



PEND OREILLE CUP

2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS

45th Annual • September 11-13, 2026 • Sandpoint, Idaho

ADMINISTRATION

The Pend Oreille Cup is hosted by the Sandpoint Strikers FC, a member of the Idaho Youth Soccer Association. Registration closes August 16, 2026.

Entry fees are non-refundable. Only teams that purchased Event Cancellation Team Coverage through Vertical Insure during GotSport registration are eligible for a refund, including for cancellation due to air quality, weather, or other Acts of God. Claims are handled by Vertical Insure, not by the tournament.

The tournament committee may accept or reject any team at its discretion. Rules and brackets are subject to change before the final schedule is released.

GENERAL RULES

No alcohol, tobacco, or vaping at any game site.

Dogs are not allowed at any Pend Oreille Cup field. Please leave your dog at home. This applies at Travers Park, Field of Dreams, and Memorial Field. Service animals as defined by the ADA are permitted. A referee may issue a yellow card to the head coach of the team whose spectators brought the dog, and the Tournament Director may forfeit the match if it is not removed. Coaches are responsible for telling their families before they travel to Sandpoint.

At Memorial Field, spectators must remain in the stands. No spectators on the field, track, or touchlines.

On turf fields, water is the only food or drink permitted. No other beverages, snacks, seeds, or gum.

Coaches, managers, and club officials may email poc@sandpointsoccer.com with any questions. Please use email rather than approaching staff at the fields.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to teams of properly registered youth players affiliated with FIFA approved National Soccer Associations. All documents may be electronic; printed copies are not required. Teams must be able to produce proof of a player's age on request. Each team maintains a current US Club Soccer or US Youth Soccer medical release for every player; these are not collected or reviewed by the tournament.

1. Players may play for only one team during the tournament.



- Each team is allowed four guest players, added to the roster before check-in.
- Roster limits are as follows:

U8 - U12	16 players
U13 - U18	22 players

Any exception to these eligibility rules must be requested by the club's Director and approved in advance by the Tournament Director. Exceptions are granted case-by-case, apply only to the player and tournament named in the approval, and do not carry forward to future years.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY ENFORCEMENT

Only players on a team's approved tournament roster are eligible to play. No roster additions after the September 5 freeze date.

- A team that plays a player not on its approved roster forfeits that match, recorded as a 1-0 loss with 0 points.
- Violations discovered after a match or after the tournament are adjusted retroactively, including bracket placement, medals, and awards.
- A second violation removes the team from the tournament with no refund.
- The head coach is responsible for roster accuracy. A player whose card does not match the approved roster does not play.
- Eligibility challenges are not protests. Raise them with the Tournament Director within one hour of the match ending or before the team's next match, whichever comes first. The decision is final.
- Roster and player card spot checks may be conducted at any match without notice.

CHECK IN

All check-in is completed online by September 5, 2026. There is no in-person check-in. Rosters freeze on that date and no changes of any kind will be accepted after it. Tournament headquarters are at Travers Park and Field of Dreams.

Required online: team roster, and player, coach, and manager cards (including guest and club pass players). Electronic cards are acceptable. Teams from outside the US upload cards issued by their National or Provincial Association. Each team must have at least one coach or manager assigned to the team in GotSport for score entry.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- Divisions follow the 2026-27 U.S. Soccer school-year age group matrix, running August 1 through July 31. Age brackets are kept in their pure form; play downs may be allowed case-by-case with prior approval. Clubs still on a birth-year calendar must register to the school-year matrix.
- Divisions play the following formats:

U8	5v5
U9 - U10	7v7



U11 - U12	9v9
U13 and older	11v11

3. Every team plays at least three games.
4. Bracket and finals format:
 - a. Four teams: three group games; top two by points advance to the final.
 - b. Five teams: four games, no final. Most points wins the division.
 - c. Six teams: three group games; top two by points across the full bracket advance to the final.
 - d. Eight teams: Groups A and B, three group games; the top team from each group advances to the final.
5. Points are awarded as follows:

Win	6 points
Tie	3 points
Loss	0 points
Shutout	1 point
Goals scored	1 point each, maximum 3

Maximum 10 points per game. A forfeit win is a flat 6 points and does not count toward goal differential or total goals.

6. Forfeitures: a team not ready to play after a five-minute grace period forfeits, recorded 1-0. If neither team is ready, both receive zero points. The Tournament Director may consider extenuating circumstances.
7. Medals are given to first and second place in all age groups.

MINIMUM PLAYERS TO START

5v5	five players
7v7	five players
9v9	six players
11v11	seven players

TIE-BREAKING

Applied in order: head-to-head; goal differential (max 6 per game); total goals scored (max 6 per game); fewest goals allowed; most shutouts; minus one point per red card; penalty kick shootout.

With three or more teams tied, head-to-head applies only if one team has beaten all the others. Otherwise it is disregarded and the remaining tie breakers are applied in order. Once one team separates out, the rest restart the sequence.



Semifinals and finals tied at the end of regulation go straight to a penalty kick shootout with no overtime. Coaches choose any five players from those on the field at the final whistle; further rounds use a separate set of players, then sudden death with equal kicks.

If the tournament is canceled for acts of God or low AQI, bracket champions are determined by points if play reached the semifinals. Before that point, no champion is declared.

GAME DURATION

U8 - U10	20 minute halves
U11 - U12	25 minute halves
U13 - U18	30 minute halves

Five minute half-time at all ages. There is no stoppage time. The Tournament Director may adjust playing times, shorten matches for weather or field conditions, or reschedule time lost to an unusual circumstance, subject to field availability.

RULES OF PLAY

Matches follow the FIFA Laws of the Game and USYSA Rules of Competition except as stated here.

1. Teams and coaches on one touchline, spectators opposite their own team. Everyone stays behind the line five yards off the sideline. No one may stand behind or to the side of either goal, and no coaching from those areas.
2. Each coach is responsible for the conduct of their team and their spectators. Lack of control may result in a caution, ejection, or disqualification from the tournament.
3. Home team is listed first and wears white or light colors; the away team wears dark. All teams bring alternate jerseys, and the home team changes if there is a conflict. Goalkeepers must also have an alternate jersey.
4. The home team provides three game balls. Size 4 for U8-U12, Size 5 for U13 and older.
5. Player cards must match the approved tournament roster.
6. Heading: no deliberate heading at U12 and below, per U.S. Soccer Recognize to Recover. Indirect free kick at the spot; inside the goal area, on the goal area line nearest where it occurred. Heading is permitted at U13 and above.
7. No punting or drop kicks at U10 and below.
8. Build-out line (U8-U10): the build-out line is the offside line. On goal kicks and when the keeper has the ball in hand, opponents retreat behind it until the ball is played and clearly moves.
9. The goalkeeper eight-second rule is in effect at U13 and above. A keeper holding the ball more than eight seconds concedes a corner kick, and referees give a visual five-second countdown. At U12 and below, referees will encourage prompt distribution but will not sanction a slow release.
10. Free substitution at all ages, with the referee's consent during any stoppage. Players exit at the nearest boundary line.
11. Orthopedic devices must be approved by the center referee before each match. Hard items on the hand, wrist, forearm, elbow, upper arm, or shoulder must be padded with closed-cell foam no less than ½ inch thick.



12. All players wear shin guards and cleats, with socks over the guards. No jewelry. Medical alert bracelets must be taped to the body.

ZERO TOLERANCE — REFEREE ABUSE

We use a mix of experienced and newly certified referees, many of them minors. Verbal harassment, demeaning comments, intimidation, threats, and sideline behavior meant to influence referees are not tolerated from coaches, players, or spectators.

- Plain-clothed POC representatives observe matches throughout the weekend.
- Referees may stop a match at any time and require a spectator be removed before play resumes. This is not open to discussion or appeal.
- Removal means leaving the park, not moving to another sideline or the parking lot. Play does not resume until the individual has left, and the removal applies to every field for the duration of the sanction.
- No one may approach a referee before, during, or after a match, including at halftime or between fields.
- Abuse of a youth referee by an adult is the most serious category and means removal for the full weekend at minimum.
- Head coaches who do not intervene when their spectators are abusive face the same sanctions as the individuals involved.
- Recording or photographing referees for complaint, identification, or online posting is prohibited.
- If a referee abandons a match due to abuse from a team's sideline, that team is removed from the tournament with no refund.
- Serious incidents are reported to the offending team's home club and state association. Sandpoint Soccer Association may decline future applications from that club or coach.

Report incidents to a Field Marshall, a plain-clothed POC representative, or poc@sandpointsoccer.com. Reports may be anonymous.

PLAYER SAFETY

1. A player showing signs of or suspected of a concussion is removed from play immediately and may not return to that match. Returning to any further match requires written clearance from a licensed health care provider given to the Tournament Director. This decision rests with the referee, medical staff, or Tournament Director and is not open to challenge.
2. A bleeding player leaves the field and does not return until bleeding is stopped and any blood-soaked equipment is changed.
3. At a heat index of 90°F or higher, a mandatory two-minute water break is taken at the midpoint of each half.

VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

Violations may result in a player or team being ruled ineligible, forfeiture of matches, return of medals, or revocation of titles.

1. Three yellow cards: the player sits the next match. A red card: the player sits the next match. A second red card: the player is out for the rest of the tournament.



2. A coach receiving two yellow cards or a red card sits the next match. Teams that do not comply are banned from further competition.
3. If a referee abandons a match, the score stands as it was. If abandonment is due solely to one team's misconduct, that team forfeits.

SCORE REPORTING

1. Both coaches review and sign the final scorecard with the center referee before leaving the field. The signed scorecard is the official record of the match.
2. The home team enters the final score in GotSport within 30 minutes of the match ending. Instructions are provided before the tournament and can be completed from a mobile browser.
3. Scores entered by teams are provisional until confirmed against the signed scorecard by the Tournament Director.
4. Cautions and ejections are reported by referees only and are never entered by teams.
5. Referees turn in the completed scorecard to the Field Marshall Supervisors, who deliver them to headquarters through the day.
6. Teams must verify their results. Disputes go to the Tournament Director within one hour of the match ending, or within one hour of the first match the next morning if it was the last match of the day.

JUDICIAL

No protests will be accepted. All referee decisions are final. Eligibility challenges and scoring or standings discrepancies are not protests; those are decided by the Tournament Director, whose decision is final.

WEATHER AND AIR QUALITY

Lightning: 30/30 rule. If lightning is seen and thunder heard within 30 seconds, play is suspended 30 minutes. Any repeat restarts the 30 minutes. Matches resume if time allows, at the Tournament Director's discretion. If a match cannot be finished, the score at the start of the delay stands.

Smoke: matches are played to completion if the smoke index is 149 or lower at kickoff, as determined solely by the Tournament Director. If the AQI rises above 150 after kickoff, play continues unless both coaches agree to abandon. If a match is abandoned, the last recorded score stands. Any team that begins play after matches have been canceled for air quality will have the result voided, will be fined \$250, and will have medals withheld.



We are looking forward to a great weekend in Sandpoint.

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