



# 2014 TOURNAMENT RULES

## General Rules

The Voorhees Memorial Day Tournament is sanctioned by NJYS, and all NJYS rules will be followed. U-8:U-10 teams will not be allowed to play up to U-11 or above.

All Tournament matches will be played in accordance with the "Laws of the Game" as issued by FIFA, except as specifically modified by these tournament rules.

The Tournament Committee's interpretation of these rules shall be final and binding.

Decisions of the referees are final and binding.

## Eligibility

Participation in the Voorhees Classic is open to accepted teams composed of a maximum of 18 players (14 players for U8-U10), including guest players, meeting the age limit of the specified division. Each team must be registered with a National Soccer Association and with a league affiliated with the USSF or National equivalent. Guest players will be allowed up to a maximum of 3 players (2 players for U8/U10) with the purpose of maintaining a team's competitiveness. All players, including guest players, must have current passes for the 2013-2014 year. A player may compete for only one team during the tournament. Only players registered at tournament registration will be allowed to participate.

## Registration

All roster changes must be made at the time of registration. **ONCE A TEAM HAS REGISTERED, THEIR ROSTER IS FROZEN.**

Team rosters will be checked at registration. Notarized current year medical release forms and current player passes for all players, including guest players, must be presented at registration, and must be available for review at the fields upon request. All out-of-state teams must have a **"Permission to Travel"** form, approved and signed by a USSF or state representative.

## Cancellation & Refund Policy

If the tournament is cancelled for any reason prior to the start of the tournament, the Voorhees Soccer Association will refund a minimum of 80% of a team's entry fee.

If the tournament were to be postponed or rescheduled for any reason, all teams accepted to play on the original date would be given the opportunity to withdraw from the revised date of the tournament with a full refund of their entry fee.

**No refunds will be given to a team who withdraws after acceptances for the tournament have been emailed.**

### **Inclement Weather**

Regardless of weather conditions, coaches and their teams MUST appear on the field of play, ready to play as scheduled. Failure to appear will result in automatic forfeiture of the game. Only referees and/or tournament directors can cancel a game.

In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Committee shall have the authority to change games as follows:

- a. relocate or reschedule any game(s).
- b. change the duration of any game(s).
- c. cancel any game(s) which will have no bearing on the determination of division winners or runners-up.
- d. recommence or restart a game which has had less than one-half played.

Should inclement weather force cancellation of a game after one-half of play has been concluded, the game shall be considered official and the score at that point shall be considered the final score.

### **Fields and Sidelines**

The size of the field will be whatever the physical arrangements permit.

Coaches and players from both teams will share the same side of the field, on opposite sides of the midfield line. Only authorized team members, coaches, trainers and tournament staff are allowed in the team area during matches. All personnel must remain between the 18 yard lines of the goal line. Coaches must remain within specially designated areas which will be drawn on the sides of the field extending 10 yards in each direction from the mid-field line. No coaching is allowed from the goal line.

All spectators will take up a position on the opposite side of the field during the time that the match is in progress. Spectators must remain behind specially designated lines which will be drawn on the sides of the field a minimum of 3 yards from the touch lines. Spectators are not allowed in the player areas or behind goals.

### **Golf Cart Policy**

No one is permitted to operate a golf cart, unless they have a valid NJ Driver's License.

### **Player Equipment**

Teams must wear uniforms with individual numbers on the back of the shirt. Uniform numbers must coincide with the listing on the team's official approved roster. Where uniform colors are similar or identical, the designated home team (team listed first on the game schedule) will change colors.

No jewelry will be worn by players (earrings, watches, necklaces, combs, metal barrettes, etc.). Eyeglasses should be either sports goggle type or made of safety glass or plastic and must be held in place with some type of elastic band. Orthopedic or other casts must be wrapped with soft foam padding. It will be at the referee's discretion to determine the safety and suitability of player equipment. The referee's decision is final.

Game balls will be provided by the Voorhees Soccer Association.

## **Rules of Play**

FIFA Laws of the Game will apply as modified and described herein. Duration of games by halves and ball size are as follows:

<b>Age Bracket</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Ball Size</b>	<b>Game Length</b>
U-8 U-9	V	4	2 x 25 min.
U-10	V	4	2 x 25 min.
U-11	IV	4	2 x 30 min.
U-12	IV	4	2 x 30 min.
U-13	III	5	2 x 30 min.
U-14	III	5	2 x 30 min.
U-15	II	5	2 x 30 min.
U-16	II	5	2 x 30 min.
U-17 & U-18	I	5	2 x 30 min.

A break of 5 minutes is provided at half-time for all age levels. There will be no stoppage of game time or an extension of game time except for serious injury, which will be solely at the discretion of the referee.

## **Overtime**

Ties will stand in all preliminary rounds. All semi-final and final games tied after regulation will play two ten minute overtimes, changing sides after the first ten minutes. If a tie still exists after overtime, the FIFA penalty kick procedures will be used to determine the winner. There will be no overtime for U8 and U10 teams.

## **U-8 - U-10**

In accordance with NJSYSA rules, all U-8 - U-10 games will be non-results oriented. All ties will stand. No playoffs, overtime or shootouts will be permitted. All U-8, U9 and U-10 players will receive a participation award.

## **Pre-Game Check-In Procedures**

1. Each team must arrive at the field 20 minutes before game time.
2. At the referee's signal, each team will come to the center, lining up on their respective side in a semi-circle;
3. Linesmen will make their appropriate inspections and announcements;
4. When asked, captains will join the referee in the center for the coin toss;
5. After the coin toss and selection of side/first touch, each team will return to the sideline;
6. The game whistle will sound in approximately 1 minute.

## **Substitutions**

Substitutions may be made without limit, with the permission of the referee as follows:

- a. after a goal has been scored.
- b. at the beginning of the second half.
- c. at either team's goal kick.
- d. at a throw-in for all games, when a team "A" is awarded a throw-in in their favor, the opposing team may also substitute at the same time should team "A" request a substitution, and players of

both teams are positioned at mid field ready to enter the field. If team "A" does not take advantage of the substitution in their favor, the opposing team may not substitute.

- e. in the case of injury to a player, if a substitution is made for the injured player, the other team may also make substitution(s).
- f. after a player has received a yellow card, a substitution must be made for the carded player. The player may reenter the field of play at the next allowable substitution.
- g. there will be no substitution for a player who has received a red card and has been ordered from the field by the referee.

### **Referees**

The Tournament Committee has made a commitment to use current registered USSF referees and to use the USSF 3-man referee system for all U11 - U18 matches; U8 – U10 will use 1-man ref system. This commitment will be carried out wherever possible.

### **Mercy Rule**

It is important to set the tone with our young athletes and remember the purpose of participating in youth soccer is to develop, in the players, the skill of soccer and the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty and loyalty through competition in the game of soccer.

It will be the coach's responsibility to keep the goal differential to 6 goals.

U-11 – U18 Teams. A team winning by a margin of more than 6 goals will forfeit all bonus points for that game.

U-8 – U-10 Teams. The coach will be awarded a yellow card for first infraction, and a red for the second infraction.

### **Protests**

No protests will be allowed. The referee's decision is final.

### **Conduct**

Players, coaches and spectators are expected to conduct themselves within the spirit of the game as well as the letter of the law.

The Tournament Committee encourages the exchange of patches between teams. This can be done in a continuation of good sportsmanship and good conduct by the players at the handshake following the end of each game.

Players, coaches or spectators ejected from a game by the referee must leave the field area. Referees will report all yellow/red cards to the field coordinator. Anyone receiving a red card will be ineligible for the next scheduled game. Anyone receiving a red card for fighting will be ineligible for any remaining tournament play.

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their team's spectators. Any misconduct by spectators will result in yellow or red carding of the coach (es) responsible.

Incidents of misconduct will be reported by the Voorhees Soccer Tournament Committee back to the team's respective League or Affiliation as well as to the New Jersey State Youth Soccer Association.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to suspend any player, coach, or team from the tournament for unruly conduct.

### **Games and Score Reporting**

Each coach will be responsible for verifying and signing the game report prepared by the referee before the field coordinator leaves the game site and reports the results of the match. The field coordinator is responsible to see that the scores of each game are reported on a timely basis to tournament headquarters. No changes will be accepted once the game report has been filed.

### **Forfeits or Failure to Show**

A team shall be awarded a 10 minute grace period after the scheduled kick off time before the game is awarded to the opponent. A minimum of 7 players constitutes a team and if seven players are present, the game may not be delayed past the scheduled starting time.

**In no case shall a team which has forfeited a game be declared a division winner.** A forfeit shall be awarded as three points for the win. For tie breakers, the score for the forfeit game shall be set as the team's average of goals scored rounded up to the next whole number, against the average of goals given up rounded down to the next whole number.

### **Determining Division Winners**

Each team will be awarded three points for a win, one point for a tie and zero points for a loss.

The division winners and runners-up will be those teams with the most points and second most points. In the event that two or more teams are tied for first or second place, the following tie-breaking rules will apply:

- a. head to head competition (does not apply if more than two teams are tied).
- b. bonus points - the winning team will be awarded bonus points for goal differential to a maximum of three. Thus, a team winning 3-0 or 6-3 or 5-1 would receive the maximum of three (3) bonus points.
- c. least goals scored against.
- d. most wins.
- e. FIFA penalty kick procedures. To be taken on a designated field at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

In accordance with NJSYSA rules, there will be no division winners for U-8 and U-10 teams.

### **Play-offs**

Play-offs are determined by the Voorhees Tournament Committee and head coaches will be notified of all details no later than registration (prior to the start of the tournament). Semi-finals and finals will be played, if possible. Some divisions may require a final only, eliminating the semi. Each coach is responsible to verify if their team has made it to the finals. There will be no playoffs for U-8 - U-10 teams.