



2026 RIBFEST SOCCER CLASSIC

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

U8 - U14 | US Youth Soccer / West Virginia Soccer Association Sanctioned

Competition	Youth tournament for U8 through U14 boys and girls teams
Venue	Shawnee Sports Complex, One Salango Way, Dunbar, WV 25064
Organizers	Quantum Sports Center, LLC and Ribfest Inc.
Season	2026-27 seasonal year (August 1 - July 31 age-group formation)

Effective for the 2026 Ribfest Soccer Classic

These rules supersede prior Ribfest Soccer Classic tournament rules. Mandatory US Youth Soccer, WVSA, U.S. Soccer/IFAB, and Shawnee Sports Complex requirements control where they cannot be modified by the tournament sanction.



TOURNAMENT QUICK REFERENCE

2026-27 school-year aligned age groups: August 1 through July 31

Division	Standard Seasonal Age Band	Format	Max Roster	Guest Max	Ball	Match
U8	Aug. 1, 2018 - Jul. 31, 2019	4v4	8	3	3	2 x 20
U9	Aug. 1, 2017 - Jul. 31, 2018	7v7	14	3	4	2 x 25
U10	Aug. 1, 2016 - Jul. 31, 2017	7v7	14	3	4	2 x 25
U11	Aug. 1, 2015 - Jul. 31, 2016	9v9	18	3	4	2 x 30
U12	Aug. 1, 2014 - Jul. 31, 2015	9v9	18	3	4	2 x 30
U13	Aug. 1, 2013 - Jul. 31, 2014	11v11	22	5	5	2 x 35
U14	Aug. 1, 2012 - Jul. 31, 2013	11v11	22	5	5	2 x 35

NO DUAL ROSTERING

A player may appear on only ONE team roster and may participate for only ONE team during the entire Ribfest Soccer Classic. This applies across all age groups, divisions, clubs, and guest-player status. There are no exceptions except correction of an administrative error before the roster freeze and only with written Tournament Director approval.

Roster Freeze	5:00 p.m. local time on the Thursday immediately preceding the first day of competition. All certified rosters, event rosters, player credentials and guest-player documentation must be complete in GotSport by the deadline.
3-Game Guarantee	Each accepted team will be scheduled for at least three matches. Completion of all three matches remains subject to weather, field closure, safety, force majeure and other circumstances outside tournament control.
Awards	Champion and finalist medals will be presented following each championship match.
Protests	No formal protests or appeals. Referee judgment decisions are final. An alleged misapplication of a Law or tournament rule may be presented immediately to the Tournament Director, whose decision is final.



I. GOVERNING AUTHORITY & TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Ribfest Soccer Classic (the “Tournament”) is organized by Quantum Sports Center, LLC and Ribfest Inc. and is sanctioned through the West Virginia Soccer Association (“WVSA”) / US Youth Soccer (“USYS”). Except where these Tournament Rules contain an approved competition modification, play will be governed by the current IFAB Laws of the Game, U.S. Soccer requirements, USYS policies, WVSA rules and the rules of Shawnee Sports Complex.

For purposes of these rules, “Tournament Director” includes the Tournament Director and any authorized designee, site director, competition committee or credentialing official acting within assigned authority. “Tournament Organizers” means Quantum Sports Center, LLC, Ribfest Inc., and their respective owners, officers, directors, employees, agents, volunteers, contractors and tournament officials.

- The Tournament Director has final authority over tournament administration, brackets, schedules, field assignments, match length, competition format, advancement, discipline and interpretation of these rules, subject to mandatory sanctioning-body and facility requirements.
- The Tournament may combine adjacent age groups or competition levels, adjust bracket formats, relocate matches or modify advancement structures when reasonably necessary to create a viable and competitive event.
- Acceptance into the Tournament is discretionary. The Tournament may reject or revoke an entry for material misrepresentation, credential fraud, nonpayment, serious misconduct, failure to meet deadlines or violation of sanctioning requirements.
- Registration and participation constitute the team’s agreement to these rules and to all official tournament communications and facility requirements.

II. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

The Tournament is open to properly registered U8 through U14 boys and girls teams in good standing with their applicable USSF Organization Member, State Association or other organization accepted under the Tournament’s WVSA/USYS sanction.

- Each team is responsible for confirming that it is properly registered, insured and eligible to participate and that any required permission-to-travel or interstate documentation has been obtained before arrival.
- Teams must compete in the age group and classification in which they are accepted. A younger player may play up only when permitted by the player’s governing association and tournament sanction; no player may play down into an age group for which the player is too old.
- For WVSA teams, play-up limitations and roster-age restrictions imposed by WVSA remain applicable. A team may not use the Tournament to circumvent registration or age restrictions.

III. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY, AGE GROUPS, ROSTERS & GUEST PLAYERS

A. 2026-27 Seasonal-Year Age Formation

Beginning with the 2026-27 registration year, US Youth Soccer and WVSA use an August 1 through July 31 age-group formation cycle. The following are the standard seasonal age bands for this Tournament:

Division	Standard Birth-Date Band	Max Roster	Max Guest Players
U8	Aug. 1, 2018 - Jul. 31, 2019	8	3
U9	Aug. 1, 2017 - Jul. 31, 2018	14	3
U10	Aug. 1, 2016 - Jul. 31, 2017	14	3
U11	Aug. 1, 2015 - Jul. 31, 2016	18	3
U12	Aug. 1, 2014 - Jul. 31, 2015	18	3
U13	Aug. 1, 2013 - Jul. 31, 2014	22	5
U14	Aug. 1, 2012 - Jul. 31, 2013	22	5

B. Roster Limits

- U8: maximum roster of 8 players; maximum 3 guest players.
- U9-U10: maximum roster of 14 players; maximum 3 guest players.
- U11-U12: maximum roster of 18 players; maximum 3 guest players.
- U13-U14: maximum roster of 22 players; maximum 5 guest players. Match-day participation may be limited if required by a controlling sanctioning rule or published competition directive.



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Guest players count toward the maximum roster size. Every guest player must be properly registered, eligible, approved as required by the player's governing association, listed on the Tournament event roster, and supported by required credentials by the roster deadline.

DUAL ROSTERING IS PROHIBITED

No player may be listed on or participate for more than one team in the Ribfest Soccer Classic. A player may not switch teams after the roster deadline, play for one team as a primary player and another as a guest, or participate in separate age groups/divisions. A team using a player who is listed on another Tournament roster is subject to forfeiture and additional discipline.

- An ineligible, unregistered, improperly credentialed, over-age or dual-rostered player may not participate.
- Knowingly using an ineligible player or falsified/alterd credential may result in match forfeiture, removal from the Tournament, loss of entry fee, disqualification from advancement, referral to WVSA/USYS or the applicable governing organization, and exclusion from future events operated by the Tournament Organizers.

IV. CREDENTIALING & ROSTER FREEZE

All team credential requirements must be completed in GotSport no later than 5:00 p.m. local time on the Thursday immediately preceding the first day of competition. This is the Tournament roster freeze.

- The team's Tournament event roster must be built in GotSport and include every player who may participate, including all guest players.
- A certified/approved team roster must be uploaded or otherwise available in the manner required by the Tournament.
- Current player credentials must be provided in a Tournament-approved form. Electronic pass cards, photo rosters and other electronic credentials approved by WVSA/USYS or the player's governing association may be accepted.
- Guest-player documentation and credentials must be completed by the same deadline.
- No game-day player additions are permitted. Changes after the roster freeze require written approval from the Tournament Director and will be permitted only to correct a documented administrative error or as otherwise required by the sanctioning authority.
- A player omitted from the approved Tournament roster or whose eligibility cannot be verified will not be permitted to participate.

V. PRE-GAME PROCEDURES

Teams should arrive at their assigned field at least thirty (30) minutes before kickoff and be prepared for credential and equipment checks no later than fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled start.

- Tournament officials may conduct credential checks at initial registration/check-in, before any match, or at any other reasonable time.
- A late-arriving player may enter only after eligibility is verified by a match or Tournament official and the referee gives permission.
- An opposing coach may raise a specific eligibility concern only during the pre-game check or, for a late-arriving player, before that player first enters. The referee/site official/Tournament Director will resolve the issue. Such a challenge is not a formal protest.
- Every coach or assistant in the technical area must be properly registered, credentialed, listed with the team, and compliant with applicable risk-management, SafeSport/MAAPP and background-screening requirements.
- A team must have at least one eligible credentialed adult team official present for the entire match. If no eligible adult can continue, the match will be forfeited.

VI. LAWS OF THE GAME & MATCH FORMAT

Except for the modifications below, matches will be played under the current IFAB Laws of the Game and applicable U.S. Soccer/USYS/WVSA small-sided standards.

Age	Format	Min. Players	Ball	Regulation	Halftime
U8	4v4	3	3	2 x 20 min.	5 min.
U9-U10	7v7	5	4	2 x 25 min.	5 min.
U11-U12	9v9	6	4	2 x 30 min.	5 min.
U13-U14	11v11	7	5	2 x 35 min.	5 min.



- Substitutions are unlimited and may be made at any stoppage with the referee's permission, unless a controlling rule requires otherwise.
- Preliminary/group matches ending in a tie remain tied. There is no overtime.
- A semifinal, final or other match requiring a winner proceeds directly to a shootout/kicks procedure; there is no overtime. U8 4v4 uses the Tournament's age-appropriate modified shootout procedure because goalkeepers are not used.
- Field sizes, goal sizes, markings and technical-area locations may vary within applicable standards based on facility configuration. The Tournament Director may make reasonable field modifications without creating a protest right.
- The team listed first is the home team. The home team supplies a suitable game ball unless the Tournament provides one and must change jerseys or use approved pinnies if the referee determines there is a color conflict.

VII. U8 4v4 MODIFICATIONS

U8 matches are played 4v4 with no goalkeeper. The following modifications apply in addition to applicable WWSA small-sided rules:

- Size 3 ball; maximum roster 8; minimum 3 players required to start or continue.
- No goalkeepers and no offside offenses.
- No penalty kicks. All free kicks are indirect.
- A goal may not be scored directly from a kickoff without the ball first touching another player.
- Throw-ins, goal kicks and corner kicks are used to restart play. An illegal throw-in may be retaken once at the referee's discretion for instructional purposes.
- Opponents must remain at least 10 feet from the ball on restarts unless the field marking or referee requires a greater distance for safety.
- If the field includes a marked U8 goal box, players cannot enter the goal box to defend the goal unless the ball is inside the goal box.
- There is no build-out line in 4v4.

VIII. 7v7 BUILD-OUT LINE - U9 & U10

- When the goalkeeper has possession from an opponent or when a goal kick is taken, the opposing team must retreat behind the build-out line.
- Once the ball is put into play, opponents may cross the build-out line and normal play resumes.
- The goalkeeper may pass, throw or roll the ball into play. Punting and drop-kicking are not permitted.
- A punt or drop-kick results in an indirect free kick to the opponent from the spot of the offense, adjusted to the goal-area line when required by the Laws.
- The build-out line also marks the point from which offside may be enforced. A player cannot be penalized for offside between the halfway line and the build-out line, but may be penalized between the build-out line and goal line.

IX. CONCUSSION, HEADING & MEDICAL SAFETY

A. Suspected Concussion / Head Injury

If a referee or assistant referee believes a player may have suffered a head injury or concussion, play will be stopped as appropriate and the player must be removed for evaluation. A player removed for a suspected concussion may not return to that same match.

- The coach and the player's parent/legal guardian are responsible for obtaining appropriate medical evaluation and complying with return-to-play requirements.
- The Tournament may require written clearance from an authorized healthcare professional before the player participates in a later Tournament match.
- No coach, parent or team official may pressure a referee or Tournament official to return a player to a match after removal for suspected concussion.

B. Heading

Players in U11 programs and younger may not deliberately head the ball in Tournament matches. A deliberate header by a U11-or-younger player results in an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the spot of the offense, adjusted as required if the offense occurs in the goal area.

- Heading is permitted in U12-U14 matches subject to the Laws of the Game. Clubs remain responsible for complying with any training-related heading restrictions applicable to their players.

C. Emergency and Environmental Safety

- All teams and spectators must immediately follow lightning, evacuation, heat, air-quality, shelter and emergency instructions issued by Shawnee Sports Complex, law enforcement, referees or Tournament officials.
- The referee or Tournament Director may order water/cooling breaks, shorten matches or suspend play when conditions warrant.



X. PLAYER EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS

- Shin guards are mandatory and must be worn in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- Jewelry is not permitted except an approved medical-alert item secured in a manner the referee determines is safe, and any religious item permitted under applicable rules.
- Hard casts must be fully padded and may be used only when permitted by the applicable WVSA/USYS rule and approved by an adult referee. Braces must be worn as intended by the manufacturer and contain no unsafe exposed components.
- The referee has final match-day authority to determine whether equipment is safe. A player may be prevented from participating until unsafe equipment is corrected or removed.
- Teams must wear matching uniforms with clearly visible back numbers. Duplicate numbers are not permitted on players participating for the same team at the same time and should not appear on the approved roster unless specifically authorized.
- Goalkeeper colors must distinguish the goalkeeper from both teams and the referee crew.
- Metal spikes are prohibited on artificial turf at Shawnee Sports Complex.

XI. REFEREES & MATCH ADMINISTRATION

- Referees shall submit required game and incident reports to the Tournament/site director, including send-offs, serious misconduct, spectator incidents and significant injuries.
- If an assigned referee or assistant referee fails to appear, the referee assignor or Tournament Director may appoint a qualified replacement, use the senior available official, use club linespersons where permitted, or otherwise adjust the crew. The match remains official.
- Assistant referees may not be assigned to every small-sided match. U8 matches may be officiated under an age-appropriate officiating model approved by the Tournament and sanctioning authority.
- Referee decisions on facts connected with play are final and are not subject to protest.
- The coach or designated team official must verify the reported score with the referee/site official when requested. Signing or confirming a game report acknowledges the score recorded, not a waiver of correction of an obvious clerical error.

XII. SIDELINE CONDUCT, REFEREE PROTECTION & DISCIPLINE

Players, coaches, team officials and spectators are expected to comply with the Laws of the Game, USYS/WVSA conduct policies, Shawnee Sports Complex rules and the standards of sportsmanship expected at a youth event.

- Teams and credentialed team staff will occupy the designated team sideline/technical area. Spectators will remain on the opposite sideline or in another area designated by Tournament officials.
- Spectators must remain behind spectator lines and may not stand behind goals unless the Tournament specifically designates an area there.
- The head coach is responsible for the conduct of the team's players, assistant coaches, parents, family members and supporters. Spectator misconduct may result in discipline against the coach or team when necessary to restore order.
- Abusive, obscene, discriminatory or threatening language; referee harassment; intimidation; fighting; physical contact with officials; or conduct that endangers participants may result in immediate removal from the match or Tournament, match termination, forfeiture and referral to WVSA/USYS, Shawnee management or law enforcement as appropriate.
- Only Shawnee/Kanawha County officials authorized by facility policy may issue a formal facility ban. The Tournament may remove a person from the Tournament and refer the matter to facility management for further action.

Send-Offs and Suspensions

- A player who is sent off may not be replaced; the team plays short for the remainder of the match, subject to minimum-player requirements.
- A player or coach sent off receives an automatic minimum one-match suspension. The Tournament discipline committee may impose additional suspension or removal based on the severity of the misconduct and applicable WVSA standards.
- A coach who is dismissed must leave the competition area as directed. A properly credentialed assistant may continue. If no eligible credentialed adult remains, the match is forfeited.
- Suspended players may not serve a suspension as a guest player for another team, and because dual rostering is prohibited, may not participate elsewhere in the Tournament.

XIII. GROUP STANDINGS, TIEBREAKERS & ADVANCEMENT

Group-play points are awarded as follows: 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss. The Tournament may publish a bracket-specific advancement format based on the number of teams entered.

Two-Team Tie

1. Head-to-head result.
2. Goal differential, capped at a maximum of plus/minus 3 goals per match.



3. Fewest goals allowed, with no more than 3 goals per match counted for tiebreak purposes.
4. Goals scored, with no more than 3 goals per match counted for tiebreak purposes.
5. A Tournament-administered kicks/shootout procedure, if practical; otherwise a blind draw or other neutral method announced by the Tournament Director.

Three or More Teams Tied

When three or more teams are tied, a mini-table using matches among the tied teams will be applied first. The criteria below are used in order until the tie is reduced. Once only two teams remain tied, the two-team procedure above may be applied beginning with head-to-head when appropriate.

1. Points earned in matches among the tied teams.
 2. Goal differential in matches among the tied teams, capped at plus/minus 3 per match.
 3. Fewest goals allowed in matches among the tied teams, capped at 3 per match.
 4. Goals scored in matches among the tied teams, capped at 3 per match.
 5. Overall goal differential, capped at plus/minus 3 per match.
 6. Overall fewest goals allowed, capped at 3 per match.
 7. Overall goals scored, capped at 3 per match.
 8. Kicks/shootout or blind draw as directed by the Tournament Director. If a multi-team kicks procedure is used, the Tournament Director may conduct a blind draw to establish order/byes.
- The Tournament Director may correct mathematical, data-entry or score-posting errors at any time. Such corrections are administrative and are not protests.

XIV. KNOCKOUT MATCHES & AWARDS

- A semifinal, championship or other match designated as requiring a winner will proceed directly to kicks from the mark/shootout if tied at the end of regulation. No overtime will be played.
- For U8 4v4, the Tournament will use an age-appropriate modified shootout procedure consistent with the no-goals format and announced by the referee/Tournament Director before the shootout.
- Following each championship match, both teams must report to the designated awards area. Champion and finalist medals will be presented.
- Awards are based on the final result as recorded by the Tournament. A later disciplinary action may affect recognition if an ineligible player or other material rules violation is discovered.

XV. FORFEITS, ABANDONMENTS & FINES

Teams must be ready to play at the scheduled kickoff time. A team that does not have the applicable minimum number of eligible players may receive a grace period of up to fifteen (15) minutes, unless the Tournament Director determines that a shorter period is required by schedule, safety or facility conditions.

- Minimum players: U8 - 3; U9-U10 - 5; U11-U12 - 6; U13-U14 - 7.
- A standard forfeit is recorded as 3-0 unless the Tournament Director determines another result is appropriate because of an abandoned match or existing score.
- A team that refuses to continue, intentionally causes a match to be terminated, leaves the event before a required match, uses an ineligible player, or cannot continue because of misconduct may be declared to have forfeited.

Forfeit Fines

Forfeited Match	Fine
Group / Preliminary Match	\$250
Quarterfinal or Semifinal	\$350
Championship Match	\$500

- A fine due before another scheduled Tournament match must be paid before the team may take the field. A fine arising from the team's final scheduled match remains due and may be a condition of acceptance into future events operated by the Tournament Organizers.
- Forfeit fines are administrative remedies intended to offset disruption, officiating/facility expense and the impact on affected teams. They do not limit additional disciplinary action or recovery for actual property damage.



XVI. PROTESTS, DISPUTES & ADMINISTRATIVE CORRECTIONS

There is no formal protest or appeal process at the Ribfest Soccer Classic.

- Referee judgment decisions and decisions on facts connected with play are final.
- A coach who believes there has been a misapplication of a Law of the Game or a Tournament rule must raise the issue promptly and respectfully with the site director/Tournament Director. The Tournament Director's ruling is final.
- Eligibility challenges must be raised during the credential procedure described in these rules. They do not create a separate protest right.
- Obvious clerical, mathematical, roster-data or score-posting errors may be corrected by the Tournament at any time. Correcting an administrative error does not reopen referee judgment or create a right to appeal.
- Failure to raise a known administrative issue promptly may be treated as waiver of that issue when delay would materially disrupt the competition.

XVII. WEATHER, FIELD CONDITIONS & FORCE MAJEURE

Players and coaches must report as scheduled unless the Tournament or facility announces a delay, suspension, relocation or cancellation. Weather at a team's home location does not determine the status of matches at Shawnee Sports Complex.

For safety, field availability, referee availability or circumstances outside the Tournament's reasonable control, the Tournament Director may, without creating a protest right:

- delay, suspend, shorten, relocate, reschedule or cancel matches;
- reduce halftime or match length, including before or after a suspension;
- change fields, kickoff times, bracket structure, number of preliminary games or advancement format;
- use kicks/shootout procedures or another abbreviated competition method to determine a result when reasonably necessary;
- declare a shortened or suspended match official;
- cancel a match that no longer affects advancement or cannot be safely completed within available facility time.

"Force Majeure" includes severe weather, lightning, flooding, excessive heat, unsafe air quality, field or facility closure, utility failure, public emergency, governmental order, civil disturbance, transportation disruption, referee or staffing emergency, acts of God, epidemic/pandemic conditions, or other circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the Tournament Organizers.

- If a match is terminated after the second half has begun and neither team is at fault, the score at termination may be declared final. If terminated earlier, the Tournament Director may resume, replay, shorten, reschedule or otherwise dispose of the match based on the circumstances and the needs of the competition.
- If a match is terminated because of misconduct attributable to a team, its staff or its supporters, the Tournament Director may declare a forfeit or impose another result and additional discipline.

XVIII. WITHDRAWAL, CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

Tournament entry fees become nonrefundable once a team has been accepted, except as specifically stated below or approved in writing by the Tournament Director.

- A team that withdraws before acceptance may receive a refund of the entry fee, less any third-party transaction/processing charge that is not recoverable by the Tournament.
- After acceptance, team withdrawal for schedule conflicts, travel issues, roster problems, coach availability, injuries, other events or personal/team circumstances does not create a right to a refund.
- Changes to kickoff times, fields, opponents, bracket composition, competition level, game length or advancement format do not create a right to a refund.
- If the Tournament cancels an age group before competition because a viable bracket cannot be formed and no reasonable combined-division option is accepted, the affected team may receive a refund or credit as determined by the Tournament.
- If the entire Tournament is canceled before any games are played, the Tournament may issue a refund or future-event credit after deducting nonrecoverable expenses and third-party charges already committed or paid. The Tournament Director will determine the reasonable allocation of such expenses.
- Once a team has played one (1) match, no refund is owed if later matches or the remainder of the Tournament are shortened, rescheduled or canceled because of weather, field conditions, safety, force majeure or other circumstances outside the Tournament's reasonable control.
- The Tournament Organizers are not responsible for travel, lodging, meals, transportation, lost wages or any other consequential or out-of-pocket expense incurred by a team or participant because of schedule changes, delays, cancellation or withdrawal.



XIX. ASSUMPTION OF RISK, MEDICAL RESPONSIBILITY & INSURANCE

Soccer and attendance at an athletic event involve inherent and other risks, including collision, falls, contact with players or equipment, uneven or wet surfaces, weather exposure, heat illness, lightning, transportation and other risks that can result in injury, illness, property loss or, in rare cases, death.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, participation is voluntary and each participating team, coach, player and parent/legal guardian acknowledges and accepts the inherent risks of participation and attendance. Tournament registration may include separate electronic waivers/releases; any separately executed waiver remains in effect and may contain additional terms.

- Each team is responsible for determining the medical fitness of its players, maintaining appropriate emergency contact/medical information, and ensuring that required parent/guardian authorizations have been obtained.
- The Tournament may arrange first-aid, athletic-training or emergency support but does not guarantee that a licensed medical provider will be physically present at every field at all times.
- The Tournament and facility may summon EMS or other emergency assistance when reasonably believed necessary. Medical and transportation costs remain the responsibility of the participant/parent/guardian or applicable insurer.
- Teams are responsible for maintaining any insurance required by their registration and sanctioning organization. The Tournament Organizers do not provide personal health, accident, travel or property insurance for participants except to the extent expressly provided through the sanctioning program.

XX. INDEMNIFICATION, PROPERTY DAMAGE & LOST PROPERTY

To the fullest extent permitted by law, each participating club/team, through its authorized representative, agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Tournament Organizers, tournament committee, officials, referees, volunteers, sponsors, contractors, Shawnee Sports Complex, Kanawha County and their respective officers, employees and agents (collectively, the “Protected Parties”) from third-party claims, liabilities, damages, losses, costs and reasonable expenses arising from the acts or omissions of the team, its players, coaches, staff or supporters, including credential fraud, violation of these rules, misconduct or damage to property, except to the extent a claim is caused by a Protected Party’s gross negligence or willful misconduct or where such indemnity is prohibited by law.

- The participating club/team is financially responsible for damage caused by its players, coaches, team staff or spectators to fields, goals, nets, buildings, vehicles, equipment or other facility/tournament property.
- No person may move, climb on, alter or use goals, nets, field equipment, fences or facility equipment in an unauthorized manner. Portable goals may be moved only by authorized staff.
- The Tournament Organizers and facility are not responsible for lost, stolen, misplaced or damaged personal property, equipment, cash or vehicles.

Nothing in these rules is intended to waive or limit a right or liability that cannot lawfully be waived or limited. Teams should ensure that separate participant/parent waivers required by the Tournament or sanctioning organization are properly completed.

XXI. SHAWNEE SPORTS COMPLEX RULES, DRONES & VIDEO

Shawnee Sports Complex rules are incorporated into these Tournament Rules and apply to all participants and spectators. Facility rules supersede any inconsistent Tournament provision where the facility requires a stricter standard.

Key Facility Requirements

- No smoking, vaping or tobacco products on the premises.
- No illegal drugs; alcohol is prohibited during youth sporting events except only as expressly authorized by Shawnee management in an area and manner that does not conflict with the youth event.
- No firearms, fireworks, flammable liquids, grills or open-flame devices.
- No glass bottles. Gum and sunflower seeds are not permitted on fields.
- No metal spikes on artificial turf. Rubber/molded cleats and appropriate turf shoes must be used.
- Tents must be properly weighted. Stakes/spikes may not be driven into the ground or turf unless Shawnee expressly authorizes them.
- Pets must be leashed, kept off artificial turf and cleaned up after.
- Only approved vendors may operate on facility property.

Drones / Unmanned Aircraft

Drones or other unmanned aircraft may not be launched, landed or operated over the Tournament, fields, parking areas or spectator areas without prior written authorization from both the Tournament Director and Shawnee Sports Complex and compliance with all applicable law.



Photography / Video Equipment

- Personal photography and ordinary team video are permitted only when conducted safely and without interfering with play, referees, spectators, walkways, emergency access or another team's technical area.
- Tripods, elevated cameras, poles and similar equipment must remain in an approved location and be securely positioned. Tournament/facility staff may require any equipment to be moved or removed for safety or operational reasons.

XXII. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS, SCHEDULE CHANGES & TEAM RESPONSIBILITY

GotSport and any other official communication channel designated by the Tournament are controlling sources for schedules, field assignments, standings, weather notices, bracket changes and operational updates.

- Each team must maintain a current mobile number and email address for at least one responsible team official and must monitor official communications throughout the Tournament.
- Coaches are responsible for checking the official schedule before leaving for the facility, after each match and before the next scheduled match. Failure to see or read an update does not invalidate an official schedule change.
- The coach/team manager is responsible for distributing these rules and relevant facility requirements to players, parents, guardians and supporters.
- Teams must clean their sideline/bench area after every match and place trash in appropriate receptacles.
- Teams may not warm up on or occupy any field not assigned to them and may not interfere with another match or scheduled field use.

XXIII. GENERAL AUTHORITY, SEVERABILITY, NO WAIVER & ACCEPTANCE

- The Tournament Director's interpretation of these rules is final, subject to any mandatory review required by WVSA/USYS.
- The Tournament may issue written administrative directives or emergency modifications before or during the event when reasonably necessary. Such directives become part of these rules when communicated through an official Tournament channel.
- The Tournament will honor applicable suspensions imposed by WVSA, USYS, U.S. Soccer or another recognized governing organization when required by rule or sanction.
- If any provision of these rules is found invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions remain in effect to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- Failure by the Tournament Organizers to enforce a rule in one instance does not waive the right to enforce that rule or another rule later.
- No oral statement by a referee, volunteer, coach, vendor or other person changes these rules unless confirmed by the Tournament Director or authorized designee.
- By registering, accepting a team entry, submitting a Tournament roster, or participating in a match, the team and its authorized representatives acknowledge that they have received, reviewed and agreed to comply with these Tournament Rules.

GOVERNING REFERENCE NOTE

Age-group formation and key eligibility/safety provisions were updated for the 2026-27 seasonal year using current US Youth Soccer and West Virginia Soccer Association guidance. Facility conduct is subject to current Shawnee Sports Complex rules. If a controlling authority adopts a mandatory change after publication, that mandatory rule controls.

Official references: USYouthSoccer.org | WVSoccer.net | ShawneeSports.com