

# **IR TOURNAMENT SERIES RULES**

## **1. AGE GROUPS**

U8–U19 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 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 30% of the entry fee once the tournament's expenses are verified. Refunds of no less than 70% 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 after the deadline may forfeit their entry fees.

## **4. TOURNAMENT ROSTERS**

Individual teams may roster no more than 15 players for U9 to U10, 18 players for U12 to U14, and 22 players for U15 to U19, and must comply with US Club rules and guidelines for team formation. 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 from the same season as those being used by the team with which they are playing. Players may not play or be on rosters on multiple teams in the same age divisions.

Guest players will be allowed in accordance with US Club Guest Player Policies. An individual team may utilize no more than 5 approved guest players for this tournament. At no time may the total of (a) the number of players participating from the official team roster and (b) the number of guest players being utilized exceed the maximum roster limit for the age group. Guest players are defined as players who are currently registered but 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 guest player forms signed.

## **5. CREDENTIALS**

Credentials from the same season for which the team is applying will be accepted in this tournament. The following credentials must be presented at the mandatory team credentials check-in.

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 from the US Club website.
  - US Club member passes from the appropriate player year
  - US Club membership forms for each player (medical release) with original signatures
  - Team must have at least one properly credentialed adult present on the sidelines for games.

In addition to being checked during the online check-in, all members' passes will be checked prior to the beginning of each match at the field. To ensure that your team is checked in on tournament day, we encourage teams to arrive at the field no later than one hour prior to game time.

Each team must send a representative to check in one hour prior to its first game.

Tournament packets will be provided, including handouts and instructions. Teams failing to complete the mandatory online check-in without prior approval of the Tournament Director will forfeit their games. Only players on the tournament roster may compete. No changes to the tournament roster can be made after check-in. Players may only be placed on one (1) team during the event.

## **6. HOME TEAM**

The team listed first on the game schedule is the home team. Both teams will be seated in the designated areas with their spectators, except on BSP 3 and high school stadiums, where teams will sit on opposite sides from the spectators. Conflicts in jersey color will be resolved by requiring the visiting team to change jerseys. The referee will determine if there is a conflict in jersey colors or keeper jersey colors. If tournament balls are not available, the home team will be responsible for providing three game balls.

## **7. START TIME / FORFEITURES**

Teams must be at the field 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of their game in order to be checked in by referees or appointed tournament officials. Games will be started within 5 minutes of the designated start time. If a team has not taken the field with a minimum of 7 players within the 5 minute grace period, the game will be forfeited to the team that has taken the field with at least 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 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**

AGE GROUP PRELIMINARY/SEMI-FINAL  
CHAMPIONSHIP

U9-U10 Two 25-minute periods

U11 -U12 Two 25-minute periods

U13-U19 Two 30-minute periods

There shall be a 5 minute halftime rest period for all games. 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 two games 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 games, except in the case that 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 forfeitures. 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.

There will be NO heading allowed for U11 and below age divisions. Intentional heading in these age groups will be treated as an indirect free kick foul and will not be considered an individual foul; no cards will be issued for any heading infraction.

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.

## **11. SUBSTITUTIONS**

Unlimited substitutions are allowed with referee approval at any restart of play. All substitutions shall be made at the midfield 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 points for a tie

1 point for each goal, up to a maximum of  
3

1 point for a shutout

**1 point deduction for each RED CARD and/or Coach/Parent SEND-OFF**

In the event of a forfeit, the game will be scored as 2-0 (9 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 the 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 the highest goal differential advances (maximum goal differential is 4 per game)

C. Team with fewest goals allowed advances (max 4)

D. Team with most goals scored advances (max 4)

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 procedure begins at subsection B above. When and if any two teams remain tied, the tie-breaking procedure shall restart at subsection A above.

#### **14. CHAMPIONSHIP**

Four-team flights—Teams shall play a three-game preliminary round. The top two teams will play a championship game. Awards are given to first- and second-place teams.

Five-team flights—Teams shall play a four-game round robin. First place shall be determined by the top point earner in the flight. Second place shall be determined by the next highest point earner in the flight. Awards shall be given to first- and second-place teams.

Six-team flights—Two brackets of three teams shall be established.

Option A—Six teams shall play a two-game preliminary round within their bracket. The top two teams in each bracket will play a semi-final, with the winners playing a final. The third-place teams in each bracket will play each other in a consolation game. Awards are given to first- and second-place teams.

Option B—Each team shall play a three-game preliminary round (cross bracket). The top two teams by points out of the six will play a final, with the winner being first place.

Eight-team flights—Two brackets of four teams shall be established. Each team shall play a three-game preliminary round. The first-place point earners in each bracket shall advance to a championship match. Awards shall be given to first- and second-place teams.

Nine-team flights—Three brackets of three teams shall be established. Teams in the three-team brackets shall play a two-game preliminary round. The top point earners in these three brackets, plus the highest-point wildcard, shall play each other in a semi-final match to determine who advances to the championship match. Other teams shall play consolation matches determined by points.

Ten-team flights—One bracket of four teams and two brackets of three teams shall be established. Teams in the three-team brackets shall play a two-game preliminary round. The top point earners in these two three-team brackets shall play each other in a semi-final match to determine who advances to the championship match versus the bracket winner from the four-team bracket. Other teams in the three-team brackets shall play consolation matches determined by points.

Awards shall be given to first and second place teams.

**15. AWARDS**

Individual awards will be given in each playing division for first place. Each first-place team shall be given a team trophy and player medals. Second-place teams will receive player medals and a team award.

## **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, or registered team official receiving a send-off (red card) will automatically be suspended from their next tournament game. A 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 "Court of Last Resort." 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 at any 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, alcohol, smoking, foul language, or poor sportsmanship 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 in the tournament packet. 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.

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 Marshal so that an incident report can be completed.

**Anything not covered is at the Tournament Director's discretion, and his decisions are final.**

### **Check in Information for the IR TOURNAMENT SERIES**

DOWNLOAD YOUR [AGREEMENT SHEET HERE](#) (also available on step #7)

Check In Options: \*\*PLEASE NOTE ALL ROSTERS MUST BE UPDATED BY 5:00 PM ON THURSDAY before tournament.

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

**\*\*\*PLAYERS MAY ONLY PLAY FOR AND BE ROSTERED ON ONE TEAM FOR THE ENTIRETY OF THE TOURNAMENT, REGARDLESS OF AGE GROUP, CLUB AFFILIATION, BRACKET, POSITION, INJURY. ONCE AGAIN....PLAYERS MAY ONLY PLAY FOR ONE TEAM DURING THE TOURNAMENT.**

**THERE IS NO IN PERSON CHECK IN, ALL CHECK IN'S MUST BE DONE ONLINE**

#### **ROSTER INSTRUCTIONS:**

Roster Freeze Deadline is 5:00 pm THURSDAY before the Tournament start

1. Log onto your GotSport account and click the team that is playing in the tournament.
2. Click on TEAM REGISTRATIONS.
3. Select the ELK GROVE CUP you are checking in for from the drop-down menu.
4. Add any LOAN or CLUB PASS players by clicking on the buttons available. For more information on this, please follow this link: <https://support.gotsport.com/how-do-i-build-an-event-roster-coach/manager>
5. To check for "APPROVED PLAYERS," go to the "TEAM REGISTRATIONS" tab and click on the ELK GROVE CUP.
6. Click the "ROSTER" tab. Your approved players will appear on this roster. PLEASE MAKE SURE THIS ROSTER IS 100% CORRECT; THE MATCH CARDS WILL BE PRINTED WITH THIS ROSTER.
7. [Download and fill out the agreement sheet found here.](#)
8. Click on the TEAM REGISTRATIONS tab, then click on the ELK GROVE CUP, then click on the REGISTRATION tab, hit the EDIT button and upload your agreement sheet.
9. Please note: you will not see the document marked as approved as in years past.
10. You are all set. Players will check in with the referee 30 minutes before each match. They will need their player cards (cards do not need to be uploaded) and will be checked against the match cards (the tournament will print the match cards).