

# THANKSGIVING CLASSIC

2025



PRESENTED BY: HIGH DESERT  
YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

# 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL THANKSGIVING CLASSIC RULES & PROCEDURES 2025

**Rules:** This tournament is played under FIFA rules as modified by USYSA and CYSA South. All decisions and calls of the referees are final. **NO PROTESTS WILL BE ALLOWED.** The Tournament Director will resolve any situation not covered by the rules. Only a registered team official/coach may represent a team during any official proceedings.

**Player Eligibility:** Recreational teams with USYSA are eligible. The current regular season team roster will be allowed to participate.

**Recreational:** Only registered players for the current fall season and approved loan players are eligible. *Select players are not allowed.*

**Player Cards Requirement:**

All teams must present a valid player card for each player registered to play. Please contact your league Registrar to acquire your player cards.

| Age Group<br>Coed/Girls | Max<br>Roster | Loan<br>Players | Players on field |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| U8                      | 14            | 7               | 7                |
| U10                     | 14            | 7               | 7                |
| U12                     | 16            | 7               | 9                |
| U14                     | 18            | 7               | 11               |
| U19                     | 14            | 7               | 7                |

## Home Team Responsibilities

- The **home team is listed first** on the schedule.
- Must **change jerseys or wear bibs** if a color conflict occurs, as determined by the referee.
- Responsible for providing **three (3) game balls** for each match.
- Teams must be located on **opposite sides of the field**, along with all associated spectators.
- The **home team will set up on the South or West side** of the field.

## Misconduct Policy

1. **Two yellow cards** in a single game = **red card ejection** (no replacement).
2. Any **coach, player, or spectator ejected** will not be allowed to participate in the **next scheduled game**.
3. Ejection for **violent or serious foul play** results in suspension for the **remainder of the tournament**.
4. **Assaulting a referee** results in **expulsion from the tournament**.
5. **ID cards will not be returned** and will be forwarded to CYSA for violent conduct or referee assault.
6. If **both head coach and assistant coach are ejected** before the game ends, the match is **forfeited with a 0–2 final result**. (See Section “Scoring system - forfeit”)

## Tournament Regulations

- **Rosters, medical release forms, and player ID cards** will be verified at check-in.
- **Current laminated USYSA passes** are required for all players and coaches.
- **Team rosters are frozen** after check-in is completed.
- Players must check in **game-ready** (uniform, shin guards, cleats) **45 minutes prior** to the first game.

## Equipment Requirements

- **Shin guards are mandatory** during tournament play.
- **No soft or hard casts** allowed.
- **No jewelry** permitted, except for **medical identification bracelets**.
- **Passes and medical releases** are required at all games.

## Player Age Group Eligibility

- Players who participated in the **fall season under USYSA** are eligible to play in the **U8 division**.
- **Players may not play down** in age group divisions.  
*Example: A player registered to a U12 team, even if age-eligible for U10, cannot play down.*

## Game Length & Recreational Substitutions

- All divisions will use **quarter substitutions**.
- Each player must play a **minimum of 50%** of each scheduled game (2 quarters).
- Exceptions due to **illness, injury, or tardiness** must be **documented on the match report**.
- Failure to comply results in **forfeit with a 0–2 score** awarded to the opposing team. (See Section “Scoring system - forfeit”)

| DIVISION | FORMAT              | MAX GOALIE | PRELIMINARY          | FINALS               |
|----------|---------------------|------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| U8       | 7 v 7<br>no headers | 4 QTS.     | Two 20-minute halves | Two 25 minute halves |
| U10      | 7 v 7<br>no headers | 4 QTS.     | Two 20-minute halves | Two 25 minute halves |
| U12      | 9 v 9<br>no headers | 4 QTS.     | Two 25-minute halves | Two 30 minute halves |
| U14      | 11 V 11             | 4 QTS.     | Two 30-minute halves | Two 35 minute halves |
| U19      | 7 v 7               | 4 QTS.     | Two 30-minute haves  | Two 35 minute halves |

## Scoring System – Preliminary Games

(No overtime or shoot-out in preliminary rounds)

### Ten Point Scoring System:

- **Win** = 6 points
- **Tie** = 3 points
- **Loss** = 0 points
- **Goals Scored** = 1 point per goal (up to 3 goals max)
- **Shutout** = 1 point
- **Forfeit** = 8 points awarded to opposing team (recorded as a 0–2 score; no shutout point awarded)

**Note:** A 0–0 tie does **not** earn a shutout point for either team.

## Tiebreakers – End of Preliminary Round

If teams are tied in total points, the following tiebreakers will be applied in order:

1. **Head-to-head result**
2. **Fewest goals allowed**
3. **Most goals scored**
4. **Coin toss**

## Elimination Rounds

- **Quarterfinals and Semi-finals:**  
Single elimination format. If tied after regulation, teams proceed **directly to FIFA shoot-out** (no overtime).
- **Finals (All Age Brackets):**  
If tied after regulation:
  1. Two **5-minute overtime periods** (no sudden death).
  2. Teams switch sides after the first 5-minute period.
  3. If still tied after overtime, a **FIFA shoot-out** will determine the winner.

## Refund Policy

- **Teams not accepted** into the tournament will receive a full refund.
- To receive a refund (**minus a \$75 administrative fee**), teams must request withdrawal **prior to the application deadline**.
- Teams that withdraw **after the application deadline** will **forfeit their entire entry fee**.
- If the event is cancelled due to **weather, acts of terrorism, or acts of God**, a cancellation fee of approximately **one-third of the entry fee** will be withheld from each team's refund.
- If the tournament is cancelled **after it begins**, refund authorizations will be determined by the **Tournament Director and Committee**.

## Field Conduct Rules

The following are **strictly prohibited** on or around the field of play:

- **Alcoholic beverages**
- **Smoking of tobacco or vaping**
- **Pets**
- **Mechanical or other noise makers**

**These rules are in place to ensure a safe, respectful, and family-friendly environment for all participants and spectators.**