

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. **Number of Games:** There is a three (3) game minimum guarantee.
2. **Game schedule:** Teams will know at least 5 days prior to the event date their 1st game time. Full game schedules/brackets will be posted by 9am the day of the event. Games will begin at 9am. Also check www.hastingsfc.com
3. **Tournament t-shirts:** t-shirts will only be available for sale this year. Look for them the day of the tournament
4. **Ball Size:** Age appropriate, U8-U12 size 4, U13+ size 5.
5. **Number of Players:** Five (5) is the maximum number per team; three (3) field players at one time. A minimum of two (2) field players must be present to play. Player eligibility is determined by age as of August 1st. See website for qualifying birthdates for each age group. Players may not play on more than one team in the same division. No goalkeepers. Co-ed teams can be formed in all age groups and in all cases will compete in the boys division.
6. **Player/Team Registration:** All teams must check-in at the registration table at least 30 minutes prior to their first game. Any player determined by the event staff to have falsified age will be dismissed from the tournament. All games played with an ineligible player shall be forfeited.
7. **Game Duration:** 25 minutes straight play. Substitutions allowed on any dead ball. Any team not present by game time, according to the field manager shall forfeit the game. Games tied after regulation play shall end in a tie except in playoffs (see "Playoff Overtime").
8. **Sportsmanship:** Players, coaches and spectators are expected to act in the nature of good sportsmanship at all times. Fighting will NOT be tolerated! Players, coaches, and fans guilty of fighting or anything deemed unacceptable by the tournament staff will be banned for the duration of the event. Abuse of the field manager, verbal or otherwise, will not be tolerated. The field manager will have the authority to eject any offending party. Any indication of such behavior by a player, coach or parent will result in immediate removal from the tournament site. We are all here to play soccer and have fun.
9. **Coaches/Spectators:** Each team will be allowed no more than one (1) adult (parent/coach) on the sideline of the game. Spectators must remain on the opposite side as the players area.
10. **Equipment:** Shin guards are REQUIRED; cleats recommended but not required (rubber cleats only-no toe cleats)
11. **Substitutions:** Substitutions are on any dead ball.
12. **Home Team/Uniforms:** Home team shall change jersey in the event of a conflict or be required to wear training vests. Numbers on uniforms not required. Home team is listed first on the schedule.
13. **Goal box:** No player may touch the ball inside the goal box; however, any player may move through the box. Any part of the ball or player's body on the line is considered in the goal box; the player is an extension of the box. If a defender touches the ball in the goal box, a goal is awarded to the offensive team. If the defender OR the ball is in the box and contact is made, a goal is awarded. If an offensive player touches the ball within the goal box, a goal kick is awarded to the defensive team. If the ball comes to a complete stop in the goal box, regardless of which team touched it last, a goal kick is awarded to the defensive team.
14. **Kick-Off:** To be determined by a coin toss, called by the home team to determine initial possession. Kick-off may go forward or back.
15. **NO SLIDE TACKLING:** Slide tackling will NOT be tolerated. Sliding may be done to keep ball inbounds so as there is no other player in harm's way.
16. **Penalty Kicks:** A PK shall be awarded if, in the field managers opinion, a scoring opportunity was nullified by an infraction.
17. **Offsides:** There are no offsides.
18. **Ball out of Play:** the ball shall be kicked into play from the sideline instead of thrown in at the point of exit of the field along the sidelines. Over the end line it is either a goal kick or a corner kick.
19. **Direct kicks:** All dead-ball kicks are direct, meaning you can score directly from any dead ball without assistance from another player.
20. **4-yard rule:** In any dead-ball situation, defending players must stand at least four (4) yards away from the ball. If the defensive player's goal is closer than four (4) yards, the ball shall be placed four (4) yards from the goal, in line with the place of penalty.
21. **Goal Kicks:** Goal kicks may be taken from any point on the end line.
22. **Player ejection:** U10 and younger: no red cards will be issued. If a player would normally warrant a red card he/she will sit out the remainder of the game but not shown a red card. The team may substitute for that player and the player will be permitted to play in the next game. U12 and up: The player will be ejected and will not be permitted to play in the next game. The team may substitute for that player immediately.
23. **Playoff Overtime:** OT shall consist of one (1) five (5) minute sudden death ("golden goal") period with a coin toss to determine initial possession. First team to score wins. If no team scores, the winner shall be determined by a shootout. The three (3) players remaining on the field at the end of the OT period will enter a rotation of PK's alternating teams. If the game remains tied the same three (3) players continue in a sudden death shootout one (1) at a time until one team score is unanswered.
24. **Scoring (in bracket play):** WIN-three(3) pts; TIE-one(1) pt; LOSS-zero(0) pts. Teams with the most points after bracket play will advance.
25. **Tie breakers:** Ties between teams will be broken by: 1—head-to-head, 2—overall goal differential, 3—goals for, in head-to-head games, 4—coin toss
26. **Protests:** No protests will be allowed. Tournament volunteers' decisions are final regardless. We will be using as many certified USSF officials as we are able to this year.
27. **Inclement weather:** In the event of inclement weather, game cancellation will be determined by the event staff.
28. **Refunds:** THERE ARE NO REFUNDS for any other reason than inclement weather which will be determined by the event staff. If event is cancelled due to inclement weather, a partial refund of the entry fee will be sent back to the team contact.