

WILBRAHAM SOCCER CLUB TOURNAMENT RULES

*1. The F.I.F.A. / U.S.S.F. Laws of the Game shall govern the play of all games. Exceptions*:

**Scoring**

* A goal may only be scored within a team’s offensive half of the field.
* A goal cannot be scored if the ball crosses or starts from the center line.
* A goal cannot be scored from a sideline kick-in
* A goal cannot be scored on a kick-off.
* A goal kick is awarded to the defensive team if a goal infraction occurs.
* ANY BALL THAT IS HIT WITH ENOUGH FORCE TO KNOCK DOWN THE GOAL WILL BE DISALLOWED and placed as a goal kick for the other team.
* Referee’s decision is final with any goal scored or not scored.

**Kick-ins** - The ball shall be kicked into play from the sideline, rather than thrown in. The ball is considered in play when the ball is touched and changes position. This is an indirect kick, and a goal cannot be scored from this kick. No dribble in is allowed.

**Offside** - Offsides is allowed.

**Goalies** - There will be no goalies.

**Headers** - In accordance with youth soccer regulations, there will be a ban on headers for all players ten years and younger. Therefore, for age groups of u12, u10 and u8 will have a ban on headers. If in the opinion of the referee, a player deliberately heads or attempts to head the ball for those age groups, the referee will award an indirect free kick to the opponent.

Any player that plays in an older age group that allows heading, has assumed consent from the parents to participate.

**Goal Box** - There is no ball contact allowed within the Goal Box.

* Players may pass through the Goal Box if they do not touch the ball.
* If the ball comes to a rest in the goal box, a goal kick is awarded to the defensive team.
* If a defensive player touches the ball after it has entered the Goal Box, a goal will be awarded to the offensive team.
* If an offensive player touches the ball after it has entered the Goal Box, a goal kick will be awarded to the defensive team.

**Fouls** - If an offensive player is fouled in the offensive half; the offense is awarded an indirect kick from the point of foul. Opposing team must give 3 yards of space from the ball if requested by a player or the referee. If a free kick is awarded within 5 yards of the opposing goal box, the ball will be moved back to 5 yards from the box. It is the referee’s discretion where the ball will be placed.

**Restarts -** All restarts are INDIRECT FREE KICKS. This includes any Kick Offs, Goal Kicks, Corners Kicks, Throw Ins, and ALL free kicks anywhere on the field EXCEPT Penalty Kicks, which will be a free shot at the goal (no Goalkeeper) from the halfway line.

* **Minimum Distance**: The minimum distance to the ball on any restart for opposing players is three (3) yards. The Referee may allow an opposing player to be less than the minimum distance to allow a "quick restart".

**Goal Kicks -** May be taken from any point on the defensive touchline. Opposition players must retreat to their own half to allow the other team to put the ball in play. They are allowed to cross over once the ball is put into play. A goal cannot be scored from a Goal Kick. A Goal Kick must touch the ground or a player before crossing the halfway line.

**Corner Kicks -** Will be taken as normal. The opposition player must be at least 3 yards away. A goal cannot be scored by a Corner Kick.

**Penalty Kicks** - The Referee will award a Penalty Kick when, in the opinion of the Referee, a player denies a goal scoring opportunity. The Penalty Kick will be executed from the center spot, and no player is allowed in front of the ball.

**Field Dimensions -** The playing field is 30x20 (yards) and the goals will be 4x8 (feet). All dimensions subject to change by tournament director.

*2. The Game:*

**Duration** - All games will last 25 minutes. All games tied after the allotted time will end in a tie except for the final Game.

**Ball** – U09-U12 use Ball Size #4. U13-U14/15 use Ball Size #5

**Substitutions** - Substitutions can occur at ANY stoppage. Teams must get referee’s permission. The player must leave the field before the substitute enters. NO SUBSTITUTIONS ON THE FLY.

**Bench Area** - Both teams shall occupy the same side of the field.

**Fair Play –** To encourage fair play, goal differential will be limited to 6 goals per game for standing’s purposes

**Field** - Only players are allowed on the field of play. All others require referee permission.

**Forfeit** - Any team not ready to play within 5 minutes of scheduled start shall forfeit the game, 6 – 0.

**Grace Period -** The 25-minute game clock will start on time, but a team will receive a 5-minute grace period to start the game, if needed. The game clock will not be reset if a team uses the grace period, as it is very important each field stays on schedule. Teams must have at least 3 players to start any game. If a team is not ready to play after 5 minutes a forfeit may be applied at the discretion of the tournament director.

**Playoff/Final -** The top two teams in each division will play in a Final. All games will last 25 minutes. A game ending in a tie will have 2-minute golden goal overtime. The first team to score wins.

Games still tied will end in a sudden death penalty shootout (each team will choose one shooter to take a shot). If tied after each round, a shooter cannot shoot again until all players on the team have shot. After each successful round in which both teams score, the penalty spot will be moved back one yard, which will be indicated by the referee. If both teams miss, the next round will be taken from the same spot.

**Number of Players** - The maximum number of players allowed on a roster is eight (8): four (4) field players and four (4) substitutes. A maximum number of four (4) players are allowed on the field at any time. The minimum number of players is three (3). Teams are not allowed to field players that are not on their roster. No Goalkeepers allowed. Any team that fields an ineligible player could be dismissed from the tournament (Subject to the decision of the tournament director).

**Uniforms** - If there is a conflict in shirt colors, the visiting team is to wear an alternate color shirt or pinny.

**Interruption** - Should a game be terminated after 15 or more minutes of play, it will be counted as a full game.

**Red Card** - 1st Red Card=suspension for next game; 2nd Red Card=suspension from the tournament. If Red is issued, team must play a man down.

**Referee** - All decisions of the referee are final and binding.

**Tolerance** - Tournament will strictly adhere to the Zero Tolerance Policy of MYSA.

**Protests** - May not be lodged and will not be accepted. Contact the Tournament Director about major problems.

*3. Points*

Games will be scored according to the following: 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss. To encourage Fair Play, goal differential will be limited to 6 goals per game for standing’s purposes. Teams will be ranked according to total points. 1ST place trophies will be awarded in each division.

*4. Tie Breaker:*

When division winners cannot be clearly defined, the Tournament Director will follow the steps below in order until the teams participating in the Final are determined.

* Head-to-Head result
* Goal Difference
* Goals Scored
* Goals Against
* Coin Flip
* Most shut out victories
* If still tied, dual winners shall be proclaimed. Trophies will be mailed after tournament.

*4. Additional Rules/Information:*

* Consumption of alcoholic beverages on the fields or in the parking area is prohibited.
* Liquid Propane Gas grilles or charcoal grills are not allowed on the field or in designated spectator areas.
* Dogs are not allowed on the playing fields.
* The Wilbraham Soccer Club tournament committee will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team or club if the tournament is canceled in whole or in part. No refund of entry fees will be given.
* The tournament director reserves the right to decide all matters pertaining to the tournament and its judgment shall be final.

*5. Sportsmanship; Goal Differential Policy*

The Wilbraham Soccer Club values sportsmanship and respectful competition. The following rules are in place to discourage unsportsmanlike conduct and excessive scoring:

**Maximum Recorded Goal Differential**: Standings will only reflect up to an 6-goal differential, regardless of the actual game score.

**Standing Penalties**:

* If a team scores to create a goal differential of 10 or more, they will be penalized 1 point in the standings.
* If a team scores to create a goal differential of 15 or more, an additional 2 points will be deducted (total of 3 points lost).

**Prohibited Behavior:**

* Deliberate acts to manipulate the score, such as intentionally scoring on one’s own goal, will not be tolerated.
* Any disrespectful or mocking behavior intended to circumvent the spirit of the game may result in the immediate termination of the match.

**Team Conduct Clause:**

* Any team deemed by the Tournament Committee to not be participating in the spirit of the competition may be dismissed or disqualified with no refund of entry fee.
* The Tournament Committee consists of the Tournament Director, Club President, and Committee Chairman.
* We encourage all coaches and players to compete with integrity, adjust play accordingly when leading by a wide margin, and always respect their opponents.