

PATRIOT CROSSROADS CHALLENGE

TOURNAMENT RULES

Players/Coaches/Rosters

1. Players and Coaches

The Head Coach must sign in, in person, an hour before their first game. At this time a complete roster will be checked against player passes. Medical Release Forms are also to be submitted for a player to participate in any game.

Each team will provide a suitable game ball for each game. U9, U10, U11, and U12 will use a size 4 ball; all other ages will use size 5. Suitability of the ball is the sole determination of the referee.

2. Players

Players will not be permitted to play or participate in the tournament if:

- A. player pass does not have a picture
- B. player is on the roster but does not have a player pass and/or a picture

3. Uniforms and Equipment

All uniforms must be numbered. Duplicate numbers on any team are not permitted. It is the home team's responsibility to change uniforms if a color conflict arises. Pinnies, which permit the underlying number to be discerned, are acceptable for this purpose. Shirts must be tucked in and socks must cover shin guards. The use of shin guards is mandatory. Referees will exclude players not so equipped from play.

4. Coaches and Sportsmanship

Coaches must register with the State when they register their players. There can be up to two coaches registered per team; all must be registered with their state governing body.

Conduct and Responsibility:

Coaches are responsible for their own conduct and for the conduct of their players and fans at all games. Abusive or obscene language, violent play, violent conduct or other behavior detrimental to the game will not be tolerated. Failure of a coach to control his/her players and fans may result in action against him/her by the referee. For any sportsmanship problems concerning the spectators, the referee will solicit the assistance of the Tournament Director(s) and direct the offender(s) to leave the immediate area of the playing field. If the offender(s) fail(s) to leave the area as directed, the referee at his/her discretion, may terminate the game and the Tournament Director(s) may award a forfeit win to the non-offending team.

Coaches must stay at least 10 yards from the half-way line during the games. They must refrain from loud, persistent or intrusive coaching of field players from the touchline. Parents and other spectators must remain on the opposite sideline. Failure to observe these rules will be considered behavior detrimental to the game and may be dealt with accordingly.

Coaches and managers who are ejected or are under suspension must leave and remain completely away from the playing site. Failure to abide by this rule may result in additional disciplinary action.

5. Referees

The referee is responsible for the conduct of the game. The referee is the sole judge of the suitability of the field at game time and its equipment, the players' uniforms and equipment. The referee may verify player passes prior to the start of each game.

6. Protests

- A. No protests will be allowed in this tournament. Decisions of referees stand for each game. Protests will not be heard on the quality or judgment of substitute referees.
- B. The Tournament Director(s) have the final authority in the interpretation of the tournament rules and the operation of the Patriot Crossroads Challenge.

7. Player Safety

Any player who is found to be bleeding or to have blood on his/her uniform shall be asked to leave the field. The player may return only after demonstrating to the assistant referee that the bleeding has stopped and that all blood has been removed from the uniform.

8. Substitution

Substitution will be unlimited and consistent with Soccer Maine's modified rules. See modified rules posted by Soccer Maine.

9. Bracketing

U-9, U-10 & U-11 age groups will be non-competitive per Soccer Maine tournament guideline requirements. For all other age groups, bracketed rounds will be played under FIFA bracket format unless the number of teams in a given age group makes this impossible. Brackets will be formed by random draw. FIFA bracket format is to be used for all bracketed play which means there is **No overtime** in bracketed play. The winner is determined by a point system:

Points: 3 = Win 1 = Tie 0 = Loss

Winners of forfeited games will be awarded 3 points.

FIFA Bracketing means you play everyone within your bracket once; bracket winners meet each other in a final.

Tiebreakers for bracket play will be in this order:

- A. Head to Head
- B. Goal Differential (4 goals maximum per game)
 - Example: 15-0 =>+4
 - 5-1 =>+4
 - 2-4 =>-2
- C. Fewest Goals Given Up
- D. FIFA Penalty Kick Rules will apply.

Three-way ties are resolved at Tie Breaker #2, with second place again starting with Tie Breaker #2.

10. Suspended & Terminated Games

Fitness of playing conditions will be determined by the Tournament Committee prior to the game. Responsibility then shifts to the referee during the game. Qualifying games will be considered complete if the game is terminated after the first half has been played. Any game terminated prior to completion of the first half will be recorded as a 0-0 tie. Championship games may be suspended during play by the referee. The Tournament Committee will then rule on a possible reschedule to complete the game. If the game cannot be restarted, and the first half is completed, then the winner will be determined by the current score, if there is a tie, and/or the first half has not elapsed, both teams will be declared co-champions.

11. Score Sheets

Both coaches must sign the referee's score sheet at the conclusion of each game

12. Cancellation/ Refunds

Any team that is accepted into the tournament and later withdraws will forfeit the registration and entry fees.

No refund will be made in the event of cancellation or shortening of any matches due to inclement weather.

If the entire tournament is canceled due to inclement weather, each team will be refunded all but \$50.00 of the registration fee.

13. Tournament Finals

- A. All final games and will be played in a single elimination format.
- B. **Tie games** would result in two (2) full 5 minute overtime periods, no golden goal. If a game is still tied, this will be followed by 1 full round of 5x penalty kicks. If a game is still tied after the first round of penalty kicks, another full round of 5x penalty kicks shall occur (by 5 different players from first round of P.K.) If still tied, Sudden Death Penalty Kicks will apply.

14. Awards

U-9, U-10 & U-11 age groups will be non-competitive and all participating, rostered players will receive a Patriot Crossroads Tournament Medallion. U-12, U-13 & U-14 age groups will be competitive and only the winning team and second place team participating, rostered players will receive Patriot Crossroads Tournament Trophies. Trophies and Medallions are intended only for participating rostered players. Example: Coaches and assistant coaches **will not receive** medallions or trophies.

15. Zero-Tolerance Policy

Applicability:

Each coach is responsible for their actions, the actions of their players, and the actions of their spectators. Each coach, player, and spectator shall at all times support the referee and any/all game officials. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority, and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for the players, spectators, coaches, and referee alike. No one is to address the referee in a negative manner during the game.

Coaches' communications with the referee and/or game officials:

A coach and/or person responsible for a team may NOT address the referee except for:

- A. Responding to referee initiated communication.
- B. Making a request for substitutions.
- C. Pointing out emergencies or safety issues.

Sanctions:

- A. **First minor infraction:** Warning.
- B. **Second minor infraction:** Caution.
- C. **Third minor infraction:** Ejection.
- D. **First serious infraction:** Caution –or- ejection depending on the seriousness of the infraction.

Spectator communications with the referee and/or game officials:

Spectators should not say anything to the referee and/or game official, nor should they do anything which in any way, could convey any criticism of the referee. Spectators may respond to a communication initiated by the referee, or may point out any emergency safety issue.

Coaches are responsible for their spectators and will be responsible for their actions.

Sanctions:

- A. **First minor infraction:** Referee will stop the game and ask the coach to quiet the offending party.
- B. **Second minor infraction:** Referee will stop the game and ask the coach to warn the spectator that the next infraction will be an ejection or the referee will abandon the game.

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- C. **Third minor infraction:** The referee will instruct the coach to direct the spectator to leave the field. If the spectator refuses to leave the field, the referee should abandon the game.
- D. **First serious infraction:** The referee will instruct the coach to direct the spectator to leave the field. If the spectator refuses to leave the field, the referee should abandon the game.

In the event the referee abandons the game, the offending team will forfeit the game. The game score will be recorded as 4-0.

Notification:

Should a referee be forced to take sanctions against a team, he shall notify Patriot Soccer Club's Director of Competition and Club President who in turn will determine if any additional notice be given to the offending team's club and/or to Soccer Maine.