender or ability.
- Round-robin format: A group of teams selected to play in a bracket on the basis of age, gender or ability where all teams do not play each other, rather are scheduled to play a minimum of three of the other teams in the bracket.

General

The Tournament Director, referees, Cal North, organizers and/or sponsors will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team due to cancellation, in part or in whole, of the tournament due to weather conditions, venue restrictions or teams not following the rules and law enforcement shutting down the tournament.

The Tournament Director's interpretation of the rules and regulations will be final.

The Tournament Committee, consisting of the Tournament Director, Referee Assignor and Registration Manager, reserves the right for final decisions on all tournament matters.

On-Site Check-In

- At check-in, teams must present player and team official passes for all team members to be eligible to play.
- Teams should check-in a minimum of 60 minutes prior to their first game of the event. Late teams will not be guaranteed expedited check-in and could risk forfeiting their first game.
- Each participant must have a tournament wristband secured by tournament registration staff to be eligible to participate.
- Players may not register nor play with more than one (1) team.
- Teams, coaches or players violating any rules listed herein may be subject to elimination from the tournament without refund.

Number of Players & Substitutions

- Maximum roster size of ten players.
- No roster substitutions will be allowed at any time during the tournament.
- Each team must designate a minimum of one coach age 18 or older.
- Players may not be coaches.
- Maintain a minimum of four players on the field at one time-including goalkeeper.
- Goalkeepers must be used for all games.
- Substitutions may be made at any dead ball situation regardless of possession.
- Teams must get the referee's permission before making a substitution and players are to enter and exit at midfield.
- There are no substitutions on the fly regardless of position.

Field of Play

- Playing field is approximately forty yards (length) by thirty yards (width).
- Penalty box or arc is approximately twelve feet (length) by twenty-four feet (width).

- Goals are approximately six and a half feet (height) by twelve feet (width).
- All penalty kicks will be taken from a seven-yard mark.
- Tournament Director reserves the right to adjust the field, penalty box and/or goal size as needed without prior notice.

Player Equipment

- Numbered uniforms are not required.
- Appropriate footwear and shin guards are required. Cleats with a front spike are forbidden.
- Goalies must wear a contrasting color jersey from field players and referees.
- No jewelry of any kind is allowed.
- The referee will have final determination as to when a team must change uniform color due to color conflict.
- If both teams are wearing the same color, the team listed as the home team for the game will change uniform or wear pinnies if alternate uniforms are not available.
- The referee shall not allow participation of any player with a bleeding or oozing wound or wearing blood-soaked clothing. A wound shall be adequately covered.
- Player equipment: refer to Cal North PIM 12-1 for Player Equipment, including orthopedic supports. Some Braces and splints may be allowed if they do not present a danger to other players. Hard casts are not allowed, even if padded.

Soccer Ball

- Size 4 balls will be used for U10 and U12 divisions.
- Size 5 balls will be used for U14, U16 and U19 divisions.
- Each team is responsible to provide two soccer balls per match.
- The referee will determine if a ball is considered unusable.

Referees

- Referee judgment calls including but not limited to fouls, awarding penalty kicks, cards and goals are absolutely final and are not grounds nor subject to protest or dispute.
- The referee has the authority to remove any player, coach or spectator from a game.
- One field referee will be employed for each match. No lines persons are required.
- Referees will check for proper equipment in cleats, shin guards etc.
- Weather or other outstanding circumstances may result in a shortened game without advanced notification.

Duration of Game

- Each game consists of two 15-minute halves with the teams changing ends at halftime.
- The match length may be shortened at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

- The standard halftime break is five minutes. The duration of halftime may be adjusted at any time by the referee.
- There is no stoppage time.
- The game clock continues to run at all times.
- There are no time-outs.
- During preliminary rounds there will be no overtime or shoot-out. Tie games at the end of regulation time will be scored as a tie.

Start of Match

- Games should begin at their scheduled times. There will be a maximum five minute grace period for late arriving teams. If a team does not take the field nor have a minimum of four players including a goalkeeper at the end of the grace period, the team will forfeit and the other team present will be awarded a 3-0 score over the forfeiting team. Any extension to the grace period for a late arriving team is at the discretion of the referee and Tournament Director.
- If neither team takes the field both teams will be assessed with a 0-3 loss.
- Referees will determine the sides of field for teams using a coin toss. Teams will switch sides at halftime.
- Spectators are not allowed on the team side of the field during matches.

Balls In and Out of Play

- All kickoffs are indirect kicks from the center midfield line.
- All restarts, except for penalty kicks, are indirect kicks.
- There are no throw-ins for sideline balls out of bounds.
- All restarts will be kick-ins with no defender closer than three yards from the ball. Opposing players will be given a yellow card if they do not adhere to this rule.
- The ball must be stationary and on the out of bounds line when kicking the ball in.
- If the ball is not stationary or on the line, possession will be overturned to the opposing team.

Pass Violations

- There is no offside.
- Goalkeepers cannot propel the ball over the midfield line in the air. Any violation of this rule will result in an indirect free kick at the point where the ball crossed the midfield line. The ball is allowed to bounce or roll across the midfield line.
- Players may not receive a pass from outside of the goal box while standing inside of the goal box except on corner kicks. Passing within the goal box is only allowed after the ball is possessed into the box by a teammate.
- Balls can also be played in the box after a change in possession or deflection.

Fouls and Misconduct

- Yellow cards may be given as a warning to any players disobeying the rules listed herein. Yellow cards are reset for each match.
- Two yellow cards in one match will result in a red card.
- Referees have the right to eject a player via a red card from the game for continual disobedience or as a result of an incident that warrants sending the player off. The player receiving a red card must sit out the remainder of the

game. The team may then continue with their remaining players. However, if the player that received the red card was in the field of play when receiving the red card, the team must complete the game with one fewer player on the field. In addition, players receiving a red card must sit out their team's next match.

- Teams that go below the minimum of four active players due to red card(s) or injuries will receive a forfeit for their current match by a score of 0-3 regardless of the current match score or time.
- In the situation of a red card, the disqualified player's coach must provide their name to the referee. If this name is inaccurate, the team may be disqualified from the tournament.
- It is the coach's responsibility in the case of a red card that the player sits out the next match. If a player is caught playing in a match they are suspended for, it may result in their team being disqualified from the tournament.
- Deliberate handling of the ball outside of the penalty area by any player, including preventing a goal, will result in an immediate red card.
- The Tournament Director has the right to determine if the player's dismissal warrants the suspension of additional matches or the ejection of the player's team from the tournament.

Slide Tackling

- Slide tackling is strictly prohibited.
- Unintentional slide tackling (one where no other player is affected or the slide is accidental) will result in a yellow card. An intentional slide tackle will result in an automatic red card. The determination of unintentional and intentional is left to the discretion of the referee.
- Goalies are only allowed to dive within the penalty box and in a hands first manner. Any slide tackle, feet first dive or slide by goalies may be subject to a yellow or red card.

Free Kicks

- All free kicks shall be indirect except for fouls in the penalty area, which will result in a direct penalty kick.
- No defender shall be closer than three yards to the ball during free kicks.

Penalty Kicks

- The penalty spot will be seven yards from the goal line.
- All players cannot be closer than three yards from the ball and must be positioned outside of the penalty area behind the seven-yard penalty line.
- During a penalty kick, the goalkeeper must maintain at least one foot on the goal line until the ball is touched.
- All FIFA rules relating to taking a penalty kick apply to the shooter.

Heading

- No heading allowed in U10 and U12 play. When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play will continue.

Goalkeepers

- Goalkeepers cannot handle the ball outside of the penalty area. Any violation of this will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team.
- Must get rid of the ball within six seconds.
- May not punt, kick or throw the ball in the air over the midline.

Goal Kicks

- When the ball crosses the end line after being last touched by a player of the attacking team and it goes outside the field of play, it is put back into play by the goalkeeper or other player with a normal goal kick.
- Goal kicks can be taken from anywhere inside of the penalty box.
- A goal kick cannot go over the midline in the air regardless of who takes the kick.

Game Cards

- Game cards must be reviewed for correct scores after completion of a game and prior to the coach signing the game card. Once the game card is signed, the game card cannot be altered.
- It is the responsibility of each coach to sign the referees' game card after each game to ensure accurate scores.
- If a coach is unable or refuses to sign the game card, the Tournament Director must be notified immediately. The Tournament Director has final say on all score disputes and verifications.
- Once game cards are turned into tournament headquarters with a signature, no changes will be allowed.

Deliberate No Shows

- A "deliberate no show" occurs when a team willfully does not participate in a scheduled match. The penalties of such may be any or all of the following:
 - Forfeiture of the match to the opposing team.
 - Forfeiture of the ability to advance to play-offs or finals.
 - Loss of individual and team prizes.

Fair Play

- Players, coaches and spectators are expected to act in the nature of fair play.
- Abuse of the referees will not be tolerated and will result in an immediate red card. Abuse of opponents will also result in an immediate red card. At the discretion of the Tournament Director teams, players, coaches and/or spectators can be removed from the tournament for abusive conduct.
- Teams may also be disqualified at the referee's discretion for unruly or abusive spectators.
- Players, coaches and spectators are not allowed in the scoring or referee areas and must direct all questions to the tournament registration staff. The Tournament Director may remove teams in violation of this rule from the tournament.
- The Tournament Director and referees may review and rule on all reports of

unacceptable conduct by players.

- The Tournament Director's final decisions cannot be challenged. Depending on the severity of the unacceptable conduct, the Tournament Director reserves the right to eject a player, coach or the team for the remainder of the tournament.

Determination of Winners

- Preliminary rounds will be in a bracket or round-robin format. Teams will be scheduled for a minimum of three games.
- Standings in a group will be determined by game points as follows:
 - Three points for a win.
 - One point for a tie.
 - Zero points for a loss.
- Should there be a tie in standings, the manner in which teams will advance will be resolved as follows and, in the order, indicated:
 - Head-to-head results.
 - Total goal differential up to three goals per match.
 - Number of goals scored up to **three goals** per match.
 - Number of goals allowed up to **three goals** per match.
 - Shutouts.
 - Coin toss. In the event of a coin toss, the team whose name is first alphabetically will be the home team. Team names beginning with numbers will precede those beginning with letters. The visiting team chooses heads or tails. A Tournament Committee member will flip the coin.
- For brackets placed in flights with a final match, the top team in each bracket based on points or tie-breaking procedure will advance.
- For brackets playing in a round-robin format, the top team based on points or tie breaking procedure will be declared the winner of the bracket.
- During play-off or final matches, if there is a tie at the end of regulation time there will be a three-player per team penalty kick shootout. If the game is still tied, each team will take alternating penalty kicks until one team wins utilizing one shot per player until the entire team has shot.

Protesting

- All referee judgment calls including but not limited to fouls, awarded penalty kicks, cards and goals are final and are not grounds for any protest.
- Disputes of a match will only be considered if an opposing player is alleged to be ineligible for that game. No other results and/or situations are grounds for protest.
- Protests due to an alleged ineligible player must be presented in writing to the registration staff no later than fifteen minutes after the end of the match in question by the coach of the protesting team. The Tournament Committee will make a decision within thirty minutes of the protest form being submitted. No protest will be heard until the appropriate paperwork is completed. All decisions made by the Tournament Committee are final and not subject to appeal.

Prizes

- The winning team in each division will receive one team trophy and medals for up to ten players and two coaches.

- The second team in each division will receive medals for up to ten players and two coaches.

External Conditions

- In the event that inclement weather, field conditions or injury necessitate the rescheduling, curtailment or cancellation of games, the Tournament Director shall have absolute authority to make these changes in order to best serve the interests of the tournament without advance warning.
- Players and coaches must be present at their scheduled field and ready to play for each match regardless of weather conditions. Any team that is not present or prepared to play is subject to forfeit their match at the discretion of the Tournament Director or referee.

Cal North and FIFA rules apply to any situations not addressed in this document. Situations or occurrences that these rules do not address shall be left to the sole discretion of the Tournament Director.

Document History

Version	Date	Author	Rationale
1.0	4/17/22	Sally Miller	Initial Approved Version
2.0	4/24/23	Sally Miller	Increased roster size to 10 players
3.0	3/12/24	Sally Miller	Annual review/removal of year specific references

