

2025 STONINGTON SOCCER TOURNAMENT RULES

All *Stonington Soccer Tournament* games shall be played in accordance with the *Laws of the Game* 2023/2024 published by FIFA; USYSA; and with the tournament additions & modifications shown below.

The 3rd Annual Stonington Soccer Tournament offers birth-year competition from U-9 to U-14/U-15/ JV/ Varsity (girls and boys) in "Competitive," and "Recreational," Divisions. Divisions may be adjusted by the Tournament Committee depending on the number of teams entered into a given division.

This tournament has been organized to promote healthy competition between players of the game of soccer. It is hoped that all participants including the players, coaches and fans will join in the positive support of the referees and tournament officials. Coaches are reminded that they are responsible for the behavior of their players, managers and fans.

Insurance

A certificate of insurance evidencing liability and player medical coverage is **required** for any team not affiliated with US Youth Soccer. The minimum liability limits must equal or exceed \$1,000,000.00 and the minimum excess player limits must equal or exceed \$25,000.00. All players must sign a Medical & Liability release waiver in order to participate in the Stonington Soccer Tournament. In case of injury during travel or while participating in the tournament the Tournament Committee, Stonington High School and The Town of Stonington will not be liable.

Player Eligibility

All players must be born in the years indicated below to play in the indicated age divisions

Age Group	Birth Year
U10	2016
U11	2015
U12	2014
U13	2013
*U14/U15	2011/ 2012
JV	2011-2009
Varsity	2011-2007

*All 2011 birth year players entering U14/15 must be entering 8th Grade, not High School.

Rostering

Coaches and players must be properly registered with an association affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation or their own national soccer federation. Proof of players' age and eligibility will be certified by the rosters. The maximum roster size for all teams is 14 players and 3 coaches, since this is a 7V7 tournament. Rosters must be submitted at Team Check-In prior to the commencement of the tournament. Check in faster by emailing your certified roster [Stonington Soccer Tournament](#) .

Dual Rostering is permitted but only under the following conditions: a) players must be included on each team's roster at the time of team registration. b) players can only be dual-rostered to a team in an older age division. Dual-rostering a player to a team in a younger age division or on another team of the same age division is **NOT** permitted. **Under no circumstance may a player play on two teams in the same age bracket.**

Teams' rosters shall be frozen one week before tournament. The tournament committee reserves the right to make a determination regarding player eligibility at any time. Any team

using an ineligible player may be disqualified from the tournament and forfeit their registration fees.

Guest Players

There is no limit to the number of guest players on a team. A 7v7 tournament team may have as many as 14 guest players (within specified roster limits) as long as they are all on an official signed by state registrar roster. HANDWRITTEN names shall be allowed up to 25% of the maximum roster size, e.g., for a roster of 14 you may have 3 such guests. All guest players must have a current, valid player pass and a completed medical/liability waiver. The medical/liability waiver is available for download on our tournament website under the Players, Coaches, Managers tab.

Forfeits

Teams playing must field at least 5 players within 5 minutes of the scheduled start of the game or they shall forfeit the game. Winners of forfeited games shall be credited with a 4-0 win.

Weather/Suspended Games

The tournament committee shall not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team or club if the tournament is canceled in part or in whole due to weather. In the event of inclement weather, the tournament committee shall have the absolute authority to make decisions as follows:

- ★ Determine the fitness of fields
- ★ Change the duration of any game
- ★ Relocate/reschedule any game
- ★ Scores of games suspended because of weather/lightning shall be final if the first half has been completed. The final score of such games shall be the score existing at the time of game suspension.
- ★ Games suspended due to weather/lightning during the first half: The Center Referee will suspend the game for 20 minutes. The referees will let the coaches know what time to

return to the field to continue the game and how much time will be given to complete the game if the weather clears. All players, coaches, & families are to wait in their cars and return at the given time. If the weather/lightning does not improve during the 20 minutes team's coaches/managers will be notified and are to notify their players and families. The committee will attempt to reschedule if conditions permit and if fields are available. The committee reserves the right to decide on all matters pertaining to suspended game rescheduling. Rescheduled games are considered new and begin with no score. Games suspended in the first half and not rescheduled shall be recorded as tied 0-0, regardless of the score at the time of suspension.

Players' Uniform and Equipment

Players must wear prominent numbers. In the event of guest players, a team may have duplicate numbers. In the event of similar team colors, the home team (the team listed first on the schedule) shall change colors. All player equipment is subject to the approval of the center referee for each game. Coaches are responsible for checking for proper shin guards and footwear.

No jewelry or unprotected hard casts of any kind shall be allowed. Piercings **must** be removed, not just taped. Medical Alert IDs may be worn if taped securely to the body.

Ball Size/Format/Length of Periods

Divisions	Ball Size	Format	Length of Games	Warm up & Half Time
U-10	4	7v7	(2) 25 min halves	5 mins each
U-11 & U-12	4	7v7	(2) 25 min halves	5 mins each
U-13 , U-14/U-15, JV, Varsity	5	7v7	(2) 25 min halves	5 mins each

Sidelines

Coaches and substitute players are required to remain at least one yard behind the touch lines. Both teams shall be on the side of the field designated on the field map and on opposite sides of the midfield line. No player or coach may cross the midfield line to the side of the opposing team. Coaches and substitutes must also remain within at least ten yards of midfield.

Spectators may only be on the side opposite the team side. No one is permitted behind the end lines.

Games Played in All Divisions

- Each team shall field 7 players, including a goalkeeper, with a minimum of 5 players required to start play.
- Games shall be played with offside restrictions.
- After gaining possession of the ball with his/her hands, the goalkeeper may throw, place it on the ground to play out of the box, or punt the ball. If placed on the ground to be played out, the ball is in play as soon as the keeper releases the ball and the keeper cannot pick up the ball again after releasing it until it has been touched by another player.
*Infringement of this rule will result in an indirect free kick for the other team from the penalty spot.
- The penalty mark is eight yards from the goal line.
- Free kicks include direct and indirect kicks. Defenders must be at least 8 yards from the ball on free kicks.

Heading the Ball

Players are not allowed to head the ball in U-11 and younger divisions.

The penalty for intentionally heading the ball is an indirect free kick awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the infringement. If the infringement is within the goal/penalty area the

indirect kick shall take place at the point on the goal/penalty line parallel to the end line that is nearest to where the infringement occurred.

Substitutions For All Age Divisions

An unlimited number of substitutions may be made by either team during stoppages of play.

- All substitutions must occur, with center referee's permission, at mid-field on the team side
- When a game is stopped by the referee due to a player injury, that player must leave the field and both teams are allowed an unlimited number of substitutions.

Referees

There shall be one referee (center) for 7v7. Offsides will be called in 7v7 games by the center referee to the best of their ability. All decisions by the center referee are final and binding.

Coaches, managers and other team officials are not permitted on the field of play without the referee's permission. Any coach, manager or other team official violating this rule is subject to disciplinary action by the referee and/or the tournament director or his/ her designee.

Send Offs/Dismissals

Any player who is sent off (red carded) shall NOT be allowed to participate in the next match of his/her team. If dual rostered the tournament committee will be review for eligibility for other teams. At the discretion of the Tournament Committee any deliberate serious foul, or any violent or unruly conduct by a player, coach or team may also result in the ineligibility of said individual(s) or team for the next game or more, including the remainder of the tournament, without refund of registration fees. Any dismissed coach (red carded) shall be disciplined by not being allowed to participate in the next match of the team he/she was coaching at the time of the dismissal. The Tournament Committee, if it deems appropriate, may impose additional

sanctions, including denying that coach's involvement with any/all teams that he/she is involved with, for as much as the remainder of the tournament. The tournament director or her designee reserves the right to disqualify any team, player, coach, manager or other team official from the tournament for gross misconduct by its players, coaches, managers, officials, and/or fans.

Statement Regarding Concussions

Concussions are a significant risk to soccer players.

It is the responsibility of the players' coach (not the Stonington Soccer Tournament or its members; or referees) to assure that his/her players are medically fit for participation in tournament play.

It is strongly recommended that any players receiving a blow to the head be immediately removed from play by the coach to be evaluated for signs of, or reporting symptoms of, a concussion (see Table below).

A coach should not allow a player to return to play after exhibiting signs or symptoms of a concussion until he/she has been evaluated and cleared in writing for return to play by a licensed physician trained in the evaluation and management of concussions. Be vigilant, signs & symptoms of concussions can take some time to emerge.

In addition, it is the responsibility of coaches to prohibit a player from participating in play if they have knowledge of a concussion received from another activity outside of their direct authority.

Signs Observed by Coaching Staff	Symptoms Reported by Athlete
Appears dazed	Headache or "pressure" in head
Is confused about assignment or position	Nausea or vomiting
Forgets an instruction	Balance problems or dizziness
Is unsure of game, score or opponent	Double or blurry vision

Moves clumsily	Sensitivity to light
Answers questions slowly	Sensitivity to noise
Loses consciousness(even briefly)	Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
Shows mood, behavior or personality changes	Concentration or memory problems
Can't recall events <u>prior</u> to hit or fall	Confusion
Can't recall events <u>after</u> hit or fall	Doesn't "feel right" or "feeling down"

*Source: Center for Disease Control

Game Cards

Both coaches are responsible for verifying the final score by signing the referee's game card at the conclusion of each game. Failure to do so will negate any grounds for contesting an incorrectly posted score. Field Marshals will collect game cards from the Center Referee at the conclusion of each game. Once obtained the Field Marshals will call in the scores and deliver the game cards to the headquarter tent.

Division Standings

In all divisions total points earned shall determine final standings. Each competitive division will have a winner based on the following point system. Teams shall be ranked in the standings by the number of points they have been awarded.

- 3 points shall be awarded for a win.
- 1 point shall be awarded for a tie.
- 0 points shall be awarded for a loss.

In the event of a tie in the standings the following criteria shall be employed to break the tie or to successively eliminate teams in a tie involving more than two teams.

When using the tie breaking rules below, the sequence followed shall always be in ascending order (1 through 4) for the tied teams in order to eliminate team(s) from the tie and to determine standings. *Never in the process shall the sequence revert to a lower numbered rule to determine standings.

1) For a two-team tie - - Results of the tournament head-to-head game involving the two tied teams; if still tied or the teams have not played each other then proceed to Rule 2.

(Rule 1 is used first only for two-team ties. If more than two teams are tied, Rule 2 shall be the first rule used to break the tie.)

2) Highest total goal differential among the tied teams (Goals for minus goals against, for a maximum of 6 goals per game); if still tied then,

3) Least total goals against amongst the teams still tied (with maximum of 6 goals per game); if still tied then,

4) Most goals scored amongst the teams still tied ; if still tied then,

If, due to registrations, it is necessary to create a division of four teams the following special rules shall apply:

- Each team shall play three scheduled games.
- After three games the teams shall be ranked using the same point and tie breaker rules as shown above.
- The 3rd and 4th place teams shall play a consolation game, which may end in a tie.
- The 1st and 2nd place teams shall play a championship game. The winner of this game shall be the division champion regardless of points earned in the earlier games. If, at the end of full time, the championship game is tied, the teams shall bypass overtime periods and go straight to kicks from the penalty mark. All players shall be eligible to take kicks regardless of whether they were on the field of play at the end of the game. After five kicks have been taken by both teams and no winner has emerged, all remaining eligible players on both teams (subject to the '*reduce to equate numbers*' requirement) must kick before any players are allowed to kick a second time.

Definitive Scores and Rankings

All scores and rankings will be maintained at the Tournament Headquarters Tent at each venue and logged into TeamSnap. All games shall have a maximum goal differential of 6. If the margin of victory is greater than 6 then it will be recorded in Team Snap as the actual result. However, as per above, a 6-goal differential will be used to determine who advances, first and foremost. Scores that are posted by, and rankings that are electronically calculated by TeamSnap are for the convenience of the players, coaches and parents. In the case where there are discrepancies between those scores and rankings posted on the official scoreboard the scores recorded on the official scoreboard shall take precedence. Scores may also be viewed on the TeamSnap app. The Tournament Director shall endeavor to make corrections to TeamSnap in the case of any discrepancies.

Protests

Protests shall not be accepted and may not be lodged. Decisions of referees and tournament officials are final.

Sportsmanship

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of players and spectators of their teams. The Stonington Soccer Tournament Committee does not condone and will not tolerate inappropriate conduct toward any individual based on a person's skin color, ethnicity, or national origin. Harassment, intimidation and/or sarcasm directed at referees will not be tolerated. For any sportsmanship problems the referees and/or Tournament Director are empowered to direct the offender(s) to leave the area. If the offender(s) fail to leave as directed, the referee shall terminate the game and report the incident to the Tournament Director, who shall award a 4-0 victory to the non-offending team. Coaches are asked to comply with the "Mercy Rule". This asks that the coach of any team leading by a six-goal differential actively avoid any increase of that goal differential.

Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Products

Consumption of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products is prohibited on the fields, adjacent surroundings, and parking areas.

Dog Policy

As much as we love our pets, the best place for them for this tournament is to be home as we would like to continue using the grounds and don't want to ask anyone to leave. Here are the following ground guidelines. We appreciate everyone's cooperation.

“At no time shall animals be allowed at any school or Town recreation sponsored event or on any athletic field, sidelines or walkways leading to and from fields and playground within spellman park. A pet owner who brings or permits his/her animal to enter these areas will have committed an act of trespass and proper authorities will be notified.

Exceptions to this are Service - Guide and/ or Assistance dogs as defined by law or dogs owned or controlled by government, law enforcement agencies or organized fire departments or persons authorized by agencies or departments to engage in search & rescue activity training.”

-Town of Stonington

Laws of the Game

The 2023/2024 edition of the *Laws of the Game* is available in PDF format from the U.S. Soccer at:

[Laws of the Game](#)

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