

March Madness Rules 2021

General Rules:

The Tournament Committee will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team, club or individual if the tournament is cancelled in the whole or part. The Tournament Committees interpretation of these rules shall be final and binding. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decide on all matters pertaining to the tournament.

All teams are responsible for their own insurance. The GAA Complex LLC and the Tournament Committee will not be liable for injury during travel or while participating in the tournament.

- Alcoholic Beverages are not permitted at game sites.
- Smoking is not permitted at the game sites.
- Pets are not permitted at game sites.

Eligibility:

Participation is open to accepted teams with roster up to a maximum of 18 players for U13-U18, and a maximum roster of 16 players for U7-U12. **Unlimited guest players will be permitted per team.**

Each team must be registered with a national soccer association and present documentation as noted in “*Registration*” section.

Laws of the Game

All games are played in accordance with FIFA Laws, except as specifically modified in these rules.

Field and Player Equipment

1. Absolutely no hard casts are allowed.
2. No metal cleats will be permitted.
3. Players cannot wear jewelry, including earrings of any type.
4. Players are REQUIRED to wear shin guards.
5. Teams must wear uniforms with numbers on the backs of their jerseys.
6. All members of the same team shall wear the same color jersey and shorts except for the goalkeeper who must wear a jersey distinguishable from both participating teams and referee.
7. When uniform colors are similar, the designated home team will change colors.
8. Ball Size
 - a. U7/U8-divisions, Size 3
 - b. U9-U12 divisions, Size 4
 - c. U13-U18 divisions, Size 5
9. Both teams will take the same side of the field. All team supporters will take the opposite side. When requested by a referee, each team must supply an adult linesman. Teams shall appear at the field 25 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off.
10. Each team will be responsible for insuring that the game sites remain clean.

Substitutions:

Free substitution will be allowed in all age groups with referee's permission

Tournament Format:

- No standings
- 2 games
- One day

Conduct

Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner both on and off the field. Displays of temper or dissent are cause for ejection from the game and surrounding field area and may result in suspension of the player and/or team from the tournament as decided by the Tournament Director.

A player issued 2 yellow cards in the same game, or a red card, must be sent off and is ineligible to play the balance of the time remaining in the game in which the offense occurred. This player may not be replaced and the team must play with 1 less player than were on the field at the time of the red card.

Additionally, players, coaches, and team officials ejected from a tournament game by the referee are ineligible for the next scheduled tournament game. If a coach is coaching more than one team and is red carded, the coach remains suspended from coaching until they have served the one game suspension with the team they received the red card with.

Any player, coach or Team official ejected from a game for violent conduct shall result in the suspension of that person for the remainder of the tournament.

In the event of the keeper being sent off, the coach is allowed to bring in a substitute keeper from the bench if desired. However, one field player must then be removed and the team must play with one less player than were on the field at the time of the red card.

It is the coach's responsibility to control the conduct of the players, parents, and spectators associated with that coach's team. In accordance with the USYSA Tournament Hosting Agreement, all red and yellow cards and other matters involving team conduct will be reported to the home club and the state association of the team involved.

Referees must report yellow and red cards awarded to any person on the game card submitted to the Tournament Director and/or Field Coordinator.

Game Duration:

U7/U8	20 minutes halves	5-minute half time (4V4)
U8-U9-U10	25 minute halves	5-minute half time (7V7)
U11-U12	25 minute halves	5-minute half time (9V9)
U13-U18	30 minute halves	5-minute half time (11V11)

Protests

No protests will be entertained.

Game and Score Reporting

No standings

Small-sided Games (U7-U12)

The NJYSA guidelines for U7-U8 teams shall be implemented. Accordingly, they will have 4 field players and no goal keeper. There will be a U8 division offered with a 7V7 format along with U9 & U10.

U11-U12 is (9v9) format. U13 and up will play 11V11

Field dimensions and goals will be according to age groups. Overtime, shootouts, and official scoring of results are not permitted. **Game results will not be published during or after the tournament.**

Forfeits

A team shall be allowed a five (5) minute grace period after the scheduled kickoff time before the match is awarded to their opponent. A minimum of 7 players constitutes a team for U13 and up. If 7 players are present, the game will not be delayed. Under no circumstance shall a team that forfeits a game be declared a division winner or wildcard team. In such an event the team with the next highest point standing will be awarded the division. In a victory resulting from a forfeit or disqualification, the official score will be recorded as 1-0. Game duration will not be extended from the schedule due to late arrival.

Referees

A USSF three-man system will be used whenever possible. When a single referee is assigned to a game, each team shall supply an adult linesman who is considered a "game official" and shall not engage in any coaching whatsoever from the sidelines and shall be neutral.

Determination of Standings

No standings

Awards:

No awards

Inclement Weather and Cancellation Policy:

Should the tournament be canceled for any reason prior to the start of the tournament, 80% of the team's application fees will be refunded.

Once the tournament starts, regardless of the weather conditions, coaches and their teams must appear on the field of play as scheduled, unless directed otherwise by tournament officials. Only the referee and/or the tournament director may cancel or postpone a game. In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Director will have the authority to change games as follows:

1. Relocate and reschedule any game (s)
2. Change the duration of any game(s)
3. Preliminary game(s) terminated after one half of play because of weather shall be considered official as of the time of termination
4. Cancel any preliminary game(s) that have no bearing on the selection of division winners or playoff spots