

TOURNAMENT RULES

2026 AC BREA KICKOFF CLASSIC

General

This Class I & III tournament is open to all club, signature and AYSO+ teams Boys & Girls U8 - U19 from US Club Soccer, USSSA, Cal South, AYSO and all teams affiliated with USSF.

Qualifying applications will be accepted on a first come first-serve basis. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any application. All decisions, judgments and rulings of the tournament referees and officials are final. NO PROTESTS WILL BE ENTERTAINED OR ALLOWED.

Eligibility

- Teams will play in the applicable 2026-2027 age group and must have approved 2026-2027 player ID cards/passcards and medical release forms.
- For the 2026-2027 season, age groups are formed using the August 1 - July 31 registration cycle. Eligible birthdate ranges are listed in the Age Group / Match Duration table below.
- U8 - U10 ages will play 7v7; U11 & U12 ages will play 9v9, with no exceptions.
- Teams must be affiliated with FIFA and/or USSF through US Club Soccer, Cal South, USSSA, or another accepted organization. Players and coaches must have valid cards/passcards.
- Unlimited loan/guest players will be permitted subject to a maximum roster size of U8 - U10 (12 players), U11 - U12 (14 players), and U13 - U19 (18 players), with loan/guest-player paperwork if applicable.
- All USYS teams will need proper travel papers, if required.

Rosters & Team Registration

- Teams will register a minimum of 60 minutes prior to their first game on the first date of the tournament at the site of their first game.
- There will be no additions to the team roster after the team's first game.
- Player cards/passcards or medical releases may be accepted later by the Field Marshal, but only if the player is listed on the official team roster at the time of registration and prior to the first game.
- At registration, a completed and signed Team Roster must be submitted by the Coach or Manager, who must certify that all players are properly registered for the 2026-2027 season. The team roster can be found under the link on the tournament page titled "Roster Form." Please review, print, and bring the completed roster to registration.
- Valid 2026-2027 player cards/passcards with photo and medical release forms will be required at registration. Each team must have a coach or assistant coach with a valid 2026-2027 coaching ID/pass to play a game.
- No player may compete in the Tournament on more than one team.
- AYSO teams with valid AYSO player cards/passcards are accepted. Players from AYSO or a non-USSF affiliated organization playing as a guest for a Cal South competitive club team must have a valid Cal South player card/pass to play. US Club Soccer / SoCal player cards or virtual cards are accepted.

Check-In Before Game (After First Game Team Check-in)

Teams will check in 1 hour prior to the start of each game at the game site. The Field Marshal will hold player ID cards/passcards during all matches. The Field Marshal will check all teams for proper equipment; however, the referee has the final say on safety issues. The Coach or Team Administrator will hold Medical Release forms. The Coach or Team Administrator should return to the Field Marshal after the game to retrieve player ID cards/passcards.

Game Procedures

- Player I.D. cards/passcards and rosters will be verified upon check-in.
- All teams must have a licensed coach and carded administrator at every game.
- All teams shall consist of at least seven (7) players. (6 players for U8 - U10.)
- Teams must be on opposite sides of the playing field.

BUILD-OUT LINE

U10 and below

When the goalkeeper has the ball in his or her hands during play from the opponent, the opposing team must move behind the build-out line until the ball is put into play. Once the opposing team is behind the build-out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punts and drop kicks are not allowed).

After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build-out line and play resumes as normal.

The build-out line will also be used to denote where offside offenses can be called. Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build-out line and goal line.

Infraction by opposing team: restart with goalkeeper possession or goal kick. FOR TOURNAMENT ONLY - warning for the first occurrence for each team. Any additional occurrences will result in an Indirect Free Kick, to be taken by the opposing team, just outside the penalty area.

HOME team has North or West side of the field to sit on.

In the event of a color conflict, HOME team must change jerseys.

- Home team will supply 3 game balls unless provided by the tournament.
- There will be no coin toss. HOME team chooses the goal to defend; AWAY team gets kickoff.
- Referees have been instructed to start all games on time. No injury time will be added.

DELIBERATE HEADING

Deliberate heading is not permitted for U11 and below. Infraction: indirect free kick from the spot. If it is in the penalty area, the restart will be brought outside the penalty area.

NOTE: Drop ball for a suspected injury not resulting from deliberately playing the ball with the head.

Match Rules

All games shall be played by FIFA Rules as modified by US Club Soccer, USYSA, CYSA-S, and AC Brea. The Tournament Director will resolve any situations/issues not explicitly covered by the rules. The Tournament Director will make final decisions relating to the interpretation of the Tournament rules. However, the Tournament Director may delegate authority to the Venue Director if the Tournament Director is not present at the game. Duration of Games by Halves, and Ball Size are as follows:

Age Group	2026-27 Eligible Birthdates	Pool Play / Half	Semi/Final / Half	Ball Size
U19	Aug. 1, 2007 - Jul. 31, 2008	30 Minutes	30 Minutes	5
U18	Aug. 1, 2008 - Jul. 31, 2009	30 Minutes	30 Minutes	5
U17	Aug. 1, 2009 - Jul. 31, 2010	30 Minutes	30 Minutes	5
U16	Aug. 1, 2010 - Jul. 31, 2011	30 Minutes	30 Minutes	5
U15	Aug. 1, 2011 - Jul. 31, 2012	30 Minutes	30 Minutes	5
U14	Aug. 1, 2012 - Jul. 31, 2013	30 Minutes	30 Minutes	5
U13	Aug. 1, 2013 - Jul. 31, 2014	30 Minutes	30 Minutes	5
U12	Aug. 1, 2014 - Jul. 31, 2015	25 Minutes	25 Minutes	4
U11	Aug. 1, 2015 - Jul. 31, 2016	25 Minutes	25 Minutes	4
U10	Aug. 1, 2016 - Jul. 31, 2017	25 Minutes	25 Minutes	4
U9	Aug. 1, 2017 - Jul. 31, 2018	25 Minutes	25 Minutes	4
U8	Aug. 1, 2018 - Jul. 31, 2019	25 Minutes	25 Minutes	4

In the event a Finals/Championship game or Semi-final game ends in a tie, the match will go directly to FIFA "kicks from the spot" (No Overtime).

- In the event of a 5-team pool, there will not be a championship game. All games will fall under the pool play rules and regulations and can end in a tie. There will be no overtime or FIFA "kicks from the spot" in a 5-team pool to determine the winner of any game.

Preliminary games can end in a tie.

- All Preliminary Games will be called not less than five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the next game regardless of the amount of time played in each half up to that point.
- Teams that are not ready to start at their scheduled game time will forfeit their game.

Player Equipment

- Shin guards are mandatory for all players.
- Proper soccer shoes must be worn by all players (those that contain a toe cleat will not be allowed).

- Players must not wear anything that is dangerous to himself/herself or another player (including jewelry).
- No player will be allowed to play with an injury which could be aggravated by playing or which, in the opinion of the referee, constitutes a danger to themselves or others.

Player Substitution

- Substitution by a team shall be unlimited but only with the permission of the referee.
- Substitutions may be made by both teams, with the consent of the referee, at any stoppage of play.
- When a player injured on the field requires attention, they must be substituted off the field of play, if only briefly.
- Substitutions shall be made at midfield within (10) yards of the halfway line. The substitute player shall not enter the field of play until allowed by the referee and the player substituted has left the field of play.

Scoring System

The 10-Point scoring system will be used.

Win = 6 points

Tie = 3 points

Loss = 0 points

Shutout Win = 1 point

Each goal scored = 1 point (Maximum (3) goals per game)

In the event of a 0-0 tie, each team will be awarded 3 points.

There will be a deduction of three (3) points for each Red Card received by a player or coach.

A coach ejected without being shown a red card is also a deduction of three (3) points.

A forfeit win will be scored 1-0.

Any team who forfeits any pool play game will have all of its pool games scored as 0-1 losses. (At the discretion of the Tournament Director).

Tie Breaker*

If two teams are tied in points at the end of the preliminary rounds, the following tiebreaker procedures will be implemented to determine a winner:

1. Winner of head-to-head competition
2. Least Goals allowed
3. Most Goals Scored (max 3 per game)
4. Most total wins
5. Most shut out wins
6. FIFA "kicks from the spot"

* In the event of a tie between 3 or more teams, "kicks from the spot" will be used.

Awards

Individual player medallions will be presented to the champions and finalists at the completion of the championship game, with a team trophy for Champions. All participants will receive an AC Brea Kickoff Classic pin.

Conduct

- Coaches have complete responsibility for the conduct of their players, bench, friends, and spectators at all times.
- Coaching from the sidelines (giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy and position) is permitted, provided that no mechanical devices are used and the tone of the voice is instructive and not derogatory.
- Each coach or substitute remains within 10 yards on either side of the halfway line.
- No coach, substitute, or spectator makes derogatory remarks or gestures to the referees, other coaches, players, substitutes, or spectators.
- No coach, substitute, or spectator uses profanity or incites, in any manner, disruptive behavior.
- In the opinion of game officials, if a game must be terminated for misconduct of players, bench or spectators, the offending team can be suspended from further play and forfeit that game and all remaining games. In this event, all previous points earned remain as played.
- Any player or coach ordered from the field of play (red card shown or not) will not be allowed to participate in the next match as a minimum and if violent conduct occurs the player or coach may be ejected for remainder of tournament at discretion of Tournament Director.
- Two YELLOW cards during a match shall result in ejection for the remainder of the match and a one-game suspension. A three-point deduction will be given to the offending team for each red card (double yellow included). No protests will be allowed.

Any team refusing to turn over the name and card number of a player / coach / administrator following an ejection (straight red or double yellow) will forfeit the remainder of their tournament games with no refund.

Any player or coach who assaults a referee will be expelled from the Tournament immediately.

- Disciplinary measures imposed by this tournament organization for inappropriate behavior shall not be limited to placing restrictions upon an individual player, coach, spectator or team's participation in the tournament. Such disciplinary action will be as determined by and at the discretion of the Tournament Director or designated Field Marshal and can include exclusion from further tournament participation.
- Any cards issued will be reported to US Club and USYS in a tournament report and thereby to the home club/league of the player, coach, team or supporters involved, except that all matters involving a referee assault shall, in accordance with USSF rules, be referred immediately to USYS and US Club Soccer. The home state association and the home club/league of the player, coach, team or supporters shall, except in the case of referee assault, have the responsibility for imposing, should the circumstances warrant, additional sanctions within their respective jurisdictions with regard to matters arising from the tournament.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, which the Tournament Committee deems as being unsafe conditions for the players and/or the fields, and competition cannot continue:

- Matches that are at halftime or are in the second half will have the score stand as final.
- Matches that are in the first half of play may be shortened, kicks from the penalty mark, or other means, as determined by the Tournament Committee, may be used to determine winners.
- If the tournament is cancelled due to inclement weather prior to the start of competition, teams will be set to play on a make-up weekend.
- If the tournament is cancelled as a result of weather or acts of God within one week of playing, teams will play on the make-up date scheduled for the following week of the originally scheduled tournament.

Refund Policy

- Full refunds will be made to all teams not accepted.
- Teams must drop in writing prior to the application registration deadline date to receive a full refund. Requests for withdrawals from the tournament will only be accepted from Administrators (Contact Person or Coach) listed on the team application for the tournament.
- Teams that drop after July 25th, 2026 will forfeit their entire entry fee.

Score Corrections

Coach or Team Administrators should review posted scores to verify scores are properly recorded and contact the Field Marshal and/or Tournament Director immediately of any possible errors. The score card is the official match record and may not be changed except under the following circumstances:

- If Coaches/Team Administrators of both teams meet with the Field Marshal and agree to a score correction, the Field Marshal will correct the score and other records accordingly.
- If the Referee verifies an incorrect score was recorded, the Field Marshal (with Tournament Director's approval) may correct the score and other records accordingly.
- Scores incorrectly posted shall be investigated by the Field Marshal by checking the original match record and corrected accordingly.

Venue Rules & Restrictions

- Smoking is not permitted in the immediate vicinity of any playing site.
- No pets shall be permitted in the immediate vicinity of any playing site.
- No alcoholic beverages shall be permitted in the immediate vicinity of the playing site. No person shall be permitted to appear on, or in the vicinity of, the playing site in an intoxicated condition.
- Breaking the law is under the jurisdiction of the Brea Police Department, not the tournament management team. Proper authorities will be contacted as deemed necessary.

**** All games will be considered final and no protests will be allowed ****