



2025 AC BREA THANKSGIVING CUP

TOURNAMENT RULES

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 USSF-affiliated teams. Qualifying applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any application. All decisions of the referees and tournament officials are final. No protests will be tolerated.

ELIGIBILITY

- Teams will play in the 2025–2026 age groups and must use approved 2025–2026 player ID cards and medical release forms.
 - U8–U10 will play 7v7; U11–U12 will play 9v9 (no exceptions).
 - Teams must be affiliated with FIFA/USSF through US Club Soccer, Cal South, USSSA, or AYSO.
 - Unlimited loan players permitted.
 - Max roster sizes:
 - U8–U10: 14 players
 - U11–U12: 16 players
 - U13–U19: 18 players
 - AYSO player cards are accepted. Guest players from AYSO/non-USSF organizations must have an approved US Club/Cal South/USSSA card.
 - Digital or Physical Laminated cards are acceptable.
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ROSTERS & TEAM REGISTRATION

- Teams must register at least 60 minutes before their first game at their playing venue.
- No roster additions after the first game.
- Player cards or medical releases may be submitted later only if the player is already listed on the official roster at registration.
- Teams must submit the official roster (from the “Roster Form” link on the tournament page) signed by the Coach or Manager.

- All teams must present laminated or digital player cards with photos and corresponding medical releases.
 - Each team must have a licensed coach or assistant with a valid coaching ID.
 - No player may participate on more than one team in the tournament.
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CHECK-IN BEFORE EACH GAME

- Teams must check in 1 hour before each match.
 - Field Marshal will hold player Roster cards.
 - Referees have final authority on equipment safety.
 - Coaches/administrators must retain medical releases during games.
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GAME PROCEDURES

- ID cards and rosters will be verified at check-in.
 - All teams must have a licensed coach and carded admin at every match.
 - Minimum players:
 - U8–U10: 6 players
 - U11–U19: 7 players
 - Teams sit on opposite sides of the field.
 - Home team sits North or West.
 - In case of color conflict, Away team changes jerseys.
 - Home team supplies 3 game balls unless tournament provides them.
 - No coin toss: Home chooses direction; Away kicks off.
 - Games will start on time. No injury time added.
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UNIFORMS

- Home Team = Light Colors
 - Away Team = Dark Colors
 - Away Team will change only jersey tops if there is a color conflict.
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BUILD-OUT LINE (U10 and Below)

- Opposing team must retreat behind the build-out line when the goalkeeper has the ball.
- Keeper may pass, roll, or throw the ball (no punts or drop kicks).
- Play resumes once ball is in play and opponents may cross the build-out line.
- Offside judged from the build-out line.

- Infraction:
 - Tournament rule: 1 warning per team, subsequent = Indirect Free Kick outside penalty area.

DELIBERATE HEADING (U11 AND BELOW)

- Not permitted.
 - Restart: Indirect Free Kick from spot (moved outside penalty area if needed).
- Dropped ball for accidental head contact during injury stoppage.

MATCH RULES

All games follow FIFA Laws as modified by US Club, USYS, CYSA-S, and AC Brea.

Game Duration & Ball Size

Birth Year	Pool Play	Semi/Final	Ball Size
2008–2009	30 min halves	30 min halves	5
2010	30 min halves	30 min halves	5
2011	30 min halves	30 min halves	5
2012	30 min halves	30 min halves	5
2013	25 min halves	25 min halves	5
2014	25 min halves	25 min halves	4
2015	25 min halves	25 min halves	4
2016	25 min halves	25 min halves	4
2017	25 min halves	25 min halves	4
2018	25 min halves	25 min halves	4

Additional Match Rules

- Semi-Final & Final ties go straight to Kicks from the Mark (no OT).
- 5-team pools have no finals; all games are pool play and may end in a tie.

- Preliminary games may end in a tie.
 - Games will be stopped 5 minutes before next scheduled match.
 - Teams not ready at scheduled time will forfeit.
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PLAYER EQUIPMENT

- Shin guards required.
 - Legal soccer cleats only (no toe cleat).
 - No dangerous equipment or jewelry.
 - No player may play with an unsafe injury.
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SUBSTITUTIONS

- Unlimited, with referee permission.
 - Allowed for both teams on any stoppage.
 - Injured players requiring attention must be substituted.
 - Substitutes must wait at midfield and enter only when waved on.
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SCORING SYSTEM (10-Point System)

- Win = 6 points
- Tie = 3 points
- Loss = 0 points
- Shutout win = +1
- Goals scored = +1 each (max 3 per game)
- 0–0 tie = 3 points each
- Red Card (player/coach) = –3 points
- Coach ejection without red = –3 points
- Forfeit score = 1–0

Teams forfeiting a pool game may have all pool games scored 0–1 (Tournament Director discretion).

TIEBREAKERS

1. Head-to-Head
2. Goal Differential
3. Goals For

4. Goals Against
5. Most Shutouts
6. FIFA Kicks from the Mark

Three-way ties go directly to Kicks from PK Mark.

AWARDS

- Champions: Medals + Team Trophy
 - Finalists: Medals
 - All participants receive an AC Brea Thanksgiving Pins.
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CONDUCT

- Coaches are responsible for players, spectators, and bench conduct.
- Sideline coaching allowed if positive and instructional.
- No derogatory remarks, profanity, or disruptive behavior.
- Referee abuse or misconduct may result in suspension or tournament expulsion.
- Red Cards:
 - Minimum 1-game suspension.
 - Double yellow = ejection + 1-game suspension + -3 points.
- Teams must provide the ID of any ejected player/coach or will forfeit remaining games.
- Referee assault = immediate expulsion.

Cards will be reported to governing organizations.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

If unsafe conditions occur:

- Games at halftime or later = final.
 - Games in first half may be shortened or decided by kicks.
 - If tournament is cancelled before starting, games will move to scheduled make-up weekend.
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REFUND POLICY

- Full refund for all teams not accepted.

- Teams withdrawing before the registration deadline receive a full refund.
 - After Nov 10, 2025, no refunds.
 - If tournament cancelled within one week due to weather/Act of God, event will be played on make-up date.
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SCORE CORRECTIONS

Coaches must review posted scores and report errors immediately.

Corrections allowed if:

- Both teams and Field Marshal agree.
 - Referee verifies incorrect score.
 - Field Marshal verifies discrepancy from match record.
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VENUE RULES

- No smoking.
- No pets.
- No alcohol or intoxication.
- Illegal activity handled by Brea Police.

All games are final. No protests allowed.