



CERES RUSH WINTER COPA

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. AGE GROUPS

U9-U14 Boys and Girls.

2. SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed and accepted or rejected based on pre-established criteria. The objective will be to have a broad geographic representation while providing a high level of matched competition. The application date may or may not be taken into consideration. Only properly sanctioned and complete applications will be considered for acceptance. Notification of acceptance or rejection will be emailed to each applicant.

3. TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION AND WITHDRAWS

If the tournament must be cancelled due to inclement weather, acts of civil disobedience, war, destruction of facilities or other circumstances deemed by the Tournament Committee to be beyond the control of the hosting league, the tournament may retain up to 40% of the entry fee once the tournament's expenses are verified. Refunds of no less than 60% of the team's entry fee will be postmarked and mailed to the teams within 45 days of the approved tournament date. Teams withdrawing after acceptance and/or after the deadline **will forfeit their entry fees**.

4. TOURNAMENT ROSTERS

Individual teams may roster (dressed for each game) no more than 14 players for U9 to U10, 16 players for U11 to U12, 18 players for U13 to U14 and must comply with US Club rules and guidelines for team formation. The number above represent the number of players that can play in any given match. More can be on the roster and game card, but those dressed and can play each match are listed above.

If your team is traveling under a USYSA affiliation, proper paperwork as required by USYSA will apply. All players must have and use approved US Club credentials (or comply with USYSA guidelines) from the same season as those being used by the team with which they are playing. Teams may use 2024/2025 US Club Player Pass Cards or other affiliated Player Passes.

Guest players will be allowed in accordance with US Club (or USYSA) Guest Player Policies. An individual team may utilize no more than THREE (3) approved guest players for this tournament. At no time shall the number of players on a roster minus the number of number of players on the official team roster who will not participate in the specific event, plus the number of guest players being utilized for the specified event total more than maximum allowed for each game. Guest players are defined as players who are currently registered, but who are not listed as a roster member of the team with which they are playing for the particular event. Guest players must use credentials from the same season as those being used by the team with which they are

playing.

Each guest player must have a properly signed medical release form, player pass, and proper US Club (or USYSA) guest player forms signed. Keep the forms with your team manager, we only need to see the player pass - but reserve the right to request to view the documents.

5. CREDENTIALS

Credentials from the same season for which the team is applying will be accepted in this tournament. Teams may use 2025/2026 US Club Player Pass Cards or other affiliated Player Passes (but they all have to be from the same association – no mixing of cards).

The following credentials must be present with the team, but only player pass cards must be presented.

For US Club teams:

Laminated US Club Soccer Player Pass: Each participating player must have a valid laminated US Club Soccer player card with a photograph. Cards that appear to have been tampered with may not be accepted.

- Official team roster, as downloaded for the US Club web site or GotSoccer.Com. (must be available but not needed for check-in)
- US Club member passes from the appropriate player year
- US Club membership forms for each player (medical release) with original signatures (must be available but not needed for check-in)
- **Team must have at least one properly credentialed adult present on the sidelines for tournament games.**

For USYSA (USSF affiliated) Teams or Other Affiliations:

- An official team roster, including any applicable player add forms, player release forms, player transfer forms, adult add forms, and guest player forms stamped and signed by the appropriate league, district and/or state registrar or officials.
- US Youth Soccer member passes from the same seasonal year for each player (including guest players) properly signed and stamped and approved by all required league, district and/or state registrar or officials.
- An US Youth Soccer membership form with the medical release and hold harmless declarations signed in original ink by the parent or guardian (or by the player in the instance where the player is 18 years of age) for each player and guest player.
- Team must have at least one properly credentialed adult present on the sidelines for games.
- Proof of insurance from US Club

Teams must make sure that their team roster is completed **online** for the tournament, so that the players appear on the game cards. Player pass cards will be checked once (prior to the first game) at least thirty (30) minutes before their first game - Players **NEED Not** be present. They will be checked by referees for proper equipment before the game. Team Manager holds on to the player pass cards after the team is checked in.

Only players listed on the GotSoccer Tournament Roster may compete. No changes to the tournament roster can be made after INITIAL team check-in.

Players may play on multiple teams during this event but MUST be different age groups (example a U10 player can play with another U11 team), including guest players - but guest players have to have a guest player form for each team they play with filled out and signed by both parties. Players playing on multiple teams can only play in one other team in the same age bracket. Example - a U10 Player can only play in one other U11 team and not multiple U11

teams in the same bracket. Tournament Director has the right to review on a case-by-case basis to make sure the spirit of the tournament is followed.

6. HOME TEAM

The team listed first on the game schedule is the home team. Both teams will be seated in the designated areas opposite of spectators. Conflicts in jersey color will be resolved by the **AWAY TEAM** being required to change jerseys. The referee will determine if there is a conflict in jersey colors or keeper jersey colors. The home team will be responsible for providing three (3) properly sized game balls for the game. Pennies are allowed (if the Center Referee Agrees in case they are needed).

7. START TIME / FORFEITURES

Teams must be at the field 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of their game in order to for referees to check their equipment and jersey colors. Games will be started within 5 minutes of the designated start time. If a team has not taken the field with a minimum of seven (7) players within the 5 minute grace period, the game will be forfeited to the team that has taken the field with at least seven (7) players. If neither team takes the field within the 5 minute grace period, no points will be awarded to either team and the game will be declared a double forfeit.

The Referee and/or Tournament Committee may terminate a game and award a forfeit if a team leaves the field during the game without the approval of the referee, the referee abandons a match due to excessive violent conduct and/or misconduct by the players, coaches or fans, or a team is deemed to be in gross violation of US Club, US Youth Soccer, or rules of this tournament. In such a case, the team will be reported to the appropriate affiliation.

In the event that a team willfully abandons a game or causes the premature termination of a game, the team may be requested to leave the tournament and forfeiture fines will apply. Tournament points will be awarded to the team that did not forfeit based on the game score at the time of abandonment or as a 3-0 victory (10 points), whichever yields the higher point total.

8. LENGTH OF GAMES

All games will have a water-break during the middle of each half as determined by the center referee, but no additional time will be awarded for such a water break.

U8 - U9 Two 25-minute periods, 5 minute halftime (Championship games are same length)

U11 - U12 Two 25-minute periods, 5 minute halftime - (Championship games are same length)

U13 - U14 Two 30-minute periods, 5 minute halftime - (Championship games are same length)

There shall be a 5 minute halftime rest period for all games. *If a water break is given, NO additional time will be added to the game duration.* In preliminary games, tie scores will stand. **In the case of a tie score in a semi-final and/or championship match**, the match will proceed immediately to FIFA penalty kicks.

The length of any game may be shortened or adjusted if deemed necessary by the tournament committee due to significant delays resulting from field conditions, weather, daylight, injuries, or other matters.

9. MANDATORY REST PERIODS

Teams and players must be given a minimum rest period of one hour & a half (1.5) between games. The rest period will commence when a team's or player's match ends and will end when the team's or player's subsequent match begins.

10. PLAYING RULES

All games will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws as modified by US Club rules or amended by these tournament rules. **All games are FINAL – NO PROTESTS WILL BE ALLOWED**

All teams will be scheduled to play a minimum of three preliminary games except in the case if there is a Semi-Final Game. A game that is scheduled and not played due to forfeiture counts as a scheduled game, as we cannot prevent unforeseen forfeiture. Referees will be instructed to refrain from adding time to the game clock due to injury or other delays except under very special or critical circumstances. There will be no overtime in preliminary games – all ties will stand.

Coaching is permitted from the team bench area **ONLY**, which shall be no more than 10 yards from the center line, in either direction. Any players wearing orthopedic casts, air splints, metal splints or any other item deemed hazardous by the referees will not be permitted to play in tournament games. Fans and spectators shall stay clear of the area designated for coaches and players at all times.

10A. Players are allowed to play for multiple teams in the tournament (as noted above).

11. SUBSTITUTIONS

Unlimited substitutions are allowed with referee approval at any restart of play. All substitutions shall be made at the mid-field line, and the player being replaced must be off the field before another player may enter. All substitutions are at the referee's discretion.

12. SCORING

Tournament points will be awarded and deducted according to the following system:

6 points for a win

3 point for a tie

0 points for a loss

1 point for a shutout (Except 0-0 Shutout)

1 point per goal up to a max of 3 goals

1 point deduction for each RED CARD and or Coach/Parent SEND OFF [Note a Parent that is send off by the referee will be asked to leave the field and stay in the parking lot for the remainder of the game]. The parent's team will receive a one (1) point deduction for the send-off. Please make sure that all Parent's know that their behavior affects the team.

In the event of a forfeit, the game will be scored as 3-0 (10 points) in favor of the team that did not forfeit. If both teams forfeit, there will be no score; therefore, no points awarded to either team.

If a team withdraws prior to the completion of the preliminary games, all games in which they were scheduled to play but did not participate shall be scored as forfeits.

13. FLIGHT WINNERS

The team that wins all of preliminary games is the flight winner. If there is no team that wins all of its preliminary games or if there is more than one team that wins all of its preliminary games, then the winner will be the team with the most points. The second place team is the team with the second highest point total, and so on.

In case of a tie in tournament points following the completion of preliminary games, the advancing team will be determined based on the following criteria in the order specified:

- A. Head to Head competition – **team that won the head to head competition** between the teams that are tied will advance
- B. Team with most goals scored advances (maximum goal differential is 3 per game)
- C. Team with fewest goals allowed advances (maximum goal differential is 3 per game)
- D. Team with the highest goal differential advances (maximum goal differential is 3 per game)
- E. Team with most wins
- F. FIFA penalty kicks immediately after the game or at a time to be arranged by the Tournament Director

If there is a tie between three or more teams, the tie breaking procedures begins at B above. When and if any two teams remain tied, the tie breaking procedure shall restart at A above.

14. CHAMPIONSHIP

Four team flights – Teams shall play a three-game preliminary round. Top 2 teams play a Championship game. Awards are given to first and second-place teams in the Championship Match.

Five team flights – Teams shall play a round robin of 4 games. Team with most points after the round robin will be the Champion. The finalist (2nd Place Team) will be with the second most points after the round robin is completed.

Six team flights – Teams shall play a three-game preliminary round. Top 2 teams play a Championship game (Bracket A #1 vs. Bracket B #1). The first place teams in each bracket after the preliminary games shall advance to the Championship game. Awards shall be given to first and second place teams in the Championship Match.

Tournament Director may combine age brackets in order to have a complete team flight as needed for the tournament. Example: U9B and U10B may be combined to complete a flight bracket or a specific team may be moved up to fill an open spot in an age group bracket. Such discretion is up to the Tournament Director as needed. With that said, our TD will do all that is necessary to try to fill open spots for all age/gender brackets.

15. AWARDS

Individual awards/medals will be given in each playing division for first and second place. Each first place team shall be given a Team Trophy (Ceres Rush Winter Copa – Trophy). The Champion and Finalist will receive medals.

16. SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship will prevail at all times and is expected from all players, coaches, and spectators. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents, assistant coaches, team officials, and spectators at all times. Failure to control the conduct of their sideline may

result in the ejection of the coach. Parents and spectators must sit on the opposite side of the field as their team.

17. EJECTIONS

Any player, coach, assistant coach, registered team official or parent receiving a sendoff (red card) will automatically be suspended from their next tournament game. Coach may be sent off for the conduct of the team's fans and parents. The send-off report will be reviewed by the Tournament Director who will determine, based on the circumstances, if any additional suspension will be added. The Tournament Committee will have the authority to extend the suspension as deemed necessary.

18. A FEW REMINDERS

US Club and California State Law expressly prohibit the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or any other controlled substances. Any team (including players, coaches, parents, and spectators) found to be in violation of this mandate will automatically forfeit all games played and face possible expulsion from the tournament.

The Tournament Committee is the "Final Judge." The tournament committee will review any problems or issues that are not specifically covered and reserves the right to establish policy as deemed necessary. The tournament director and/or committee will have the final say on issues. The tournament director and/or committee reserve the right to change any rules stated in the tournament rules and any given time. The decisions of the Committee will be final and there will be no appeals.

Games may be shortened, at the discretion of the Tournament Director, due to weather, injuries, game delays or other factors that would unduly compromise the completion of the tournament as scheduled.

No pets or alcohol are allowed.

19. QUESTIONS / CONCERNS

The tournament director and/or committee will be available at the tournament headquarters to answer questions and deal with problems. The site of the tournament headquarters will be published the club's webpage. Should your team have any questions or concerns, the head coach ONLY may address them to the tournament director.

The tournament director/committee **will not discuss** team-specific matters with parents, players, spectators, or managers. The tournament director and/or committee will have the final say on issues. The tournament director and/or committee reserve the right to change any rules stated in the tournament rules and any given time. Any team, from which a person other than the head coach repeatedly approaches the tournament director/committee, especially after being asked to refrain from doing so, may face penalties and possible expulsion from the tournament.

20. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Any injuries sustained during the tournament should be reported to the Tournament Director or Field Marshall so that an incident report can be completed. Emergency medical assistance is available at Memorial Medical Center on the corner of Coffee Road and Briggsmore Avenue in Modesto and Doctors Medical Center on the corner of Orangeburg Avenue and Florida Avenue

in Modesto. Maps to these hospitals will be available at the Tournament Headquarters.

21. HOUSING AND HOTEL INFORMATION

Housing will not be provided.

22. TOURNAMENT CHECK IN: ONLINE Check-In [Deadline Below]. If you have roster issues, please email your Tournament Roster to the Tournament Director: bolanoslaw67@gmail.com or get prior authorization from Tournament Director to complete an onsite check-in at the Ceres Soccer Complex one hour before your first game (if needed).

******PLEASE NOTE ALL ROSTERS MUST BE UPDATED BY: Tuesday, November 18, 2025, by 9:00 p.m. as game cards will be printed on November 20, 2025 for all games (except finals/championship games)**

******ALL PLAYERS MUST BE ON YOUR GOTSOCCER ROSTER THAT ARE PLAYING IN THE TOURNAMENT.**

ROSTER INSTRUCTIONS:

You can still add players to your tournament roster up UNTIL you check in:

Click this link for an overview of how to add Club Players to your tournament event roster:
[How do I Build an Event Roster- Coach/Manager – GotSport \(zendesk.com\)](#)

Click this link for an overview of how to add Guest Players to your tournament roster (you will need your administrator's help to get a guest player added to the event roster):
[How to add a guest/club pass player for an event as an admin? – GotSport \(zendesk.com\)](#)

Welcome to Ceres Rush Winter Copa!

Adam B Bolanos
Ceres Rush Winter Copa – Tournament Director

*** Disclaimer – Tournament Director reserves the right to modify and/or amend the rules and/or guidelines at his sole discretion based on the best interest of the game(s) and tournament.*