

Niagara Pioneer International Soccer Tournament
2024 Rules and Guidelines

Competition Rules FIFA Laws of the Game will be used to govern this Tournament with the addition of the following guidelines.

Player Eligibility All players and teams must be registered with a State, Province, or National association, have a certified roster, and player passes. NO Olympic Development, Premier, or All-Star teams are permitted. Three (3) guest players are permitted. NO player may play for more than one (1) team in the Tournament. No player may play below his or her normal league participation level. Maximum roster size is 22 players, 16 players for U11 and U12, and 12 players for U9 and U10.

❖ U19	1/1/05 – 12/31/06
❖ U17	1/1/07 – 12/31/07
❖ U16	1/1/08 - 12/31/08
❖ U15	1/1/09 - 12/31/09
❖ U14	1/1/10 - 12/31/10
❖ U13	1/1/11 - 12/31/11
❖ U12*	1/1/12 - 12/31/12
❖ U11*	1/1/13 - 12/31/13
❖ U10**	1/1/14 - 12/31/14
❖ U9**	1/1/15 - 12/31/115

* All U-11 and U-12 matches will be 9 v 9, including goalkeeper.

** All U-9 and U-10 matches will be 7 v 7, including goalkeeper.

Match Length & Location All matches, play-downs, and finals in all age divisions will play 60 minutes (two 30 minute halves), except for U9 & U10, which will play 50 minutes (two 25 minute halves). All matches will be played on one of the 20 fields at Fort Niagara State Park.

Spectators During games, both teams and their coaches shall sit on the same side of the field. Spectators shall be located on the opposite side of the field from the players and coaches. No exceptions unless caused by the field layout or requested by the referee. There shall be no more than three coaches with the players at their bench area.

Substitutions A player may be substituted at any stoppage of play with the permission of the referee. Free and unlimited substitution is allowed at all age groups.

Ball Size U9-12 #4
U13-19 #5
The Home team (first listed on the official tournament schedule) must provide the ball for the match, subject to approval by the referee.

Jerseys In the event of a conflict with jersey color, the Home team (first listed on the official tournament schedule) must change to an alternate color.

Forfeit A forfeit is declared when:
- A team does not show up for or cannot field seven (7) players at the scheduled start of a match. A grace period of 10 minutes from the scheduled start time, or the completion of preceding game (whichever is later) is allowed.
- A team abandons the game.
- The referee abandons the game. The team that precipitated the abandonment will forfeit the match. If in the referees opinion both teams are equally at fault, no tournament points are awarded in the match.
- A team fields illegal players.

- The winning team will be awarded three (3) points and the match score will be recorded as 4-0.

Yellow Cards	Players receiving one (1) yellow card during play are not required to leave the field of play. Players receiving two (2) yellow cards in one game are awarded a red card and subject to the rules concerning red cards. Yellow cards DO NOT carry over from one game to the next.
Red Cards/Ejection	The player or coach will be suspended for at least one (1) match depending on the severity of the offense. The coach must surrender the player's pass for a red card, or the coaches pass for an ejection. The Tournament Committee, in conjunction with the Head Referee, will determine length of each suspension. After the suspension is served, passes are to be picked up from the referee's tent before your next match. Any penalty that cannot be fully served during the Tournament must be completed during the next sanctioned league or Tournament match (Not to include NYSW State Cup, NYSW President's Cup, or USYSA National Championship). A player who receives a second red card during the Tournament shall be prohibited from any further participation in the Tournament. All red cards and ejections are reported to NYSWYSA in the post-tournament report.
Player Passes	Coaches are to maintain possession of player passes and medical releases at all times. The Tournament Committee will conduct random audits of submitted rosters against player passes prior to the commencement of selected matches.
Protests	The referee's decisions are FINAL and cannot be appealed! Protests will be accepted on player eligibility ONLY. A written protest must be submitted within 20 minutes of the completion of the match accompanied by a \$50.00 cash fee refundable if the protest is upheld. Disputes over player eligibility will be resolved by the Tournament Director.
Standings	<p>Points will determine a team's position in the standings. Points will be awarded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Win 3 points❖ Tie 1 point each team❖ Loss 0 points <p>When tied at the end of group play, the following tie-breaker system will be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Winner of head to head❖ Goal differential (maximum four (4) per match)❖ Goals against (maximum four (4) per match)❖ FIFA penalty kicks <p>If required, the Tournament Director will determine when and where the penalty kicks will be taken. Affected coaches should report to the Headquarters Tent for instructions.</p>
Overtime	Overtime will only apply in Championship and Playoff matches. All other matches will end when the official match length is over. Two 5-minute overtime periods will be played to completion with a 'Golden Goal' ending the match. If the match is still tied at the end of overtime, then FIFA penalty kicks shall decide the match.
Weather	If a match is suspended due to weather or any other situation not in the tournament committees' control, after completion of the first half, that match shall be considered complete and official. All matches halted in the first half, when restarted, will resume at the start of the second half. The Tournament Director in conjunction with the Head Referee will determine when play is halted and restarted. Coaches should report to the Headquarters Tent for instructions regarding the restart of play.

Six-Team Brackets	After the completion of the first two matches, first and second place teams in each flight will advance to the playoff round. Winners of the playoff round will advance to the championship game. The third place teams in each flight will play a consolation match.
Refunds	All teams are guaranteed three (3) matches minimum, weather permitting. The tournament will not provide refunds for abandoned or forfeited matches. If the tournament is cancelled in its entirety prior to the day before the event, teams will be refunded their registration fee. If the tournament is cancelled due to weather problems, field conditions, or any other situation which is beyond the reasonable control of the tournament, then refunds, if any, are to be made at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.
General	The Tournament Committee interpretation of the rules and regulations shall be final. The Tournament Director reserves the right to decide on <u>all</u> matters pertaining to the Tournament.