



NEW ENGLAND SURF TOURNAMENT RULES

Duration of Games and Ball size

1. U8 - 5v5 games 40 minute games - 2x20min halves
2. U9-10 - 7v7 games 50 minute games - 2x25min halves
3. U11-12 - 9v9 games 60 minute games - 2x30min halves
4. U13-14 - 11v11 games 70 minute games - 2x35min halves
5. U15-19 - 11v11 games 80 minute games - 2x40min halves

Halftime will be five minutes. This may be shortened at the discretion of the Tournament Director if the tournament schedule falls behind.

All games will be played with a running clock. The referee is the official timekeeper and all disputes will be settled at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

5v5, 7v7, and 9v9 age groups will use a size 4 ball.

11v11 age groups will use a size 5 ball.



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Field and Game Equipment

Players are required to wear shin guards according to FIFA Laws of the Game. In case of similar uniform colors, the home team (listed first on the schedule) will wear light-colored jerseys and socks, while the away team will wear dark colored jerseys and socks. The away team will start the match with the ball, and the home team will choose sides. If a team does not adhere to the color designation, they must change uniforms to avoid a clash. Players and coaches will occupy one side of the pitch, and supporters will occupy the opposite side. No one is allowed behind the end lines. Covered casts are permitted with referee approval. The tournament will provide game balls for each field, but each team should also be ready to supply one FIFA-approved game ball.

Substitutions

For all ages, a player may be substituted during any stoppage of play with the referee's permission.



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Coaching

All coaches are fully responsible for the conduct of their players, substitutes, friends, and spectators at all times. Coaching from the sidelines (providing direction to one's own team on strategy and positioning) is permitted, provided that:

- No mechanical devices are used.
- The tone of voice is instructive and not derogatory.
- Each coach or substitute remains at least 10 yards from their side of the halfway line.
- No coach, substitute, or spectator makes derogatory remarks or gestures to referees, other coaches, players, substitutes, or spectators.
- No coach, substitute, or spectator uses profanity or incites disruptive behavior in any manner.

Cautions and Ejections

A player receiving two cautions (yellow cards) in a single game is considered to have received an ejection (red card). An ejected player will not be replaced, will not return for that game, and will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game. A player ejected for violent conduct or serious foul play may be expelled from the tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Any player or coach who assaults a referee will be expelled from the tournament. An ejected coach will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game and may be expelled from the tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Director. During a coach suspension in a game, there must be no contact between the team and the coach, and the coach must remain out of sight and sound of the field.



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Additionally, the coach must not engage in unacceptable conduct, which includes coaching players by any means or method or harassing opponents, players, referees, or staff. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in the coach's immediate ejection from the tournament. The Tournament Director will notify the appropriate federation regarding disciplinary actions taken.

Suspended and Terminated Games

If, in the opinion of the referee, a game must be suspended for any reason, the game may be resumed but is subject to ending no less than five (5) minutes before the scheduled start of the next game. If, in the opinion of the referee, a game must be terminated due to misconduct by players, coaches, or spectators, the offending team may be suspended from further play and will forfeit that game and all remaining games. All previously earned points will remain as played.

Offside

The offside law will be applied by referees in all games, except U8, which will not have offsides.

Heading Rules

U11 players are not allowed to intentionally head the ball. The restart will be an indirect free kick for the opposing team. U11 players playing in U12 or older age groups will follow the heading rules of the older age group, meaning they may head the ball intentionally.



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Tournament Competition and Organization: Determining Winners

Teams will be awarded points as follows:

- Three (3) points for a Win
- One (1) point for a Tie
- Zero (0) points for a Loss

At the end of the preliminary round, advancement will be determined by the number of points earned in preliminary matches. In the event of a tie within a bracket, the following criteria will be used to determine final placements, in order:

1. Head-to-head competition
2. Most Wins
3. Goal Differential (maximum of 5 per game)
4. Goals For (maximum of 5 per game)
5. Goals Against (maximum of 5 per game)
6. FIFA Penalty Kicks (organized at the discretion of the Tournament Director)

Placement of bracket winners and determination of wild card winners for playoff rounds or consolation matchups will be determined by the same criteria. When teams are in different groups, criterion #1 will not apply. In the event of a tie between three (3) or more teams, criterion #1 will not be considered. The tiebreaker criteria will be applied in numerical order until the tie is resolved.

The Tournament Director, acting within the parameters of these rules, will determine the teams that advance to the final rounds.



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The Tournament Director may adjust placements and match-ups to better align with tournament goals. For example, adjustments may be made if teams have already played each other during group play, if teams are familiar due to local or league play, or if teams are from the same club. Field Marshals, in cooperation with the referees, will be responsible for reporting scores.

Playoff and Bracket Advancement

8-team Bracket: The final will consist of the top team from each side of the group meeting in the final.

6-team Bracket: A crossover format will be used, where teams play all teams in the opposite group. The final will consist of the top two "wildcard" teams from the total bracket of 6, which could mean both wildcards could be from the same group.

4 team Bracket: The final will consist of the top two teams from the bracket of 4.

Forfeits

All forfeits, per the following rules, can be overturned by the Tournament Director. A team shall be allowed a five (5) minute grace period after the scheduled kickoff time before the match is awarded to their opponent. In 11v11 matches, a minimum of seven (7) players constitute a team, and if seven (7) players are present, the game will not be delayed. In no case shall a team that forfeits a game be declared a group winner or wild card team. If an apparent group winner forfeits a game, the group team with the next best record shall be named the group winner.



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If a team is responsible for the termination of a game, that team will be considered to have forfeited that game.

A forfeit in the preliminary rounds shall award the opposing team 3 points. For tie-breaking purposes, the score will be recorded as 3-0. Forfeits in playoff rounds shall be recorded as a 3-0 game.

Playoff Rounds

Winners of each group advance to the playoff rounds.

If a playoff game remains a draw after regular play, FIFA penalty kicks will determine the winner. The best of five penalty kicks, taken alternately by each team, will decide. Only players on the field at the end of the game may participate. If the penalty kicks are tied after five kicks, teams will continue alternately until there is a winner. All players on the field must take a pk, before any player may kick a second time.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather or other force, the Tournament Director has the authority to make the following changes:

- Relocate or reschedule any game(s).
- Change the duration of any game(s).
- Cancel any preliminary game(s).
- Preliminary games terminated by game or tournament officials after one half of play shall be considered official as of the time of termination.
- Determine the format for advancement.



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Guest Teams

The tournament may accept a team as a "Guest Team" to fill a late vacancy in a division. Guest Teams cannot advance out of their bracket. Guest Team game results are predetermined to be 2-0 in favor of the opposing team.

Protests

A team wishing to protest must do so to the Tournament Director within 30 minutes of the game in question. The formal protest must be submitted by the head coach of the protesting team via email to ttrevisan@surfsoccer.com. All decisions made by the Tournament Director are final.

Tournament Site Rules

In addition to specific facility rules posted on the tournament website, the following rules must also be adhered to:

- Individuals and teams failing to comply with these rules or those communicated by Mass Youth Soccer may be expelled from the tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited at game sites.
- Smoking is prohibited at all sites.
- Dogs or similar pets are not allowed.
- Placing or erecting any structure or object that could damage the synthetic surface is prohibited.
- Chewing gum is prohibited.
- Consumption of sunflower seeds or shelled nuts is prohibited.
- Use or possession of glass containers of any kind is prohibited.



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General Rules

- The use of roller blades, skateboards, or bicycles is prohibited.
- BBQ grills or any other open flame are prohibited.
- Metal cleats or spikes are prohibited.
- Marking lines on any surface with paint, tape, or any other substance is prohibited.
- Stakes that penetrate the ground are strictly prohibited.

General

Under no circumstances will the Tournament, New England Surf (or any members of this organization), US Soccer (or any of its affiliates), or any Tournament Facilities be responsible for any expenses incurred by participating teams, including tournament entry fees and hotel fees, even in the event of match, partial match, or tournament cancellation. Tournament entry fees are non-refundable. All decisions regarding refunds will be made by the Tournament Director. Any team that withdraws after being accepted into the tournament will forfeit the entire entry fee.

The Tournament Director's interpretation of the rules is final. The Tournament Director reserves the right to make decisions on all matters pertaining to the tournament.



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Hotel

Teams participating in the Tournament must (as a condition of acceptance) make all hotel accommodations using our tournament housing service. Teams not using our tournament housing service will be disqualified, and will not receive a refund.

Refunds

There are no refunds.



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