

NCRSL Fall 2025 Tournament Rules

Hosted by FC Pride

Participants: FC Pride, Glendale Soccer, Indy Eleven Academy Rec, Northside Soccer, & Mudsocks Youth Sports

RULES AND REGULATIONS

All matches will be played under FIFA Laws of the Game as amended by USYSA except as noted by NCRSL Modified Laws and specific modifications made for tournament play as noted below.

TEAM/PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

All teams must have a roster from the club and kept by the coach of each team and available for referees. Referee's will check the roster before each game. If a player is not on the roster they are not eligible to play unless the tournament committee agrees to let them play. Each Club is responsible for ensuring their rosters are accurate, true, and comply with NCRSL guidelines.

The appropriate tournament divisions apply: High School, U15 Boys, U15 Girls, U12 Boys and U12 Girls.

The format for all tournament games will be consistent with NCRSL rules, if a team does not have the appropriate number of players at game time, the team forfeits the game according to tournament guidelines.

Teams should arrive at the match at least 20 minutes before the match is scheduled to start. Schedules are tight and matches must begin on time, if a team is not ready to play within 5 minutes of the scheduled start time, the match is subject to forfeiture.

There are no co-ed teams for the Fall 2025 tournament, however females will be allowed to play on a male team. Males are not allowed to play on the female teams.

MATCH FORMAT AND DURATION

Each team will play a minimum of 2 games in pool play on Saturday/Sunday. Pool play matches may end in a tie. There will be no overtime for pool play matches. Teams advancing, as determined by the tournament schedule and points accumulated, will play in semifinal and/or final matches on Sunday. Brackets with semifinal winners will meet in the League Championship game Sunday afternoon.

The home team will provide an appropriate match ball and is listed first on the schedule. There will be a running clock for all matches; it will not stop except for serious injuries. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to shorten halves due to weather conditions, field conditions or other factors.

Division	Halves for Pool Play	Halves for Semi-Finals and Finals
High School	35 minutes	35 minutes
U15*	35 minutes	35 minutes
U12	30 minutes	30 minutes

*The Tournament Committee is allowing certain players between U16 and U18 to participate in the U15 Boys and Girls "Gold" divisions. Such exceptions are at the approval of the Tournament Committee.

Heading: In the interest of safety and compliance with state mandate, intentional heading will not be allowed in U12 matches. Intentionally heading the ball will result in an Indirect Free Kick awarded to the opposing team.

There will be NO slide tackling permitted during any NCRSL matches. If a slide tackle occurs, an Indirect Free Kick is awarded to the opposing team from where the infraction occurred. If there is severe/malicious/dangerous slide tackle, FIFA rules will apply for fouls/misconduct and Free Kicks.

UNIFORMS

Each player must wear appropriate shoes, shin guards, and uniform. The home team will change jerseys or wear practice vests for uniforms with similar colors.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Unlimited and may occur during the following:

- Before a throw-in in your favor, or when both teams are substituting on a throw-in.
- After a goal by either team.
- Before a goal kick by either team.
- At half-time or before the start of any overtime period.
- In case of injury or stoppage of play – with the referee's permission.
- At the discretion of the Referee.

AVOIDING LOPSIDED SCORES

Teams losing by a five goal margin *may* add 1 player to the field following notification to the referee and the opposing team's head coach. The additional player *must* be removed from the field once the goal margin is reduced to four goals.

SEND-OFFS & EXPULSIONS

Any player sent off or coach expelled from a match will be ineligible for that team's next match. At the time of the send-off, no substitution will be allowed for the player sent off. Anyone fighting can be subject to further discipline, including suspension for the remainder of the tournament.

FAILURE TO SHOW AND FORFEITS

A five-minute grace period from the scheduled kick-off will be used to determine if a match is subject to forfeiture. The Tournament Directors will make a final decision as to whether a forfeit will be declared depending on extenuating circumstances or other reasons that prevented a team from making the match on time. If a forfeit is declared, the winning team will be awarded a score of 4-0 and will receive the appropriate points for the match.

PROTESTS

There are no protests.

TEAM SCORING FORMAT

Pool play matches may end in a tie. The following scoring format will be used to determine team rankings in pool play: three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie and zero (0) points for a loss. In the event of a tie in the final point standings, the following sequence will be used:

1. Head to head competition between teams that are tied (skip to #2 if 3 or more teams are tied).
2. Best goal differential for all matches – up to 4 per match.
3. Fewest goals allowed.
4. Most goals scored – up to 4 per match.
5. Kicks from the Mark (PK's).

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH AND SEMI-FINAL MATCHES

Should a semi-final match end in a tie at the end of regulation, then Kicks from the Mark will determine the winner. Per FIFA procedures kicks from the mark will start with 5 players from each team; and, if still tied, will continue until sudden death penalty kick.

Championship games will include a “Walk Out” in which before the game starts each team will follow the referees in a single file from their bench area across the center line and line up ten yards from the spectators to be congratulated for making it to the final game.

Should the championship game end in a tie at the end of regulation, two 5-minute overtimes will be played, in their entirety. In the event of a tie at the conclusion of the two overtimes, then Kicks from the Mark will determine the winner. Per FIFA procedures kicks from the mark will start with 5 players from each team; and, if still tied, will continue until sudden death penalty kick.

AWARDS

There will be awards for the finalist and championship teams as well as a trophy for the winning club.

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND CANCELLATIONS

The tournament committee will make every effort to play all matches in full. However, the tournament committee has the right to either shorten and/or to cancel matches due to climatic conditions or other acts of nature which are beyond our control.

COACH/PLAYER/SPECTATOR CONDUCT

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of players, parents and spectators. Please help us make sure everyone has an enjoyable time. Anyone not abiding by the code of conduct, including coaches and fans, will be given one warning. After that they should not be surprised if they are sent off for the day.

SIDELINE RULES

Only rostered players, rostered coaches, referees and tournament officials are allowed on the team sideline.

All spectators shall be seated on the opposite side of the field from the teams.

YELLOW CARDS

Any yellow card issued to a player will require the player to be immediately substituted off of the field. The carded player may not return to the field to play for a period of approximately 5 minutes. The 5 minute timeframe is to be managed by one of the coaches or a designated parent may assist in the event there is no assistant coach or other adult present on the team's bench. AR1 (Assistant Referee along team bench) will monitor the time as only a back-up.

Full support & cooperation is expected by the coaches/adult designee for any carded offense and substitution of the player. If not the coach(es) may be subject to being carded, accordingly.

The intent here is to give the player a few minutes to 'cool down' to help prevent further problems from arising.

If a 2nd yellow card is issued to a player, FIFA rules will apply resulting in the player receiving a red card & the player is required to leave the vicinity of the field where the game is occurring, at least a couple of fields away to prevent further problems from arising. They may not participate in the team's next scheduled game.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

The Tournament Committee will enforce the rules as written, but the committee reserves the right to amend any rule as necessary to accommodate unanticipated problems before and/or during the tournament. The decision of the committee will be final.

ADDITIONAL CLUB SAFETY RULES

- Lawrence Soccer Complex is a smoke free facility.
- No alcohol or profanity is allowed at either facility.
- No climbing on nets or goals.
- Park only in designated areas.
- Parents are responsible for their children at all times.

NCRSL follows Policy 531-9, Misconduct toward Game Officials in Amateur Matches as adopted by U.S. Soccer Board of Directors on November 22, 2024. Here is the link to this Policy.

<https://cdn.sanity.io/files/oyf3dba6/production/5a0cc64f5d75b92a3981db254cc78c01f4406604.pdf>