

# **#PlayFor8 Cup | Tournament Rules**

**October 6-8, 2023**



## **1. TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS**

2021 #PlayFor8 Cup

c/o Tournament Success Group

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## **2. US SOCCER PLAYER DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES**

PlayFor8 Cup will incorporate the US Soccer Player Development Initiatives, which will include:

- Birth Year Registration & Age Groups
- Small Sided Standards: 7v7 for U9-U10 and 9v9 for U11-U12
- 7v7 will play with build-out lines per US Soccer
- 7v7 and 9v9 no heading allowed (U9, U10, U11, U12)

## **3. TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

Participation in the 2023 #PlayFor8 Cup is open to accepted teams consisting of players meeting the age limit and roster size of the specified division. A team using guest players may have no more than four (4) to six (6) loan/guest players depending on age group.

Competitive teams, except for foreign/international teams, must be registered with a National Soccer Association affiliated with US Soccer/US Youth Soccer and must present a valid State roster. For these teams, the only acceptable proof of age will be a valid US Soccer/US Youth Soccer, State, or National registration card that includes a signature and a photograph of the player. Players on these competitive teams who do not present valid player passes will not play.

The recreational team must produce, at registration, a roster signed by an official of the club (which club must be affiliated with US Youth Soccer or some other national soccer organization) of which they are affiliated and played, listing each player, including their date of birth, and must provide, at registration, a birth certificate or state or nationally certified player pass, for each such player evidencing that player's eligibility to play on that team based on birth date.

Teams participating in the tournament must provide medical releases for each player in a format as required by the Tournament Committee and as posted on the tournament website. These authorizations shall be presented at registration and a copy kept by the team at the field, available for presentation in the event of an emergency.

Where required by the State or National Association for which a team/player is registered, all competitive teams/players traveling from within the United States but outside the State of Florida must have a copy of their

# ***#PlayFor8 Cup | Tournament Rules***

## **October 6-8, 2023**

Permission to Travel Forms, approved and signed by a USSF or duly authorized State or National Association representative.

Foreign Teams must have written permission and verification from their Federation, indicating authorization to participate in the Tournament. Players must present passports at registration (including Canadian citizens). These teams must present a certified roster signed by an official of the Club with which they are affiliated and played, listing each player, and including their date of birth.

- U9-U10 teams will play 7v7 format. Maximum roster size cannot exceed 12 players. 4 guest players are allowed.
- U11-U12 teams will play 9v9 format. Maximum roster size cannot exceed 16 players. 6 guest players are allowed.
- U13 thru U19 teams will play 11v11 format. The maximum roster size cannot exceed 22 players. A maximum of 18 players can dress out each game. 6 guest players are allowed.

A player may compete for only one team participating in the tournament. In the event a player is found to have been rostered to more than one team in the tournament, the second team on which the player is rostered in the tournament shall be deemed as the team that fielded an ineligible player. Any team fielding an ineligible player will be disqualified from the tournament and their tournament fee will be forfeited.

#### **4. AGE OF COMPETITION**

U9: 1/1/2015	U15: 1/1/2009
U10: 1/1/2014	U16: 1/1/2008
U11: 1/1/2013	U17: 1/1/2007
U12: 1/1/2012	U18: 1/1/2006
U13: 1/1/2011	U19: 1/1/2005
U14: 1/1/2010	

#### **5. LAWS OF THE GAME**

All games shall be played by FIFA Laws, except as specifically modified by these rules.

Law 11: Offside. At U9-U10, offsides will be called. U9 and U10 will play with the offside rule by the FIFA “Laws of the Game”.

U11-U19: No change per FIFA “Laws of the Game”.

#### **6. SUBSTITUTIONS**

Substitutions will be made with the referee’s permission.

#### **7. FIELD AND GAME EQUIPMENT**

- A. It is the policy of FYSA that no player be allowed to wear ANY jewelry while participating in any FYSA-sanctioned match. The only exception that may be allowed is a medical alert bracelet or necklace when taped to the body. The referee shall decide as to the safety of the player and the referee’s decision is final.
- B. Orthopedic casts are not permitted. However, soft braces can be worn with written approval from a doctor, and judgment as to safety is at the discretion of the referee.
- C. Players are required to wear shin guards by FIFA Laws of the Game.

## **#PlayFor8 Cup | Tournament Rules**

### **October 6-8, 2023**

- D. Players must wear numbers on the back of their uniforms and these numbers shall coincide with those listed on the team's roster.
- E. Where uniform colors are similar, the designated home team will change colors. The home team is listed first on the schedule.
- F. Both teams will take the same side of the field. All other supporters will take the opposite side. Only three (3) carded team officials are permitted on the sidelines with their players.
- G. No one is permitted behind either goal/end line.
- H. Spectators must remain behind the spectator line and coaches must remain in the coaches' area.
- I. If requested by the referee, each team must provide a linesperson.
- J. Each team shall be near their assigned playing field 30 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time.
- K. The home team will provide the game ball.
- L. In the event the assigned assistant referees fail to appear, the referee must find a suitable assistant referee.

#### **8. DURATION OF GAMES**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Group Play</b>	<b>Playoffs</b>
U9-U10	2x25	No overtime	2x25. No OT. Direct to PKs
U11-U12	2x25	No overtime	2x25. No OT. Direct to PKs
U13-U14	2x30	No overtime	2x30. No OT. Direct to PKs
U15 - U19	2x35	No overtime	2x35. No OT. Direct to PKs

- A. Mercy Rule: All games will be subject to a mercy rule of an 8-goal differential at any time after the completion of the first half.
- B. Water Breaks: Will be mandatorily provided at the midpoint of each half of regulation play during a natural stoppage of play. They will be no shorter than 1 minute, and the game clock will continue to run.

#### **9. PLAYING UP GUIDELINES**

FYSA Rule 211.3 states that the policy is that all players compete at a level they are capable of both physically and developmentally. For a player to move up more than one birth year, it will require approval from the affiliate's Director of Coaching or Agent of Record and the FYSA Director of Coaching. Failure to obtain proper permissions may result in the player being removed from the team's roster and sanctions against the team/club. Under the authority granted by rule 211.3, the FYSA DOC issues the following guidance for the 2017/18 seasonal year:

- Players up to 8U age groups (born in 2016 or later birth years) will be allowed to roster for up to 1 year.
- Players in the 9U to 14U age groups (2015 to 2010 birth years) will be allowed to roster for up to 2 years, subject to the restriction that no player may participate in an FYSA-sanctioned competition in which heading is permitted before their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Players in the 15U and older age groups will be allowed to roster up to any older age groups.

There will not be an approval process in place and no exceptions to the above guidelines will be granted. Roster rules will be set in GotSport for the 2023/24 Season to permit clubs to roster players that meet these guidelines.

# ***#PlayFor8 Cup | Tournament Rules***

## **October 6-8, 2023**

### **10. GAME AND SCORE REPORTING**

- A. The Head Referee will ensure that the game report forms are properly completed and presented to the Site Director after each game. Uniform numbers must be accompanied by player names if a card is issued.
- B. The Head Referee will ensure that the correct score for each game is reported to the Site Director after each game promptly.

### **11. FAILURE TO SHOW AND FORFEIT**

- A. A team shall be allowed a fifteen (15) minute grace period after the scheduled kick-off time before the match is awarded to their opponent. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team for ages U13 and older and if seven (7) players are present, the game will not be delayed. For ages U9 and U10 the number of players required is five (5). For ages U11 and U12, the number of players required are six (6).
- B. In no case shall a team that forfeits or does not show up for a game be declared a division winner. If an apparent division winner forfeits a game or does not show up for play, the division team with the next-best record shall be named the division winner.
- C. A forfeit in the preliminary round will be awarded three (3) points for the win. If the game has started the score will stand at the time of the forfeit unless the score is 0-0 at the time of the forfeit, in which even the score will be recorded as 4-0.
- D. Forfeits in the play-off rounds shall be recorded as 1-0 games.

### **12. ABANDONED GAME**

If a game is abandoned, meaning the referees must cancel the game while in progress due to actions or behavior of players, coaches, and spectators, the score will be recorded as follows:

- A. If either team is at fault for the abandonment of the game, that team at fault shall forfeit the match and the score will be recorded as a 4-0 win for the opposing team.
- B. If both teams are at fault the score will remain as is the time of the abandonment.

### **13. NO PROTESTS SHALL BE ENTERTAINED**

### **14. CONDUCT**

- A. The #PlayFor8 Cup will have a Discipline Committee of no less than three (3) members. The Discipline Committee will review and rule on all reports of unacceptable conduct by players, managers, coaches, referees, spectators, etc. using the Florida Youth Soccer Association standards as set by Rule Section 502.
- B. Per Florida Youth Soccer Association Rule 504.1 Red Card suspensions or send-off suspensions can only be served with the team with which the suspension was earned in games played by their team. Players **may not** serve suspensions as “guest players”
- C. Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves within the spirit of the Law as well as the letter of the Law. Displays of temper or dissent are cause for ejection from the game and surrounding field area and/or the Tournament. Repeated violations may result in the suspension of the team from the Tournament as decided by the Tournament Director.
- D. All players and managers/coaches shall be subject to Florida Youth Soccer Association Section 502 – Discipline and Sanctions.
- E. A player, coach, or team official ejected from a game shall receive an automatic minimum one (1) game suspension regardless of the cause of the ejection. Duration of suspension is cumulative based on further misconduct after receiving the initial dismissal. The Discipline Committee shall determine the appropriate

## ***#PlayFor8 Cup | Tournament Rules***

### **October 6-8, 2023**

sanction for the action resulting in the ejection, said sanction will be determined and communicated to the affected parties as soon as practicable, but no later than before the next scheduled game in which the offending party would have an opportunity to participate, which is no sooner than two games after the game in which the offending party was ejected since there is at least a one-game automatic suspension.

- F. Depending on the severity of the unacceptable conduct, the Discipline Committee may recommend the suspension of up to the duration of the tournament with further disciplinary action by the appropriate National and State Association, Federation, or any other USSF-affiliated organization. The Discipline Committee recommendations will be available to the affected parties no later than before their next scheduled game.
- G. Any player, coach, team official, or parent exhibiting or threatening violence to anyone (player, coach, referee, spectator, or Tournament official) will be grounds for immediate expulsion from the tournament, such determination to be made by the appropriate referees and tournament officials. When serving a suspension, the suspended party must check in and remain at the site tent through the duration of the game or may be asked to leave the park.
- H. After the PlayFor8 Cup, it is the responsibility of the team's coach or manager to pick up the passes from the tournament office (even if the suspension has not been completed). A complete report will be sent to the Florida Youth Soccer Association Review and Discipline Committee within 72 hours for forwarding to the appropriate State and National Association.
- I. Alcoholic beverages, smoking, use of profanity, and animals are not permitted at the fields or parks.
- J. Mechanical and artificial noisemakers are prohibited.

#### **15. DETERMINATION OF PLAYOFF FINALISTS**

Finalists will be determined through a seeding format or by a division winner's format. The Tournament Committee will decide which format each age group and bracket will follow. This will be announced before the commencement of the competition. The rules to determine tiebreakers will be the same for either format. Each team will be awarded three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss. At the end of the preliminary rounds, if the finalists for a particular age group and bracket are determined by the division winner, the division winner will be the team with the most points in their division. In the event of a tie within a division, the following criteria will be used to determine who moves forward:

1. Head-to-head competition (this criterion will not be considered in the case of a tie among more than two (2) teams. \*
2. Goal differential to a maximum of four (4) per game.
3. Most goals are scored to a maximum of four (4) per game.
4. Least goals allowed to a maximum of four (4) per game.
5. Number of shutouts.
6. FIFA penalty kicks.

\*In the event of a tie among more than two teams, once a tie is broken by the above system, and if ties among remaining teams still must be decided, those ties would be broken by starting again from the top of the tie-breaking procedure.

If a wild card team must be selected for the playoff rounds, the above procedure will be used across the entire age group and bracket involved.

- If a division winner does not show up for play, the division team with the next-best record shall be named the division winner.

## ***#PlayFor8 Cup | Tournament Rules***

### **October 6-8, 2023**

- In the event the finalists for a particular age group and bracket are determined by seeding, the finalists (or semi-finalists if applicable) shall be determined based upon the two teams (or more if semi-finals are applicable) with the most points in the overall age group and bracket involved. In a tie, the same criteria utilized for division winners shall be used to determine the finalists.
- If there is an age group(s) and bracket in which semi-finals are held, to be determined at the discretion of the Tournament Committee, the foregoing rules shall be applied to determine the teams that shall qualify for the semi-finals.

#### **16. PLAYOFFS**

- A. Depending on the number of teams in the division/ age group bracket, there may be a playoff.
- B. If there are playoffs and a wild card team must be selected for the playoff rounds, that team will not be assigned to play the winner of its division in the first playoff round.
- C. In the case of a draw at the end of regulation time in the playoff rounds, the winner will be determined as follows:

The best of five penalty kicks taken alternately by each team will determine the winner. Only those players on the field at the end of regulation time of the playoff game may compete. If the penalty kick score is tied at the end of the five kicks, the teams will continue to take penalty kicks alternately until there is a winner. All players on the field must kick before any player may kick a second time.

#### **17. HEADING GUIDELINES**

In conjunction with US Soccer and USYS, Florida Youth Soccer Association has instituted a heading ban for players in the U11 and younger (U11, U10, U9). To the recent U.S. Soccer recommendations on concussion risk management: FYSA has eliminated heading in matches for players aged U11 and younger, per the new calendar year registration guidelines. For the #PlayFor8 Cup since some U12 teams may have U11 players on the roster all U12 divisions will also be non-heading. Sanctions will be made against teams that do not follow this guideline.

#### **18. CONCUSSIONS**

- A. Under Florida Statutes (FS 943.0438) Florida in 2012 enacted a very stringent Head Injury and Concussion Law. If the referee (or assistant referee) believes that, in his/her opinion, a player has suffered a head injury or possible concussion, the match must be stopped IMMEDIATELY. The injured player if able to leave the field on their own must be escorted to their coach and the coach must be told that the player cannot return for the duration of the match. If a trainer is brought onto the field because the player is incapacitated, the referee must still notify the coach that the player cannot return to the game. It is the responsibility of the coach and the player's parent(s) or legal guardians to seek medical attention. The player may not resume participation until he/she has been cleared by a medical doctor. The Referee HAS NO FURTHER responsibility beyond removing the player from the match in which the player was injured. The referee crew must ensure, that UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES or due to the appeal from any coaching staff that the player is not allowed to return to the game.

#### **19. INCLEMENT WEATHER**

**INCLEMENT WEATHER (GROUP PLAY).** In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Committee will have the authority (in its sole discretion) to change games as follows:

- A. Reschedule or relocate the match (Time and location determined by Tournament Director).

## ***#PlayFor8 Cup | Tournament Rules***

### **October 6-8, 2023**

- B. Shortened match - The Tournament Director may reduce the length of halves due to weather conditions before the restart of a match once delayed due to weather; all such matches will be considered official.
- C. Go to “Penalty Kicks” (Time and location determined by Tournament Director)
- D. Be Cancelled (The tournament committee has the right to cancel any match. Any game that is not started and is canceled [as opposed to postponed] due to weather or other external conditions will be recorded as a 0-0 tie. Canceled games will not be rescheduled.)
- E. Games that have been started and subsequently suspended due to inclement weather or other external conditions will be deemed complete if one-half of the play has been completed or the first half cannot be completed before the start time of the next scheduled game on that field. For any such game that is not completed, the score at the time of the suspension will be the final score. Any game that is not started and is canceled (as opposed to postponed) due to weather or other external conditions will be recorded as a 0-0 tie. Canceled games will not be rescheduled.

If in the event the Tournament Director rules that during the preliminary round “Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark.” will be done due to inclement weather or field conditions, the following rule will apply:

- Each team will take a maximum of five (5) penalty kicks.
- At the end of five (5) kicks the game will be scored as a 1-0 win for the team that has scored more penalty kicks, or a 0-0 tie if both teams are tied in penalty kicks at the end of five (5) kicks.
- In the overall standings, 3 points will be given for the win, 1 point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss.
- The 1-0 on penalty kicks will be counted for or against to determine the tiebreaker for advancement.
- If regular games have been played in the bracket and the Tournament Director has determined that other games go to penalty kicks due to inclement weather or field conditions, the regular game’s score will revert to a 1-0 win or a 0-0 tie.

Only referees or duty managers can suspend a match already started due to weather conditions. The Tournament Director will determine the duration of any suspension. In case of extreme weather (heat/humidity), a break will be given at the midpoint of each half of regulation time and the end of each overtime period (if played) for player hydration. This break will be given at a normal stoppage of play, and it is mandatory for any FYSA-sanctioned match during which the air temperature is or is expected to reach eighty-five (85) degrees. (FYSA Bylaw 402.4)

**INCLEMENT WEATHER (FINALS).** In the event of inclement weather affecting the Finals, the Tournament Committee will have the authority (in its sole discretion) to change games as follows:

- A. Relocate or reschedule any game(s)
- B. Change the duration of any game(s)
- C. FIFA penalty kicks
- D. Final Games that have been started and subsequently suspended due to inclement weather or other external conditions will be deemed complete if one-half of the play has been completed or the first half cannot be completed before the start time of the next scheduled game on that field. For any such game that is not completed, the score at the time of the suspension will be the final score.
  - a. If the score at the time of the suspension is tied, or the game cannot be started due to inclement weather, Point E (below) will be considered
- E. If the score at the time of the suspension is tied, or any Final game has not started, and a Champion and Finalist need to be determined, the tournament will revert to final group standings based on three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss. In the event of tie-on points between the two teams that are in the Finals, the following criteria will be used to determine the Champion and Finalist.

# ***#PlayFor8 Cup | Tournament Rules***

## **October 6-8, 2023**

- a. Head-to-Head competition
- b. Goal differential to a maximum of four (4) per game
- c. Most goals scored to a maximum of four (4) per game
- d. Least goals allowed to a maximum of four (4) per game
- e. Most Shutouts
- f. FIFA Penalty kicks

### **20. REFUND POLICY**

- A. Within five (5) days after notification that the team is not accepted by their application.
- B. Within five (5) days upon cancellation of the tournament.
- C. Within ten (10) days of withdrawal request of the application by a team before acceptance of that application by the tournament.

### **21. GENERAL**

- A. Teams that cancel or pull out of the tournament after the registration deadlines are not entitled to a refund of their registration fee.
- B. Teams that register and/or pay after the registration deadline of September 5, 2023, will incur a \$50.00 late fee.
- C. Under no circumstances whatsoever, will the Tournament Committee, United Soccer Academy, Tournament Success Group, Make Our Schools Safe or FYSA will be responsible for any expenses (including tournament entry fee) incurred by any team. This includes a situation where the tournament or any game(s) is canceled in whole or part, due to any factor including inclement weather.
- D. The Tournament Committee's interpretation of these rules shall be FINAL.
- E. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decide on all matters about this tournament.
- F. The Tournament Committee, based on its interpretation of these rules, will determine the teams which advance into the final rounds.
- G. Out-of-area teams are required to stay at tournament-approved host hotels.
- H. NO SALES OF ANY KIND ARE PERMITTED WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION.
- I. The use of Drones at facilities used by #PlayFor8 Cup is not allowed.