Rules & Procedures

2026 Energy Capital Cup
October 9th-11th, 2026
Gillette, WY

Locations:

The tournament will be held at the following facilities.

- **Thunder Basin High School**: 4001 Saunders Blvd Gillette, WY
- **Bicentennial Park**: 420 East Warlow Drive Gillette, WY
- **Gillette College, Pronghorn Field**: 3807 College Dr, Gillette, WY
- **Energy Capital Sports Complex:** 3400 Garner Lake Rd, Gillette, WY

➢ Rules will be played under FIFA Laws with modifications used by Wyoming Soccer Association (WSA). Any matter not provided for in the rules shall be determined by the Tournament Committee and the Tournament Committee's decision will be final.

Check-In

Check in will be on-line. All required documents must be uploaded by Saturday, September 29th at midnight.

1. Roster
2. Player's Cards
3. USYS teams traveling from outside Region IV must also upload Travel Papers.
4. Out-of-state guest players forms.

At games, coaches must have an approved roster for the referee to take—have 1 for each possible match. If a player is red-carded, the coach must give the player card to the ref or tournament official.

Format/Scheduling/Bracketing:

- All teams will be guaranteed a minimum of 3 matches.

- There will be a Gold, Silver and Bronze division where the number of participating teams permits such a format.
    - Brackets will be populated based on past performance, age of players and other factors in order to create a competitive bracket and is at the discretion of the tournament committee.
    - The Tournament committee reserves the right to combine age groups as necessary.
    - The Tournament committee reserves the right to combine gender groups as necessary.
    - The tournament is not responsible for registration forms filled out incorrectly.
- Once a team is accepted into the tournament the roster is frozen. The rosters shall remain fixed for the remainder of the tournament. A maximum of 3 guest players will be allowed per roster.
    - Appropriate State guest player forms must be completed and submitted

Referees:

**** WE RETAIN THE RIGHT TO REMOVE ANY COACH, PLAYER OR SPECTATOR DURING THE TOURNAMENT THAT DOES NOT OBEY OR RESPECT REQUESTS OR RULINGS OF THE REFEREE ****

DIVISION	Configuration	Offside
8U	Single Center official	NO
10U	Single Center-2 AR if avail.	YES
12U	Single Center, 2 sideline	YES
14U	Single Center, 2 sideline	YES
15U	Single Center, 2 sideline	YES

Game Duration/Players:

- Teams that are more than 5 minutes late for any scheduled game will forfeit that game unless alternative scheduling has been provided for by the Tournament Committee.
- Teams must have the following minimum number of players present in proper uniform in order to start a game:

DIVISION	Minimum #	Max Roster
8U (4v4)	3 players	8
10U (7V7)	5 players	12
12U (9V9)	6 players	16

14U (11V11)	7 players	18
15U (11v11)	7 players	22

- For late starts, the referee can shorten each half equally up to five (5) minutes to re-establish field schedule.
- Game lengths are specified in the following table and can be adjusted at the referee or Tournament Committee discretion to maintain field schedule due to inclement weather or other delays that have been incurred during normal tournament play.

DIVISION	GAME LENGTH	HALFTIME LENGTH	OVERTIME* No Golden Goal	BALL SIZE
8U	2 X 20 MIN	5 Min	2 X 5 MIN	#3
10U	2 X 25 MIN	10 Min	2 X 5 MIN	#4
12U	2 X 30 MIN	10 Min	2 X 5 MIN	#4
14U	2 X 35 MIN	10 Min	2 X 5 MIN	#5
15U	2 X 40 MIN	10 Min	2 X 5 MIN	#5

- *There will be no overtime play for games during the preliminary rounds.
- Overtime will be played in playoff games only when the score is tied at the end of regulation play. A goal scored during overtime does NOT end the match—No Golden Goal
- If a playoff game is tied at the end of the second overtime period, the winner will be determined by penalty kicks from the mark. FIFA rules are followed, 5 kicks per team then sudden death if still tied.

Substitutions:

- Unlimited substitutions by either team may be made, with permission of the referee, during any stoppage play.

The Field of Play:

- The team listed first on the game schedule will be considered the home team.
  - Home team will wear a dark colored jersey, visiting team a white/light colored jersey. The team not abiding by this rule will be forced to change.
- During the play of any game, all members of the team not on the field of play shall remain in their designated team area behind any drawn team line or at least 5 feet from the touch line, with the exception of an impending substitution.
- Only coaches, assistant coaches, and players with proper credentials are allowed in the team area side of the field.
- All parents and spectators shall occupy the opposite sideline of the field relative to the team
  - All spectators shall remain at least 5 feet from touchlines, or goal lines, unless

spectator lines have been established at a different distance.

- No person is permitted behind the goal area.

Scoring:

- Scoring will be based on the FIFA scoring system. There will be no overtime or tiebreakers in the preliminary rounds.
- Teams shall be awarded points for games as follows:

Team Result	Points awarded
Win	3 points
Tie	1 point for each team
Loss	0 points
Forfeit	3 points **Recorded score of 3-0 to the team awarded the forfeit **

- Any red card infraction by a team's member or coach will result in the loss of one (1) point from the team's overall point standings.
- Tie-breakers for advancement to playoff games will be determined in the following order:
  - Results of head to head competition between the tied teams
  - Goal differential (Goals scored minus goals against each game, up to a maximum of 3 per game)
  - Fewest goals allowed during tournament play
  - Most goals scored during tournament play (max of 3/game)
  - Most shutouts (forfeit does not count as a shutout for tie-breakers)
  - Penalty shots (In accordance with FIFA ruling)
    - Tossing of a coin – in the event that adverse weather conditions or nightfall prevents the taking of kicks from the penalty mark.
- In the event of a 3-way or more tie (based on points), the tie breaking procedures will be applied until at least one team wins a tie breaker scenario or a team loses a tie breaking scenario. Once one team wins or loses a tie breaker, the tie breaker scenarios will restart at step 1 for the remaining tied teams. For example, if 3 (or more) teams are tied and 1 team has head to head wins over all the others, they win the tie breaker. Remaining teams would then restart the tie breaking procedure (if necessary). If 1 team does not have head to head wins over all tied teams, goal differential becomes first tiebreaker and so on down the list.
- **Coaches must be sure to verify scores and points awarded on the online official tournament scoreboard following the completion of each game.**

Red Card:

- Any player receiving a red card during a game will be dismissed from the remainder of the game and will be ineligible for participation in the next scheduled game.
  - This includes the Championship games.

    - The player card will be retained by the field referee and turned in at the referee headquarters with the official game card.
    - The card may be reclaimed by the coach after the suspension has been served.
    - All yellow and red cards will be recorded on the official game cards and will be reported to WSA.
- Coaches that are removed from a game shall leave the field for the remainder of the game (at least 100 yards from the field) and will be ineligible to participate in at least the next game and may be banned from the entire tournament.
    - This will be at the Tournament Committee's discretion.
    - All coaches that are removed from a game will be reported to WSA and/or their appropriate state/national association.
    - This ban will apply to all teams that the coach is currently coaching. Additional games may be included at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.
- Any spectator removed from a game shall immediately move at least 100 yards from the field of play and may be removed from the facility or may be removed for the remainder of the tournament at the Tournament Committee discretion.

NO PROTEST OR APPEALS WILL BE CONSIDERED!

Inclement Weather/ Playing Conditions:

- In the event of inclement weather, the tournament committee has the authority to make any changes it deems necessary to allow completion of the tournament.
    - If games are suspended, all player, coaches, and spectators must leave the fields immediately.
    - Play will resume when the Tournament Committee gives the all clear signal.
- Games may be temporarily suspended or shortened in length when fields are in unplayable conditions due to weather.
- Games will be temporarily suspended or shortened in length when lightning strikes are detected within a 10 mile radius of the playing field.
- Cancelling games before the whistle blows is up to the tournament committee.
    - Games will be rescheduled if time and facilities are available.
    - In the occurrence of a major event resulting in the cancelation of the tournament takes place all the rules of the "Scoring" section apply to the games that played.
- Once the whistle blows, the responsibility of temporarily suspending or shortening games is the discretion of the Center referee on the field.
    - Games shall be considered completed upon completion of the first half of the game when play has been stopped by the Field Referee, Head Referee or Tournament Committee. The score at the stoppage of play will be the final game score if play is not resumed as ordered by the Tournament Committee.

Injuries:

All major injuries must be reported to the Tournament Committee.

- In the event emergency services are required for any reason, the Field Marshall or Tournament Committee shall have access to make necessary calls.

- A first aid station will be located near the headquarters facility at each location.

Refunds:

- Events resulting in the cancellation of the tournament up to or preceding the Friday before the start date will be a 90% registration fee reimbursement.
- An event resulting in the cancellation of the tournament after it has begun but prior to events ending the Saturday of the tournament will be a 30% registration fee reimbursement.
- No refunds will be issued after tournament closing on Saturday.
- A team may withdraw from a tournament and a full refund will be issued if the team cancels prior to the registration deadline—September 15, 2024.
- After the registration deadline, a 50% refund will be issued only if the tournament director is able to find a replacement team.
- After the schedule is released to the teams, a refund of 25% will be issued only if a replacement team is found.
- No refund for withdrawal less than 2 weeks prior to the tournament.

Awards:

- First and Second place teams will be awarded in all divisions.
  - Awards will be based on the roster size in each age group as submitted at the time of registration for the tournament plus 2 coach's awards.

Special Instructions:

U8 Division

- No heading of the ball. Intentional heading will result in an indirect free kick to the opposing team.
- All free kicks are indirect including kickoff, goal kicks, and corner kicks.
- Goal kicks will be taken from anywhere inside of the goal area.
- During a goal kick the opposing team must retreat and remain on their defending half until the goal kick has crossed over the half line or it has been touched by another player from the kicking team. Infractions will result in retaking of the goal kick.
- No cards will be given. Referee will use "teachable moments" within the game to promote rules, sportsmanship and fair play.
- Throw-Ins will have a "redo" with explanation.

U10 Division

No heading the ball.

a. Intentional heading will result in an in-direct free kick to the opposing team.

b. 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
c. 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)
d. After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal.
e. The opposing team must also move behind the build out line prior to a goal kick and may only cross the build out line once the ball has left the penalty area
f. If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.
g. If the punt or drop kick occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.
h. The build out line will also be used to denote where offside offenses can be called.
i. Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build out line.
j. Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build out line and goal line.

U12 Division

- No heading of the ball. Intentional heading will result in an indirect free kick to the opposing team.

Matters not provided for:

- Extraordinary circumstances or matters not specifically addressed in the tournament or WSA or WSSA rules shall be considered by the tournament Committee.

THERE IS A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR BOTH VERBAL AND PHYSICAL ABUSE OF REFEREES.

Coaches that are ejected from a game shall leave the field for the remainder of the game (at least 100 yards from the field) and will be ineligible to participate as a coach in a minimum of the next two games per the U.S.S.F Referee Abuse Prevention Policy. All coach ejections will be reported to the WSA.