

US Adult Soccer Region I - 2025 Tournament Rules

U23 Championship for the Gus Xikis Trophy

The following Rules of the Competition are specific to tournament play for the U23 Championship.

1. **Rosters** - Teams will be allowed to bring a maximum of 22 players to the tournament. A copy of the team's Official Player Pool Form, certified by the proper state association or USASA Affiliate league must be submitted at check-in.
2. **Group Play** - The teams will play their group matches on Saturday.
 - **Match Length** - Group matches
 - **3-team group** - 90 minutes in length.
 - **4-team group** - 60 minutes in length
 - If a match ends in a tie, extra time will not be played.
 - **Groups** - The groups are based on the entries that have committed to play in the tournament. In case teams do not appear, the cup committee has authority to make the proper schedule and group changes to play the tournament.
 - **Point System** - In group matches, 3 points will be awarded for a victory and 1 point for a tie. The team with the most points wins the group. If necessary, the tiebreaker procedure listed below will determine the group winner.
 - **Tie Breaker** - The tiebreaker will be determined in the following order:
 - **Head-to-head competition** - If more than two teams are tied, then matches played among those tied teams will determine head-to-head play before moving onto the next tiebreaker.
 - **Goal differential**
 - **Goals scored**
 - **Shutouts** - For use to determine a tie breaker only, a point will be added for each shutout to total points earned in group play.
 - **Penalty Kicks** - Kicks from the penalty mark as prescribed by FIFA will be used to determine the Group Winner. Penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA regulations. The team with the most goals after 5 kicks will be declared the winner. If still tied after 5 kicks, extra rounds will continue until one of the teams has an advantage. In the case of 3 teams involved in a tie, a draw will be made to determine which 2 teams shoot first. The other team will then shoot against the winning PK team.
3. **Semifinals** - The group winners of each group will advance to the semifinals. If the tournament is played among three groups, the three group winners advance to the semifinals. The team with the best second place record take the last semifinal place. If points cannot determine the best record, then the tie breaker procedure above will be used.

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Semifinal matches will be 70 minutes in length. If there is no winner at the end of regulation time, the winner will be determined by kicks from the penalty mark as prescribed by FIFA and described above. There will be no extra time played.

4. **Final** - The match will be 90 minutes in length. If there is no winner at the end of regulation time, the winner will be determined by kicks from the penalty mark as prescribed by FIFA and described above. There will be no extra time played.
5. **Substitutions** - Substitutions shall be unlimited in numbers among the 22 players listed on the player pool. A player who has been substituted may reenter the match at any time. The referee may stop play and allow substitution in the following situations:
 - After a goal by either team.
 - On a goal kick by either team.
 - On a throw-in by the team in possession.
 - By either team at half time.
 - For an injured player, when play is stopped for the injury.
 - When a yellow card is given for the player given the yellow card. The substitution is not mandatory.
 - In any situation above where players are at midfield waiting to come onto play as a substitute, players from both sides may come on as substitutes.
6. **Conflicting Colors** - In cases of conflicting colors, the team listed as home must change its jerseys. Teams are required to bring a minimum of two sets of jersey colors for the tournament.
7. **Discipline** - Players shall be suspended in the following ways:
 - For a sendoff (red card, including two yellow cards in same match) - 1 match
 - The Cup Committee may suspend a player for more than one match depending upon the severity of the action that caused the ejection. Players ejected for fighting shall be suspended for the remainder of the tournament.
8. **Technical Area** - Teams will be permitted to have no more than four team officials (coaches, assistant coaches and trainers) along with the players listed on the players' pool in the team's technical area. Players warming up must stay behind the technical area and wear a penny or jersey color that is not the same as the two teams on the pitch.

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9. **Age Requirement** - Players born on or after 1 January 2002 are eligible for U23 registration.
10. **Spectators** - Spectators 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 one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
11. **Governance** - The playing of this competition will be governed by the rules of FIFA, USSF & USASA except for those noted above.

These rules are based on the number of teams as determined at the end of registration. If there is a change in the number of participants, the Cup Committee has authority to adjust accordingly and has authority to waive or amend policies for this tournament.