

## **2026 SCORPIONS INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT RULES & PROTOCOLS**

### **CHECK-IN**

All teams must check in online prior to the tournament - THERE IS NO ON FIELD CHECK IN

All teams are expected to upload rosters and waivers on Got Sport 1 week prior to the event. There will be no formal check in of rosters or players cards at the fields at any events.

### **Number of Players & Eligible Players:**

Each team may be composed of a maximum of:

- 22 players (11v11)
- 18 players (9v9)
- 14 players (7v7) for this event
- Rosters are limited to 5 guest players

Only those players appearing on the team's travel roster will be eligible to play. Players can dual roster but Elite Level players are not permitted to play in lower-level brackets and may not compete on two teams within the same division. Doing so will result in a forfeit for 2nd team fielding the double rostered player.

### **SCORE REPORTING**

The WINNING team (or if the game is tied, then the team listed as the home team on the schedule) MUST report the score within 15 minutes of the end of each game via the instructions below:

- [CLICK HERE](#) to submit the score
- Enter PIN – 2026
- Enter the game number (can be found on the website next to the game information)
- Enter score

### **Game Balls & Uniforms**

- Teams listed as the home team should provide two game balls for each game
- To allow teams to plan/prepare before the weekend, please plan on the following uniforms:
- Home Team - Light Uniform
- Away Team - Dark Uniform

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Format</u>	<u>Ref Crew</u>
U8	2 x 25 Min	5v5	1
U9	2 x 25 Min	7v7	1
U10	2 x 25 Min	7v7	1
U11	2 x 30 Min	9v9	1
U12	2 x 30 Min	9v9	1
U13	2 x 35 Min	11v11	3
U14	2 x 40 Min	11v11	3
U15	2 x 40 Min	11v11	3

## **TOURNAMENT COMPETITION AND ORGANIZATION**

### **DETERMINING WINNERS**

Teams will be awarded points on the following basis:

Three (3) points for each Win

One (1) points for each Tie

Zero (0) points for each Loss

At the end of a preliminary round, advancement shall be determined by the number of points earned in preliminary matches. In the event of a tie within a bracket, the following criteria shall be used to determine final placements, in order:

1. Head to head competition
2. Goal Differential (maximum (5) per game)
3. Goals For (maximum (5) per game)
4. Goals Against(maximum (5) per game)
5. FIFA penalty Kicks (to be organized at the discretion of the Tournament Director)

Placement of bracket winners and determination of wild card winners for playoff rounds or for consolation match ups should be determined by the same criteria. Where teams are in different groups, #1 above will obviously not apply. In the event of a tie between three (3) or more teams, #1 above will not be considered. The tiebreaker criteria will be used in numerical order until the tie has been resolved.

The Tournament Director, acting within the parameters of these rules,

will determine the teams to advance to the final rounds. The Tournament Director may change placements and match-ups to better conform to tournament goals: for example, if teams have already played at this event during group tournament play; if teams are familiar due to local/league play; or if teams are from the same

### **OFFICIATING**

Qualified officials will officiate each game. All 11v11 games will be officiated by a referee and 2 assistant referees although the availability of qualified referees might necessitate the use of fewer linesmen on occasions. For 7v7 and 9v9 games you should expect only one official for the match. This Scorpion Invitational Tournament has a Zero Tolerance Policy, which is in effect for the duration of the event.

### **SUBSTITUTIONS:**

This event will follow FIFA rules where substitutions can be made at ANY stoppage with the consent of the official. This includes, free-kicks, corners and opposition stoppages such as the other team's throw-in.

### **GOAL KICKS**

When restarting the game after the ball has gone out of play for a goal kick, players must retreat to the halfway line for the U8,U9 + U10 age groups.

### **HEADING RULES**

U11 players and younger may NOT head the ball intentionally. If in the opinion of the referee a player heads the ball intentionally, the restart is an indirect free kick for the opposition. U12 players and older may head the ball intentionally. If a player plays "up" an age division, that player will play by the age group rule.

### **WEATHER**

In the case of inclement weather every attempt will be made to play all scheduled games

- Teams that have not yet played
- Teams that have only played

The lightning policy for the friendlies is as follows:

- At the first visible sign of lightning (regardless of the estimated distance from the field) all play will be stopped and players and spectators will be asked to move to a safe location. Play will not resume until 30 minutes after the last visible lightning strike seen (regardless of the estimated distance from the field) — When play is resumed, the game, which was scheduled closest to the restart of play will begin.
- For example, if play is stopped at 2:50 pm and restarted at 5:20 pm, the teams scheduled to play closest to 5:20 pm will play, NOT the teams scheduled to play at 2:50 pm

- Every attempt will be made to make up the 2:50 pm game at a later date and time. When play is stopped, or resumed, due to lightning, it is at the sole discretion of the referees and the tournament director/committee. Both referees and event officials will enforce strict adherence to the above policy. Personal safety is always our first priority

### **PLAYER SAFETY**

It is expected that coaches will keep players who have sustained injuries off the field. Referees and coaches must not allow anything dangerous to be worn that could be harmful to a player or an opponent on the field.

The referee's judgment shall determine what is safe and what is dangerous. Some examples of items that are considered unsafe (but not limited to those stated) are braces, splints, prior injuries, jewelry, hats, barrettes, and faulty cleats. The referee must err on the side of safety and his/her judgment will be considered final. Prior play, other referees, other days, other games in this tournament do not set precedent. Each game and situation is judged on its own at the time the referee makes a decision. Safety is first.

### **FIELD MARSHALS**

Field Marshals will be present at all fields. All participants should be aware that the Marshals have the authority and right to remove any unruly or uncivil spectators from the game field perimeter and/or the field complex area.

### **TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE**

In the event of conditions beyond the Tournament Committee's control, final decisions with respect to game cancellations, shortenings or terminations shall lie solely with the Tournament Committee and director. The Tournament Committee/Director, in conjunction with the Referees' Committee/Coordinator, reserves the right to change field assignments. In addition, the Tournament Committee/Director reserves the right to change sectional and divisional assignments in the interest of fair and balanced competition.

### **REFUNDS**

In the event that the entire tournament is canceled due to weather prior to your first scheduled match, Scorpions Soccer Club will either partially or fully refund your team once all tournament expenses have been fully covered. If weather curtails the tournament thereafter, every reasonable attempt will be made to assure teams play at least 2 games but no refunds will be given.