

FIFA Laws of the Game

The FIFA Laws of the Game apply to all the 8v8 competitions with the following modifications.

Uniforms

1. When the uniforms colors of the two competing teams are determined similar by the referee, the home team shall change its color.
2. A clear visible number must be worn on the back of each player's jersey. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the numbers of the other players on the same team.
3. Each Goalkeeper must wear a jersey with colors that distinguish them from the other players, the referee and the assistant referees.

Photo Player Roster

Each player must present to the referee crew/Field Commissioner identification to match the game roster. Game Rosters should be handed to the Referee or Field Commissioner 30 minutes prior to the game with the players and bench personnel identified. Each player shall have a number beside their name.

Match Procedures

1. General Scheduling Matters

- A. The Regional Competition dates for each competition will be set by the Regional Cup Committee.
- B. Regional/National Organization Members may participate in Regional National Cups with the Regional Cup Committee's approval along with the following guidelines.

2. Match Modifications

- A. Slide Tackling: There will be no slide tackling in 8v8 play. An indirect free kick will be awarded at the spot where the slide tackle offense occurred. Slide tackling is defined as a player making a play by sliding feet first in an attempt to take the ball from an opposing player.
- B. Off Side Rule: there will be no offside in 8v8 play.

3. Field & Equipment Requirements

- A. Field size shall be 50 X 80.
- B. Goal size shall be 6.5 x 18.5.

4. Length of Match

- a. Each match shall be comprised of two 35-minute halves with a halftime interval not to exceed 10 minutes.
- b. In matches where a winner must be determined, if tied after regulation, 10 minutes of extra time will be played in two 5-minute periods. If still tied, then the winner will be determined by kicks from the penalty mark as prescribed by FIFA.
- c. For competitions played in a tournament format, where unforeseen circumstances arise, the length of the match and procedure to determine a winner in cases where a match is tied and a winner needs to be determined may be modified. Such modifications shall be made by the Regional Tournament Committee at their sole discretion.

5. Substitutions

- A. Unlimited substitutions shall be allowed.
- B. Substitution shall be allowed on goal kicks, during own possession throw ins, injuries, and at referee discretion.

6. Match Play Format for Tournament Competition

- A. The regional tournament shall determine competition groupings based on the number of entries received, the geographical distribution of teams, and the timeliness of applications received, as the priorities.
- B. Each team will play the other teams in their designated group as scheduled.
- C. The points for bracket standings are as follows: Total of 10 points - 6 points for the win, 1 point for a shutout, 0 points for the loss, 1 point for each goal scored up to three goals. 3 points for a tie.
- D. Forfeits will be scored as 3-0 (10 points), in favor of the non-forfeiting team.
- E. Tiebreakers – For all competitions, the following tie breakers will be used, in this exact order; Head-to-Head, Goal Differential up to three goals, most goals scored up to three goals.
- F. Group Tie Breakers – 1. Head-to-Head, 2. Greatest Goal Differential up to three goals, 3. Most Goals Scored, up to three goals, 4. Kicks from the Mark (or coin toss if circumstance dictates).
- G. Second Place Tie Breakers – 1. Most Points accumulated, 2. Greatest Goal Differential (up to three goals) between teams, 3. Most Goals Scored, up to three goals, 4. Kicks from the Mark (or coin toss if circumstance dictates).
- H. In the event that there is a Three-Way tie in the Group or for the Wildcard Position:
 - 1) Three Way Tie Breakers to determine placement- 1. Greatest Goal Differential up to three goals, 2. Most Goals Scored, up to three goals, 3. Kicks from the Mark. Once the 3-way tie is reduced to two teams, the tie breaker returns to the beginning of the Three-Way Tie Breaker sequence.
 - 2) If there needs to be a Three-Way “Kicks from the Mark” – 1. All three teams’ names will go into a hat, 2. First team drawn will receive the “bye” and be considered the home team, 3. The next team drawn will kick in the first round of “Kicks from the Mark” and be considered the home team, 4. The remaining team will be considered the visitor and will call the coin toss, 5. Second and Third team will compete in “Kicks from the Mark”, 6. Winner competes with First Draw.

7. Match Not Completed in its Entirety

- A. A match terminated before completion of regulation play shall be replayed in its entirety, with the exception of the following two circumstances:
 - 1) If the match is terminated clearly as the result of misconduct of one of the teams, its management and/or its followers, then the match shall be determined a forfeit by the offending team and awarded to the opposing team. Review and disposition of such a situation shall be conducted by the Regional Tournament Committee for that competition.
 - 2) If the match is terminated due to one of the teams no longer able to field the minimum required five (5) players to continue the match, then the match shall be determined a forfeit by the team that no longer could continue with the minimum required and awarded to the opposing team.
- B. For matches played in a tournament format where the match was terminated due to weather conditions or other extenuating circumstances that no longer allowed the match to be playable, the Regional Tournament Committee shall determine the outcome for that competition and any scheduling changes.

8. Technical Area

Teams will be permitted to have no more than two team officials (coaches, assistant coaches and/or trainers) along with the players listed on the Match Day Roster in the team's technical area. 15-Player Dress Squad and 2 Team Officials are only allowed.

9. Spectators/Supporters

Spectators/supporters must be seated on the opposite touchline from the team benches or designated seating areas in the stands. Spectators are not permitted on the field or technical area. Teams are responsible for the conduct of their supporters. If it is determined that a match is disrupted or terminated due to the conduct of a team's supporters, sanctions may include forfeiture of match, disqualification from future cup matches and a fine not to exceed the team's participation bond.

10. Match Officials

The 8v8 Regional Tournament Committee shall be responsible to assign all match officials and determine the amount of compensation for the officials for all Regional rounds.

11. Hydration breaks will be allowed if the weather is too hot according to the following Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT):

WBGT>86F, then one break per half

WBGT>93.2F, then two breaks per half

WBGT>98.6F, then three breaks per half

WBGT>104F, then stop games

12. Lightning Rule – In the event of lightning in the area, the referees will contact the tournament committee to determine continuation of play. If the sirens go off, clear the field and stay in your car until notified that you can come back on the field (20 minutes after lightning strike).

Player & Team Official Discipline

1. Team officials (coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and others allowed to be in the technical area) are expected to behave in a responsible manner. A team official may be expelled from the field by the referee, in which case the team official must leave the technical and playing area of the field entirely and no longer participate directly or indirectly in the match. The dismissed team official will also be suspended from participating in the next scheduled match of the official's team. The Regional Tournament Committee reserves the authority to impose further sanctions necessary to uphold the integrity of the game.

2. Player Suspensions

A. A player issued a red card, including as a result of being issued two (2) yellow cards in the same match, shall be suspended at minimum for one (1) game in that competition.

B. A player issued a red card for violent conduct due to fighting or striking another player shall be suspended a minimum of two matches.

C. A player issued a red card for violent conduct due to fighting or striking a game official shall be suspended a minimum of two matches.

D. Foul and Abusive Language against a referee could result in suspension from the entire Cup. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Regional Tournament Committee.

- E. A player may be expelled from the field by the referee, in which case the player must leave the field entirely and no longer participate directly or indirectly in the match. The dismissed player will also be suspended from participating in the next scheduled match of the team.
- F. If the suspended player refuses to leave the technical and playing area of the field entirely, after notifying both team officials, then the referee shall abandon the match.
- G. The Regional Tournament Committee shall review the circumstances concerning all red cards issued. If the Committee determines that the actions of the player warrants greater penalty than the minimum penalties imposed, then it reserves authority to impose further sanctions necessary to uphold the integrity of the game.
- H. A suspension shall be served by the player at the next match of that competition.

Withdrawal from the Competition

1. Any team withdrawing from the competition must give notice of its intention to withdraw to the 8v8 Regional Tournament Committee. Notice must be given 72 hours in advance of the scheduled match and must state the reason for the withdrawal.
2. A team that has withdrawn from a competition is subject to losing its participation bond, removal from any other competition it has entered and participation from any competition in the following year. The 8v8 Regional Tournament Committee shall review the circumstances of the withdrawal and make a determination of any sanctions to be applied.

Disqualifications

A team found to be ineligible to participate in competition or is found to be using an ineligible player may be disqualified from the competition as determined by the 8v8 Regional Tournament Committee. Sanctions may also include loss of participation bond, removal from any other competition it has entered and participation from any competition in the following year.

There will be a \$200 nonrefundable appeal fee.

COED RULES OF PLAY

1. The USASA Region III 8v8 Tournament shall adhere to FIFA and USSF Rules of Play in all instances, except regarding the following specific Soccer is Life Tournament Rules.
2. Free Substitutions. Free substitutions are allowed only in the case of “a team’s own throw in,” “a goal kick,” “a goal scored,” “half time,” and “an injury,” subject to the referee’s discretion.
3. Rules of the Game for 8v8
 - a. Teams will wear same color shirts with numbers on them. No two team members can have the same number.
 - b. Team members may not engage in slide tackles. For the slide tackle rule to be enforced, both the slide and the tackle must occur. Sliding without a tackle is not illegal. When enforced, a slide tackle results in an indirect free kick.
 - c. Team members must observe the “Minimum Contact Rule” during all games.
 - d. Attacking players must refrain from contacting the goalkeeper within the penalty areas (a foul will result in a direct kick).

- e. No more than four (4) men may play on the field at a time, with exception of the goalkeeper, who may be either male or female.
 - f. Women's goals are worth two (2) points.
 - g. There must be five (5) players to start.
 - h. Within the penalty area, the goalkeeper must play the ball and not the man (a foul will result in an indirect kick); Goalkeeper "punts" will not be allowed.
 - i. No offsides.
 - j. Games will consist of two thirty-five (35) minute halves.
4. The Home Team must change jerseys if a conflict arises. Home team is the first team listed on the schedule.
5. Game Forfeits.
- a. A ten (10) minute grace period will be allowed before a game is deemed forfeited due to an insufficient number of players; and
 - b. A team that forfeits will no longer be eligible for a return on their team registration bond.
6. Referee Reporting: All referees will complete the game card and return it and any Soccer is Life Tournament Referee Reports (documenting any yellow cards or red cards) to the National Cup Committee tent.
7. There will be a \$200 nonrefundable appeal fee.