

## **General Rules**

**The Voorhees Memorial Day Classic is sanctioned by NJYS, and all NJYS rules will be followed. Unless approved by the Tournament Committee, U8-U10 teams will not be allowed to play up to U11 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 should be final and binding.

Decisions of the referees are final and binding.

## **Eligibility**

Participation in the Voorhees Memorial Day Classic is open to accepted teams composed of a maximum of 15 players (15 players for U8-U10), including guest players, meeting the age limit of the specified division. Each team must be registered with the National Soccer Association and with a league affiliated with the USSF or National equivalent. Guest players will be allowed up to a maximum of five (5) players with the purpose of maintaining a team's competitiveness. All players, including guest players, must have current passes for the 2025-2026 year. A player may compete with 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 tournament check-in. **ONCE A TEAM HAS CHECKED IN, THEIR ROSTER IS FROZEN** unless approved by the Tournament Committee.

Team rosters will be checked at registration and check-in. Current player passes for all players, including guest players, must be presented at check-in. Currently medical release forms must be available for review at the fields upon request. The Tournament Director reserves the right to reject any guest player if it is determined that the player is being added for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage in the competition.

## **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 70% of a team's entry fee. If one or more days of the tournament are cancelled after the start of the tournament, partial refunds may be made at the discretion of the Voorhees Soccer Association Board. Refunds will not be given if the tournament is completed (i.e., winners are declared and awards are given) with teams playing less than four games.

If the tournament is postponed or rescheduled for any reason, all teams accepted to play on the original date will be given the opportunity to withdraw from the revised date of the tournament with either: (1) credit for the full amount of their entry fee applied toward a future tournament; or (2) a refund of 70% of the team's entry fee.

With the absent approval of the Tournament Director, refunds will not be given to a team who withdraws after it has been accepted to participate in the Tournament.

### **Inclement Weather**

Regardless of weather conditions, coaches and their teams MUST appear on the field of play, ready to play as scheduled unless notified otherwise by the Tournament Director or his designated representative. Failure to appear will result in automatic forfeiture of the game. Only referees and/or the Tournament Director 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 the area on their half of the field extending 10 yards from the mid-field and end lines. 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 that will be drawn on the sides of the field a minimum of 3 yards from the touchlines. 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 are at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license. Only authorized people may use the vehicle. Drivers and all passengers should keep all body parts inside the cart while the vehicle is in motion. All carts should carry only the number of passengers for which there are seats. There should be no passengers in the cargo area.

Drivers must always drive safely and stay alert to road conditions. Drivers must reduce speed when encountering hills, steep turns, pedestrian crossings, motor vehicles and inclement weather. When not in use, the key must be removed, and the parking brake must be set. The cart should be returned to its designated parking area when finished using it. Drivers may not operate the vehicle under the influence of any substance that may impact driving ability or response time.

### **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 not be provided by the Voorhees Soccer Association and the home team on the schedule will provide the game ball unless otherwise agreed upon.

### **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:

A break of a minimum of 5 minutes will be 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.

7v7 fields will include a build-out line.

### **Overtime**

Ties will stand in all preliminary rounds. If a division is to be decided by a playoff rather than by points, all 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.

### **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 of the field.
3. The referee and/or 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 or such longer or shorter time as determined by the referee.

### **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.
- 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. When a player is given a yellow card, that player must be substituted. 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 three referee system for all U13-U16 matches; U8-U12 matches will use a one referee system.

### **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 soccer skills 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 no more than 8 goals. For U8-U11 teams, the coach will be awarded a yellow card for first infraction, and a red card 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.

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 site 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 Tournament Committee back to the team's respective League or Affiliation as well as to the New Jersey State Youth Soccer Association.

Any coach, parent, team official, player or spectator threatening violence or engaging in verbal abuse will be subject to ejection from the tournament and the team may be ejected from the tournament as well if appropriate. This type of behavior is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

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

**SMOKING AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE NOT PERMITTED ON OR NEAR ANY PLAYING FIELD.**

**PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON OR NEAR ANY PLAYING FIELD OR EXTENDED AREAS BY ORDINANCE OF VOORHEES TOWNSHIP. SERVICE ANIMALS ARE AN EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE BUT MUST BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED.**

### **Games and Score Reporting**

Each coach will be responsible for verifying and signing the game report prepared by the referee before the site coordinator leaves the game site and reports the results of the match. The site coordinator must promptly report game scores to tournament headquarters. No changes will be accepted once the game report has been filed unless approved by the Tournament Director.

### **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 team must have at least seven (7) players, and if present, the game must start on time.

**In no case shall a team which has forfeited a game be declared a division winner.** A forfeit shall be awarded as a 3-0 win for the non-forfeiting team. For tie breakers, the goal differential 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**

Unless determined by the Tournament Committee upon notice to all interested teams, there will be no playoff games; division winners for all age brackets will be determined by points. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to implement a playoff to determine a division winner, with the other teams in the division playing a consolation game.

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 (or, in the event of a playoff, the winner and loser of the playoff game). If two or more teams tie for first or second place, these 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.