

Midwest Surf Invitational – Tournament Rules & Regulations

General Information

- Location: Stuart Sports Complex, Montgomery, IL
- Sanctioning: All teams must be registered with a national/state soccer association (US Club Soccer, USYS, or equivalent).
- Player Passes: All players must present valid player passes by the coach when requested → No pass = no play.

Rosters & Player Eligibility

- U7–U8 (5v5): Maximum 12 players
- U9–U10 (7v7): Maximum 14 players
- U11–U12 (9v9): Maximum 16 players
- U13–U14 (11v11): Maximum 18 players
- Guest Players: Up to 4 guest players allowed (must be properly carded).
- Roster Freeze: No roster changes allowed after check-in.

Match Format

- Group Play → (Possible Semi and/or Championship Final)
- Minimum Games: All teams will play at least 3 group-stage matches.
- Game Durations:
 - U7–U8: 2×20 minutes
 - U9–U10: 2×25 minutes
 - U11–U12: 2×25 minutes
 - U13–U14: 2×30 minutes

Heading Policy (U10 & Under)

- No heading is permitted for players in the U10 and under divisions.

Substitutions

- U10 and below: Unlimited substitutions at any stoppage (referee discretion).
- U11–U14: Unlimited substitutions allowed at goal kicks, own throw-ins, halftime, and injury stoppages.

Equipment & Uniforms

- Teams must wear numbered uniforms and shin guards. No jewelry allowed.
- Home team wears light uniforms. Away team changes in case of conflict.
- Home teams provide match ball.

Scoring & Standings

- Win = 3 points | Tie = 1 point | Loss = 0 points
- Tiebreakers (in order):
 - 1. Head-to-Head Result
 - 2. Goal Differential
 - 3. Goals Scored
 - 4. Goals Allowed
 - 5. Discipline
 - 6. Coin Toss

Overtime & Penalties

- Group play: No overtime — draws are final.
- Finals:
 - 10-minute overtime (2×5 minutes – Straight turn around at the half time / NO TEAM TALK).
 - If still tied → FIFA Penalty Kicks.

Discipline & Conduct

- Yellow Card: Caution; two yellows in a match = ejection + 1-match suspension.
- Red Card: Immediate ejection + minimum 1-match suspension.
- Team Conduct: Coaches responsible for behavior of players and spectators.
- Referee decisions are final and not subject to protest.

Spectator & Sideline Conduct

- Parent/spectator seating and the coaches' sideline will be clearly marked on opposite sides of the field.
- Parents and spectators are not permitted on the coaches' sideline.
- All cameras, video, and recording equipment must be set up on the parent side — no cameras or recording equipment permitted on the coaches' side.

Forfeits & Grace Periods

- Minimum Players:
 - 5v5 is three
 - 7v7 is five
 - 9v9 is seven
 - 11v11 is eight
- Grace Period: Up to 5 minutes after scheduled kick off time before match is forfeited (4–0 result).

Check-In & Credentials

- Teams that do not complete online check-in by that deadline must check in, in person, on the Friday between 12-5pm at the fields.
- Teams must have their roster and game cards on hand at all times during the tournament — spot checks may be conducted by Tournament Directors at any point.
- Once the second half of a team's first match begins, no roster protests are allowed.

Medical, Safety & Liability

- Teams must carry medical release forms for all players.
- Tournament recommends adequate medical & liability insurance.
- Injured players may return only with referee approval.
- If a player is seen by a Athletic Trainer, their approval must be given before player can return to the field.

Weather, Delays & Refunds

- Tournament Director may shorten, reschedule, or cancel matches due to weather.
- Matches reaching 50% completion count as final.
- Refund Policy: 80% refund if tournament is canceled before play begins; no refunds once games start.
- **Lightning Protocol:** If lightning is detected, fields will be cleared using a clear audible signal — a horn blast or whistles — indicating everyone must move to a safe location immediately.
 - Coaches are responsible for getting their parents, players, and staff into cars right away upon hearing the signal.
 - Everyone must remain in place (vehicles recommended) until an official announcement is made by Tournament Organizers regarding next steps.
 - Do not leave the venue or send players/coaches home until Tournament Organizers have communicated next steps.
- **Heat & Hydration:** There are no mandatory water breaks due to heat. Players and coaches are responsible for bringing their own water — the tournament will not be providing water.

Parking

- Parking is available throughout the facility area. Please use any open parking area.

Lost & Found

- Lost & Found items will be kept in the HQ tent.
- Items are discarded at the end of each day — nothing is carried over to the following day.

Protests & Appeals

- Referee judgment calls are not protestable.
- Protests on eligibility or rule interpretation must be filed within 1 hour of match end with Tournament Director.
- Disciplinary appeals may be reviewed by Tournament Committee; decisions are final.

Governing Rules

- FIFA Laws of the Game apply except where modified by tournament rules.
- Tournament Director has final authority on all interpretations and adjustments.