

Tournament Rules

Match Play

1. All games will be played under FIFA rules as modified by **US Club Soccer** unless otherwise stated in these rules. The Tournament Director or site representative will settle all rules disputes. Tournament rules may be modified by the Tournament Director.
2. Under-7 / Under -8 will be played in accordance with the modified playing rules for Academy Teams.
 - a. The maximum number of players on the field will be four (4).
 - b. The match will be divided into (4) 10-minute Quarters with a 5-minute halftime.
 - c. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the player(s).
 - d. All free kicks shall be indirect kicks. A goal may not be scored until the ball has been touched by a 2nd player from either team.

All fouls will result in an indirect free kick with the opponents 6 yards away.

- e. No offside will be called.
 - f. No penalty kicks will be taken during the match for fouls.
 - g. There are no scores kept for Academy teams.
 - h. No referees are provided for U7/U8 games, Coaches must work together to referee the match.
3. Under-9 / Under -10 will be played in accordance with the modified playing rules for Academy Teams.
 - a. The maximum number of players on the field will be seven (7), one of whom may be a goalkeeper.
 - b. The match will be divided into (2) 25-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime. c. Offsides will be called.
 - d. Minimum number of players to start a game is 5.
 - e. There are no scores kept for Academy teams.
 4. A team playing 11v11 must have a minimum of seven (7) players available at the start of the game and during the game to avoid a forfeit. Teams playing in 9v9 must have at least six (6) players present. Teams failing to meet this minimum requirement at any point in the match will forfeit the match.
 5. Coaches should be prepared to start the game on time. Five minutes after the official game start time is forfeit time. Tournament officials may waive this rule, if in their opinion it is in the best interest to play the game. In the event of a delay in the start of a game, the game may be shortened to allow the game to finish as scheduled.
 6. Headers - Heading is NOT allowed in age groups Under-11 and younger. If, during a match, a header is performed in these age groups play will be stopped and resumed with an indirect kick for the opposing team.
 7. Team bracket shall be as follows:

| Age Bracket | Halves(each) | Half Time | Format | Ball Size |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| U17-U19 | 40 min | 5 min | 11v11 | 5 |
| U15-U16 | 35 min | 5 min | 11v11 | 5 |
| U13-U14 | 30 min | 5 min | 11v11 | 5 |
| U11-U12 | 25 min | 5 min | 9v9 | 4 |
| U9-U10 | 25 min | 5 min | 7v7 | 4 |
| U7-U8 | 10 min qtrs | 5 min | 4v4 No GK | 3 |

8. Unlimited substitutions will be permitted with the Referee's permission at any stoppage of play with the permission of the match Referee.
9. Forfeits
 - a. Teams failing to check-in prior to the start of the match may, at the discretion of the Tournament Director, forfeit the match. To be awarded a forfeit win, the opposing team must be present and ready to play. In the event of a forfeit the match score will be recorded as a 3-0 win.
 - b. If a team forfeits during a game (usually due to a rule violation) the opposing team, if losing at the time, will be awarded a 3-0 win. If the opposing team is winning the score will stand as is.

Pre-Tournament Check-In

All teams must provide player/coach credentials at the Tournament Check-In prior to the start of the tournament. All check-in documents are due by the date and time listed for each tournament on the tournament page of the Phoenix Surf SC website. All documents will be uploaded into GotSport. If for some reason any portion of your check-in uploads are not accepted, you will be notified by the tournament staff.

1. The following documents are required to be uploaded. Players may not play without this documentation being turned in.
 - a. Current Copies of Player Pass
 - b. Signed Medical Release or Liability forms (R002 form for US Club passed teams)
 - c. Travel Permission Papers (If required by your State Association)
 - d. Loan Paperwork (If applicable, up to 5 total loan players) Loan forms must be properly signed by the required parties, must be submitted for each loan or guest player, as required by the team's sanctioning organization. Players loaning within the same club do not need loan forms. Players loaning to a different club must have loan forms.
2. To upload your documents please follow the procedures found on the tournament website.
 - a. Log into your GotSport account
 - b. Select the Team Management tab
 - c. Select the appropriate team
 - d. Select the Team Registrations tab
 - e. Select the appropriate event
 - f. Select the Registration Tab
 - g. Then press the edit button
 - h. You will then be able to upload the necessary documents
 - i. Please note that you will only be able to upload one document per section
3. Rosters are frozen once a team completes the online check-in process.

Player Eligibility

1. Official team rosters must be verified and approved by the Tournament Director at the pre-tournament check-in prior to the start of the tournament.
2. Only players who are officially registered or loaned to a team may play in the Tournament and must have a laminated player pass with a photo of the player. See section below for the maximum number of loan players.
3. All participating players, regardless of the number of games to be played, must be listed on the official team roster prior to the start of a team's first game of the tournament. Players will not be added to the roster after the start of the first game.
4. **No player may play for more than one team in the tournament.** If any player is found playing for more than one team, and either team won its game, the game will be forfeited. If either team lost the game, the existing score would stand. Under both conditions, the player will not be allowed to play for the remainder of the tournament. Player's playing age is determined by the following chart.

5. A player is not allowed to play down.

| Age | Format | Maximum Roster | Maximum # of Loan Players |
|-----|--------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| U19 | 11v11 | 22 (18 dressed per game) | 5 |
| U18 | 11v11 | 22 (18 dressed per game) | 5 |
| U17 | 11v11 | 22 (18 dressed per game) | 5 |
| U16 | 11v11 | 22 (18 dressed per game) | 5 |
| U15 | 11v11 | 22 (18 dressed per game) | 5 |
| U14 | 11v11 | 18 | 5 |
| U13 | 11v11 | 18 | 5 |
| U12 | 9V9 | 16 | 4 |
| U11 | 9V9 | 16 | 4 |
| U10 | 7V7 | 12 | 3 |
| U9 | 7V7 | 12 | 3 |
| U8 | 4V4 | 10 | N/A |
| U7 | 4 V4 | 10 | N/A |

6. Teams with loan players must not exceed the maximum roster limit.

No Sunday Play Teams

1. All Tournament Games will be played on Friday, Saturday and Sunday
2. Semi-final and final games will be played on Sunday.
3. If a "No Sunday Play" team makes it to a Sunday scheduled semi-final or final game, they will be eliminated from the tournament and the next highest-ranking team in the bracket will be placed into the semi-final or final game in their place.

Pre-Match Check-In

1. Teams must present player passes prior to each game to the referee on the field. All players must be present with appropriate equipment. Appropriate cleats, shin guards, and numbered uniforms are required. Referees will check in each team on the field. No jewelry is allowed to be worn by any player during match play.
2. If a player not on the official game roster is found participating in a game, the game will be forfeited per tournament rules. The player will not be allowed to play for the remainder of the tournament.
3. Players wearing an orthopedic or immobilizing cast may not be allowed to play. Final decision on whether the item presents a hazard to any player will be up to the referee.

Tournament Play Formats

Four (4) team bracket

One (1) group of four (4) teams. Each team will play the other teams in their group once, for a total of 3 games. The winner and second place is determined by points. If needed, tie breaker criteria will be used to determine the winner.

Five (5) team bracket

One (1) group of five (5) teams. Each team will play the other teams in their group once, for a total of 4 games. The winner and second place is determined by points. If needed, tie breaker criteria will be used to determine the winner.

Six (6) team bracket Academy:

Two (2) groups of 3 teams; Bracket A and Bracket B. Teams will play the other three (3) teams in the opposite bracket. No Final.

Six (6) team bracket non-Academy:

Two (2) groups of 3 teams; Bracket A and Bracket B. Teams will play the other three (3) teams in the opposite bracket. The two teams with the most points after group play will advance to the final.

Seven (7) team bracket

Bracket A (4 teams) has each team playing the other three. Bracket B (3 teams) does the same. In Bracket A, each team will have then played 3 games, Bracket B each team will have played 2 games. Championship: 1st in A vs 1st in B, a 3rd Place 2nd in A vs 2nd in B, and a Consolation 3rd in A vs 3rd in B. If needed, tiebreaker criteria will be used to determine the teams advancing to the final.

Eight (8) team bracket

Two (2) groups of four (4) teams. Each team will play the other teams in their group once. The winner of each group shall advance to finals. If needed, tiebreaker criteria will be used to determine the teams advancing to the final.

Conduct and Sportsmanship

1. A player receiving a red card or two yellow cards will be ejected from the current game and may not be replaced. Red card suspensions will be reported to US Club. The tournament red card sanctions are listed below.

Red cards must be cleared by their governing organization in GotSport prior to the player returning to play. It is the team's responsibility to work with their organization to get suspension cleared.

RED CARD SUSPENSION STANDARDS

| OFFENSE | MINIMUM SUSPENSION FOR PLAYERS | MINIMUM SUSPENSION FOR TEAM OFFICIALS |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Second Caution | 1 game | 2 games |
| Foul or Abusive Language directed at someone other than a match official | 1 game | 2 games |
| Serious Foul Play- Denies a goal or an opponent a goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball | 1 game | N/A |
| Serious Foul Play- Denies a goal or an opponent a goal scoring opportunity by a committing a foul punishable by a free kick committed in a non-dangerous way (example pulling a jersey) | 1 game | N/A |
| Serious Foul Play- other than above | 2 games | N/A |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Violent Conduct- Pushing, Striking, Spitting or retaliation | 3 games | 4 games & may be referred to US Club Disciplinary Director |
| Foul or abusive language directed at a match official | 3 games | 4 games & may be referred to US Club Disciplinary Director |
| Abusive language (Discrimination)- prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, age, sex, or religion | 3 games | 4 games & may be referred to US Club Disciplinary Director |
| 2nd Offense Violent Conduct or Serious Foul Play (other category) | 4 games & referred to US Club Disciplinary Director | 5 games & may be referred to US Club Disciplinary Director |
| 3rd Offense Violent Conduct or Serious Foul Play (other category) | 5 games & referred to US Club Disciplinary Director | 6 games & may be referred to US Club Disciplinary Director |
| Pushing, Striking or Spitting at a Match Official (A Match Official shall be defined as referee, assistant referee, referee assignor, referee administrator, tournament staff including volunteers, tournament director, or SAAZ staff/board member.) | 3 games & referred to US Club Disciplinary Director | 4 games & may be referred to US Club Disciplinary Director |
| Coaches/team officials who are ejected from a match for Irresponsible Team/Bench Behavior | N/A | 2 games |

- A coach ejected from the game, whether by red card or referee expulsion, shall leave the field to the satisfaction of the referee. Coaches who either refuse to leave or deliberately continue to coach after ejection (including but not limited to using a cell phone or proxy coach), will forfeit the game.
- The Tournament Director will determine the length of suspension as directed by US Club guidelines for players and coaches and notify the team prior to the next game. **There are no appeal options, and all decisions are final.** In the event a player or coach is ejected from the game for fighting, that player or coach will not be permitted to play in the remainder of the tournament.
- If a coach is ejected and there are no remaining registered assistant coaches and or a team manager with a valid laminated sanctioned pass, the team will forfeit the game. A parent or spectator who is not officially registered on the team and does not have a valid laminated pass cannot coach the team.
- The team of any player or coach that receives a red card shall receive minus one point against their tournament standings.
- Coaches have complete responsibility for the conduct of their players and all sideline spectators. Referees will have complete authority immediately before, during, and immediately after games, and will not allow abusive or profane language or threats of any kind. If, in the opinion of the referee, a game must be terminated due to misconduct, the offending team shall be declared to have forfeited the game per the tournament rules.
- All last game ejections whether by red card or not, are forwarded to the US Club D&R Director for review. The US Club D&R Director will respond directly to these expulsions.

Home and Away Responsibilities

1. Coaches and Team Officials are responsible for ensuring team players and parents adhere to all guidelines and tournament rules.
2. Teams will sit on opposite sides of the field from each other. Teams will sit behind the Assistant Referee, with spectators sitting on the same side as their teams but to the left of the midline. Spectators will sit a minimum of five (5) yards back from the touchline when facilities permit. No spectators on the team sidelines or behind the goals. Each coach is responsible for the behavior of their spectators. The Referee has the option, but not the obligation to display a yellow or red card to a coach, team official or bench personnel for irresponsible behavior or for the irresponsible behavior of its spectators or sideline.
3. Benches and canopies will not be provided, and it is the responsibility of each team to provide their own bench and canopy.
4. The home team chooses direction and away team kicks-off.
5. Managers/Coaches agree to ensure that all players are listed on the tournament roster, are properly carded, checked-in and equipped.
6. Teams must exit the field within 5 minutes after games to maintain tournament schedules.
7. Home Team
 - a. Lightest color jersey*
 - b. Will take the North or West half of Player's sideline, unless specified otherwise.
 - c. Will clean up their side of the field.
 - d. Will provide 3 game balls for the match.
8. Visiting Team
 - a. Darkest color jersey*
 - b. Will take the South or East half of Player's sideline, unless specified otherwise.
 - c. Will clean up their side of the field.
9. The team not wearing their lightest or darkest color jersey will need to change. In the event the home team's lightest color jersey (i.e. grey) is the same color as the away team's darkest color jersey (i.e. grey), the home team will change jerseys.
10. Coaches are asked to be flexible in case a team (usually a recreational team) has only one color of jersey. The tournament site director may decide the visitor must change color if the home team has only one color of jersey.

Scoring

1. Final team standings will be determined using the following point criteria:
 - a. A WIN is three (3) points.
 - b. A TIE is one (1) point.
 - c. A LOSS is zero (0) points.
 - d. Three (3) points for a Forfeit Win (scored as a 1-0 win)
 - e. Minus two (-2) points for a Forfeit or Match Abandonment Loss AND disqualification for advancing to playoff rounds.
2. At the end of each game the coach MUST verify and sign the game card. Once the game card is signed the score stands and will not be changed regardless of the circumstances including but not limited to a team's points, advancement, awards, etc.
3. TIES (Bracket Play)

- a. If two or more teams are tied in points at the end of the preliminary (bracket games, the following tie-breaker criteria shall apply:
 - I. The winner in head-to-head competition
 - II. Net goal differential [goals scored - goals allowed] (Maximum of 4 goals per match)
 - III. Most goals scored (Maximum of 4 goals per match)
 - IV. Least goals allowed no maximum.
 - V. Penalty Shootout
 - b. In the event of a 3-way tie at the end of bracket play, the winner for advancement to a Final will be determined as above without consideration for comparison of head-to-head competition to eliminate one team. Then advancement for the remaining two teams is determined as above with consideration for head-to-head competition.
 - c. If three teams are still tied and kicks from the mark have to be taken there will be a draw by the Tournament Director or site director. The first team drawn will receive the bye; the next team drawn will be the home team against the remaining team in the first contest of penalty kicks. The winner of the first contest will then compete against the bye team in penalty kicks to determine the group winner. The bye team will be the home team.
4. TIES (Playoffs/Finals)
- a. In the event a match is tied at the end of regulation in a semifinal or championship match, teams will go immediately to PKs. There is no overtime.

Awards

1. Participation bag tags will be awarded to all players in U7 through U10.
2. Placement medals will be awarded to all players on teams placing 1st or 2nd in U11 through U19.

Protests, Disputes, Clarifications

1. The tournament director, site director will settle all disputes. Once the information is reviewed and the decision made, it is final and there will be no further discussion.
2. In the case of errors, missing information or confusion with any section of this document, Tournament Rules, the tournament director, site director or tournament director will interpret, clarify and make all decisions for any issue, and all decisions are final.
3. Decisions will always be made in the spirit for the good of the game.
4. **Under no circumstances can or will the tournament director, site director, or field marshal overrule a referee's game time call.**

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of inclement weather or other events which affect our ability to play as planned, the Tournament Director or Site Director may modify Tournament Rules to complete the tournament successfully safely and fairly. The

Tournament Director/Site Director will make their decisions on what is best, considering the health and safety of the players.

Phoenix Surf SC does not own or operate its own fields. The decision to close the facilities where the tournament is being held is at the discretion of the governing body. During inclement weather, the governing body will take into consideration the need to prevent the destruction of the fields and facilities. Phoenix Surf SC does not have any authority over the field usage. Coaches and team managers are asked to remain flexible to the changes in fields/locations as required and to keep in contact with tournament officials for these changes.

1. Play all games as scheduled.
2. Eliminate pre-game warm-up on fields.
3. Shorten matches.
4. Play at alternative sites.

5. In the event the field conditions are unplayable as determined by the Tournament Director or the field governing body, games in question may be decided by penalty kicks from the mark. (FIFA rules apply).
6. If matches are unable to continue due to any reason(s), tournament placement will be based upon the last fully completed round of play. Bracket tiebreakers will be used to satisfy any ties that remain. If bracket tiebreakers cannot resolve a tie, the Tournament Director will utilize a coin toss to resolve the situation.
7. In the unlikely event of game cancellation(s) due to inclement weather, entry fees may be forfeited, in whole or in part. Phoenix Surf will make no guarantee of any refunds. However, Phoenix Surf recognizes the financial commitments of teams entering the tournament. As such, Phoenix Surf may, at its discretion, refund a portion of the entry fee(s) after all other expenses have been paid.
8. It is the team's responsibility to ensure appropriate phone numbers (preferably cell phones) and email addresses are entered into the team's tournament application. The Tournament Director will utilize the tournament website, email, social media and sometimes telephone to communicate with teams in the event of changes to the schedule.
 - a. Phoenix Surf SC website: [Phoenix Surf Soccer Club – Most Elite Soccer Organization in Phoenix](#)

General Rules

1. No alcoholic beverages or glass containers allowed on the tournament Fields.
2. NO SMOKING allowed in the vicinity of the players.
3. Parking: Park in designated parking areas. Do not park along curbs. Curbs may be fire lanes and may not be painted red but have the identifying signage. No parking in desert areas. No overnight parking.
4. Dogs: Dogs are not allowed in the vicinity of the fields. While city parks may allow dogs on or near the fields, this tournament does not.
5. Any other applicable venue rules as described by their website or provided documentation.