

Orlando City Lake Nona Invitational Tournament Rules-2026



TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS

Tournament HQ will be hosted at Austin Tindall Sports Complex, 4100 Boggy Creek Rd, Kissimmee, FL 34744.

REGISTRATION AND TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Open to all teams comprised of properly registered youth players (as defined by the rules of the affiliated organization) in all age groups listed in the "Tournament Rules", provided such team is in good standing with its youth association.

Tournament officials shall conduct all credentials checks:

- Pre-Tournament Online Check is required for all teams. Instructions sent via email, update event roster in Gotsport.
- At the field before game. Teams should be available for check-in with the referee or field marshal 30 minutes prior to the scheduled game time

Documentation required at initial Pre-Tournament Online Check-In:

Teams From The United States:

- The Players and bench personnel must present picture identification cards issued by the team's federation Organization Member(USYS, US Club, AYSO, USSSA, other) - presented on field before each game.
- Identification cards must be verified, photo attached, and laminated (if your association does not allow lamination, cards must be incased in plastic sleeves). Got Soccer Tournament approved Virtual Cards approved for Pregame check-in. Printed on match report.
- Teams from a US Youth Soccer National State Association outside of Florida must provide/upload proof of permission to travel.
- Teams must provide/upload a completed medical release form for every player. (Uploaded to Gotsport, acceptable)
- Teams must provide payment to be accepted.

Documentation required for pre-game check in:

All Teams:

- Teams are required to have and present player and bench personnel picture identification cards. Rosters signed and verified by tournament official will suffice.
- Identification cards will be checked against the tournament's generated frozen rosters listed on match reports.
- Teams must have on hand a certified/approved tournament roster from the team's Federation Organization in case of any discrepancies with the tournament generated game reports.
- U13-U19. The game roster shall have a maximum of 18 players. Players not on the game roster are allowed to sit on the bench in the team's opposite uniform or in street clothes.
- Each team is limited to three (3) coaches on the bench, all of which must be listed on the team roster. In no case will a team be allowed to participate without a properly registered coach or assistant approved by a tournament official.
- The jersey number of each player should be the same as the player's jersey number on the tournament roster, concessions allowed as this is a "non-cup" event.

A player who arrives late at the playing field after the pre-game procedure may enter the game once the game's official(s) verify the player is eligible and with the permission of the center referee.

Only at the pre-game procedure may a player be challenged by an opposing manager/coach. Challenged player(s) will be noted by the Referee on the game report and will be allowed to participate in the game (if said player has been certified as eligible by the Credentials Committee). A late arriving player may be challenged at the time he/she is allowed to participate by the Referee. **ANY TEAM USING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER WILL FORFEIT ALL TOURNAMENT MATCHES PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.** A report will be filed with the offending teams national Organization or National State Association. **If you are not sure of a player's eligibility ask the Tournament Director.**

In the case of lost or stolen ID cards the tournament committee reserves the right to use alternate identification or make tournament specific ID cards.

MANDATORY: All teams, except as noted below, are subject to book lodging through the designated travel provider as a condition to compete at the event.

- Teams that are located within a 50 mile driving distance of the Austin Tindall Park are not required to book.
- All teams over 75 miles are expected to book with the designated travel provider as a condition to compete – no exceptions.
- Addresses used for the determination of the distance will be the address of Austin Tindall and the Club’s physical address or the physical address of the Club’s home fields whichever is closer.
- Google Maps™ or other approved online mapping services will be used to determine driving distance.

All teams must upload required online check in documents immediately after applying to ensure acceptance. For Clubs/States that do not use Gotsoccer, each team must enter a roster complete with bench personnel into the tournament's on-line tournament system(Gotsoccer). The minimum required information is Name, Date of Birth, player ID number, uniform number and gender. Revisions can be made to the roster up to the Monday prior to the event. This information will appear on the tournament match reports to be used by the referees for check-in on the field prior to each game. Teams failing to input this information are subject to removal from the event.

PLAYER AGE AND ELIGIBILITY

In no event will a player be allowed to participate who has not been certified by the Credentials Committee.

AGE DETERMINATION: the player's playing age is determined by the following USYSA guidelines for 2023/2024.

| Age Division | Birth Year Range | Maximum Roster | Guest Player Limit* |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| U19 | 2007- 2008 | 22 | 5 |
| U17 | 2009 | 22 | 5 |
| U16 | 2010 | 22 | 5 |
| U15 | 2011 | 22 | 5 |
| U14 | 2012 | 22 | 5 |
| U13 | 2013 | 22 | 5 |
| U12 | 2014 | 16 | 3 |
| U11 | 2015 | 16 | 3 |
| U10 | 2016 | 14 | 3 |
| U9 | 2017 | 14 | 3 |
| U8 | 2018 | 14 | 3 |

Playing Up Guidelines

FYSA teams must follow FYSA guidelines:

“Pursuant to the authority granted by rule 211.3, the FYSA DOC, Mike Strickler, issues the following guidance for the 2021/22 seasonal year and beyond:

- Players up to 8U age groups (born in 2018 or later birth years) will be allowed to roster up 1 year
- Players in the 9U to 14U age groups (2017 to 2012 birth years) will be allowed to roster up 2 years, subject to the restriction that no player may participate in tan FYSA sanctioned competition in which heading is permitted before their 11th birthday.
- Players in the 15U and older age groups will be allowed to roster up to any older age groups.

There will be no exception to the above guidelines.

*Each team will be allowed to have guest players, who are properly registered through their National and State Association,

Federation or any other USSF affiliated organization. Guest players must have permission to participate/travel from their National and State Association, Federation or any other USSF affiliated organization.

Players may **not** play for more than one team in the tournament. If a player is found to be playing for more than one team without prior approval by the Tournament Director, they will be deemed ineligible and subject to forfeits.

Heading Guidelines 25-26 – This applies to all teams, in or out of state.

In conjunction with US Soccer and US Youth Soccer, Florida Youth Soccer Association will be instituting a heading ban for players age 10 and younger.

In accordance with the recent U.S. Soccer recommendations on concussion risk management:

FYSA has eliminated heading in matches for player's age 10-years-old and younger (2015-11u and younger), per the new calendar year registration guidelines. 2014-12U teams will participate in non-heading divisions until December 31, 2025 and then heading divisions shall be permitted Jan 1, 2026. **To be clear, no heading for 11u (2015) and younger - heading WILL be allowed for 12u (2014) and older at this year's OC Lake Nona February Invitational.**

The guidelines apply to leagues, tournaments, and other FYSA sanctioned events that include 2014-11u and younger age group teams; heading will not be permitted.

LAWS OF THE GAME

All matches must be played in accordance with the FIFA laws of the Game, except as specifically modified as follows in the tournament rules.

LAW 1: Field of Play

U13 - U19 No change per FIFA "Laws of the Game"

U8, U9 & U10 (7v7) and U11 & U12 (9v9) must play in accordance with the US Youth Soccer Official under 12 & 10 Playing Initiatives.

LAW 2: The Ball

U13 and older Size #5

U12 and younger Size #4 (including brackets where U12 are playing 11v11)

LAW 3: Number of Players*

U13 and Older Eleven (11) per side per FIFA - minimum players 7

U11 and U12 Nine (9) per side - minimum players 8

U09 and U10 Seven (7) per side - minimum players 6

SUBSTITUTION TIME

Substitutions shall be unlimited. Players may substitute at any stoppage of the ball with the referee's permission.

The substitute shall not enter the field of play until the player he/she is replacing has left, and then, only after receiving a signal from the referee.

When an injured player (inclusive of the goalkeeper) is attended to on the field of play, the player must leave the field of play for treatment and evaluation. A substitution may be made for the injured player.

SUBSTITUTION AGE LIMITS

- U9-U19 ages, free substitution is allowed.

No national team as designated by the National Associations of FIFA will be accepted to compete at this event.

LAW 4: Players' Equipment

Player equipment must conform to FIFA rules. All players will wear shin-guards (under the socks). A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry).

FYSA Rule 402.2 – Player equipment shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Affiliate, FYSA and FIFA rules. Additionally:

- a) Screw in cleats are permitted; however, judgement as to their safety is at the discretion of the referee.
- b) Orthopedic casts can be worn at any sanctioned FYSA tournament with written approval from a doctor and written permission from a tournament official, final judgement as to its safety is at the discretion of the referee.
- c) It is the policy of FYSA that no player be allowed to wear ANY jewelry while participating in any FYSA sanctioned match. The only exception that may be allowed is a medical alert bracelet or necklace when taped to the body. The referee shall make the decision as to the safety of the player and the referee's decision is final.

Teams will wear uniforms of matching design and color with a minimum of six (6) inch numbers affixed to the back of the uniform shirt.

The designated home team per the tournament schedule will be required to wear white/light color jerseys. In cases where the schedule does not designate a home team the first team listed on the game report will be considered the home team.

The uniform of the goalkeeper must be distinctly different in color from the basic colors of the competing teams and the referee.

LAW 5: The Referee

The center referee for all matches must be certified by the Federation.

Referees are required to submit a completed official USSF or a tournament specific game report to the Site Director containing any information relating to any game incidents involving players/coach, spectator misconduct, or injuries.

In the event, the assigned referees fail to appear and the assignor and/or Site Director fails to provide a replacement, the senior assigned assistant referee shall assume the duties and shall find a alternate assistant. The game will be played as scheduled and will be deemed official.

LAW 6: The Assistant Referee

Two (2) assistant referees will be used in matches U11 and above. A single center referee with no assistant referees will be used for U9 and U10 7v7 matches. In the event, the assigned assistant(s) fail to appear; the referee must find suitable replacements. The game will be played as scheduled and be deemed official.

LAW 7: The Duration of the Match

The duration of the game will be:

| Age Group | Pool Play (min) | Semis & Finals (min) | Overtime (min) |
|------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| U17 & U19 | 2 x 45 = 90 | 2 x 45 = 90 | 2 x 5 = 10 |
| U13 - U16 | 2 x 35 = 70 | 2 x 35 = 70 | 2 x 5 = 10 |
| U11 & U12 | 2 x 30 = 60 | 2 x 30 = 60 | 2 x 5 = 10 |
| U9 & U10 | 2 x 25 = 50 | 2 x 25 = 50 | No Overtime(straight to kicks from the mark) |

LAW 8 - 10:

No change per FIFA "Laws of the Game".

LAW 11: Offside:

U11 - U19: No change per FIFA "Laws of the Game".

U9 - U10: Offside will be called in accordance with the US Youth Soccer Official under 10 Playing Recommendations. A player is offside if they are beyond the last defender and ALSO beyond the "build-out" line.

LAW 12-17:

No change per FIFA "Laws of the Game"

TOURNAMENT AND MATCH SCHEDULES

Tournaments are designed as follows for all age groups and gender:

- U8 - Must play Festival Format - no "finals" permitted
- During the preliminary stage of the tournament teams will play in a World Cup pool play format. Ties shall remain.
- Minimum number of teams at any age/flight is 3; maximum is 32.
- The tournament reserves the right to have multiple flights within an age group.
- All teams are guaranteed a minimum of 3 scheduled games.
- Maximum number of games is 5.
- Teams can play up to 2 games in one day.
- A minimum of two game slots will be scheduled between games.
- Groups of 6 teams will go directly to finals or may play a round robin with no finals. Champion determined by points.

POST GAME PROCEDURES

As a mutual courtesy, both teams will meet at the center circle and congratulate each other for a game well played. Manager/coach of both teams will insure their respective sideline areas are clean and that all trash is in containers.

At the end of each game, a team representative must sign/initial the game report prior to collecting the player cards, with the exception of any players or coaches sent off, from the referee or field marshal. The ultimate responsibility of collecting the passes from the referee lies with the coach/manager of the teams participating.

A completed game report will be submitted to the tournament director complete with scores and a supplemental report for send offs, injuries or special circumstances that need explanation.

CONTROL OF SIDELINE CONDUCT

Players, reserve players, managers, coaches, and fans are expected to conduct themselves within the letter and spirit of "The Laws of the Game." The Site Director has the authority and the responsibility to remove any person(s) from the tournament for abuses of conduct, in addition to any specific disciplinary action brought about by any other authority.

The Site Director will designate one sideline to be for the sole use of the players listed on the game roster and a maximum total of three (3) managers/coaches/trainers from each team, with one team occupying one side of the mid field and one team, the other. While the game is in progress the manager/coach/trainer and the reserve players must remain on their respective benches and may not roam the sidelines. The Tournament Director will designate the opposite sideline for the spectators. No one will be allowed behind either end line.

The manager/coach will be responsible for the behavior of their fans and the referee will have the authority to warn and ultimately send off, any manager/coach whose fans behave in an abusive or disruptive manner.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS ARE NOT PERMITTED AT GAME SITES
ARTIFICIAL NOISE-MAKING DEVICES ARE PROHIBITED**

CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

It shall be solely the team's responsibility to determine the status of its players. Any suspension from a tournament, local league, etc. is the responsibility of the team to notify the tournament director of this suspension at the time of the player's check in.

Per Florida Youth Soccer Association rule 504.1-Red Card suspension or send off suspensions can only be served with the team with which the suspension was earned in games played by their team. Players **may not** serve suspensions as "guest players."

Tournaments will have a Discipline committee of no less than three (3) members. The Discipline Committee will review and rule on all reports of unacceptable conduct by players, manager, coaches, referees, spectators, etc. using the Florida Youth Soccer Association standards as set by rule Section 502.

All players and managers/coaches shall be subject to Florida Youth Soccer Association Section 502 - Discipline and Sanctions.

A player, manager, or coach ejected will have an automatic minimum one (1) game suspension regardless of the cause of the ejection.

A coach or spectator who is ejected must leave the field area a minimum of 100 yards immediately (out of sight and sound). Failure to comply will result in suspension from the entire event and jeopardize inclusion into future events.

Suspended Coaches may be located on the spectator side of the field but may not coach or communicate with the team in any manner; players may sit with the team but may not be in uniform.

Depending on the severity of the unacceptable conduct, the discipline committee may recommend the suspension of up to the duration of the tournament with further disciplinary action by the appropriate national and State Association, Federation or any other USSF affiliated organization. The discipline committee recommendations will be available to the affected parties no later than before their next scheduled game.

At the conclusion of the tournament, it is the responsibility of the team's coach or manager to pick up the passes from the tournament office (even if suspension has not been completed). A complete report will be sent to the Florida Youth Soccer Association Review & Discipline Committee for forwarding to the appropriate State and National Association.

A complete report will be sent to FYSA within seventy-two (72) hours of the conclusion of the tournament for possible further discipline.

DETERMINATION OF GROUP WINNERS

In group play, there will be no overtime games. Standings in a group will be determined by:

Game Points: 3 points for a Win 1 point for a Tie 0 points for a Loss

If Two Teams Tie:

Start with tie breaker number 1 and proceed through each level, as needed to determine a winner.

1. Head to head result
2. Net goal differential, CAPPED to +/- 4
3. Most goals scored, NOT CAPPED
4. Least goals allowed, no maximum
5. Most Shutouts
6. Minus 1 Game Point for each Red Card/Send-off
7. Penalty kicks* in accordance with FIFA "Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark."

*If both teams are to advance to the playoff rounds a coin toss will decide the higher seed in lieu of penalty kicks.

If Penalty kicks* in accordance with FIFA "Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark." is required to determine the winner for advancement after steps 1-6 still result in a tie, penalty kicks will be taken thirty (30) Minutes before the scheduled start of the elimination game or earlier if a mutually convenient time can be agreed upon with representatives of both teams and the Tournament Director.

If more than two teams are involved in a tie, tie breaker number 2 (except in the case of example 3) will be used first to rank the teams. If teams are still tied, tie breaker number 3 will be used to rank the teams, and so on until a tie is broken. Once a team has been ranked higher or lower, the tiebreaking procedure begins for the remaining tied teams with number 1. If more than two teams are still tied after tie breaker number 6 a coin toss will be held with the odd team sitting out. The other two teams will then take kicks from the mark to establish a winner. The winner of this will then play the team sitting out, (kicks from the mark) the winner will advance. When all teams will advance to the playoff rounds a coin toss, as sequenced above, will decide the team's seed in lieu of kicks from the mark.

Example 1: (4 Team Bracket) Three teams have 6 points and have all defeated each other. Team 1 has a goal differential of +6, team 2 is +4 and team 3 is +2. team 1 is 1st, team 2 is 2nd, and team 3 is 3rd.

Example 2: (4 Team Bracket) Three teams have 6 points and have all defeated each other. Team 1 has a goal differential of +4, team 2 is +4 and team 3 is +2. Team 3 is 3rd, Team 2 defeated team 1 therefore team 2 is 1st and team 1 is 2nd.

Example 3: (6 Team Bracket) Three teams have 6 points and Team 1 has defeated the other two. Team 1 will be the group winner. The tie breaking procedure begins for the remaining tied teams with number 1.

The team whose official tournament name, as written in the schedule, is first alphabetically will call the coin toss.

In the semi-final and final game, if a clear winner is not decided after regulation time, overtime will be played. Overtime will be two periods of equal length, per law 7. If a clear winner is not decided after the overtime periods, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA "Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark." In quarter-final matches if a clear winner is not decided after regulation time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA "Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark."

The tournament reserves the right to adjust pairings of the first elimination round so teams will not play teams already played.

FORFEITS

A minimum of seven (7) players (ages U13-U19) constitutes a game. Games should start at the given start time. In case the team does not have seven (7) players present, there will be a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes grace period before awarding the game to the opponent. A forfeit will be scored 4-0.

Modified Forfeit Rule: U9-U10 (6) players constitutes a game. U11-U12 (8) players constitutes a game.

In no case shall a team which forfeits a game be declared a flight winner, group winner, division winner or wild card team. The team with the next best record will advance.

PROTEST AND DISPUTES

There will be **NO PROTESTS**. Decisions by referees may not be appealed. All disputes will be resolved immediately by the Site Director. These decisions will be final.

EXTERNAL CONDITIONS, WEATHER, ETC.

Regardless of weather conditions, players and coaches must be on the field at the scheduled time, ready to play. In case of inclement weather or field conditions, games may:

- Be shortened - The Tournament Director may reduce the length of matches due to weather conditions before the start of a match; all such matches will be considered official.
- Be rescheduled (time and location determined by Tournament Director).
- Go to "Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark." (time and location determined by Tournament Director)
- Be canceled

If the Tournament director rules that during the preliminary round "Taking of Kicks from the Penalty mark." will be done due to inclement weather or field conditions, the following rule will apply:

- Each team will take a maximum of five (5) penalty kicks.

- At the end of five (5) kicks the game will be scored as a 1-0 win for the team that has scored more penalty kicks, or a 0-0 tie if both teams are tied in penalty kicks at the end of five (5) kicks.
- In the overall standings, 3 points will be given for the win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss.
- The 1-0 win in penalty kicks will not be counted for or against to determine the tie breaker for advancement
- If regular games have been played in the bracket and the Tournament Director has determined that other games go to penalty kicks due to inclement weather or field conditions, the regular games score will revert back to a 1-0 win or 0-0 tie.

Only referees or duty manager can suspend a match already started due to weather conditions. Any one single suspension of a match may last no longer than 60 minutes or to the next schedule game start time whichever is later.

In case of extreme weather (heat/humidity), a break will be given at the midpoint of each half of regulation time and at the end of each overtime period (if played) for player hydration. This break will be given at a normal stoppage of play and it is mandatory for any FYSA sanctioned match during which the air temperature is or is expected to reach eighty-five (85) degrees. (FYSA Bylaw 402.4)

TERMINATED GAMES

Games terminated for other than inclement weather, i.e. violent or uncontrollable situations will not be replayed.

The decision as to the score of such games and whether teams advance will be made by the Tournament Director after receiving reports from game officials. The decision of the Director will be final and is binding on all parties.

Pool play matches

In the event a referee terminates a match (different from temporarily suspending), before half time, it will be up to the Tournament Director whether to record the score at the time of the termination or finish the game at a rescheduled time and location.

In the event a referee terminates a match (different from suspending) after half time the score will be recorded, as it was when the game was stopped and declared official.

Play-off matches

In the event a referee terminates a match (different from suspending) the score will be recorded as it was when the game was stopped. In the event, a match, other than the final, ends in a tie, the team that earned the most points during the round robin play will be declared the winner. If the teams have the same number of points, the criteria in the DIVISION RANKING CRITERIA will be used to break the tie.

Final Matches

In the event, a referee terminates a final match (different from suspending) while the teams are tied, co-champions will be declared. Both teams shall receive championship trophies.

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL CEREMONY

Following the completion of each championship game, the two competing teams will present themselves to the Tournament Director for awards on stage.

GENERAL

The Tournament Committee & Florida Youth Soccer Association and/or the host affiliate will not be responsible for any expense incurred by any team due to the cancellation in part or whole of this tournament.

The tournament committee's interpretation of the foregoing rules and regulation shall be final and reserves the right to decide on all tournament matters.

If not enough teams are realized within a specific age bracket, the tournament Director shall notify the participants as soon as possible and the participants given the option to play up or to receive a full refund.

The tournament committee has the responsibility to uphold any previous suspension imposed by Florida Youth Soccer Association, US Youth soccer and/or affiliates of USSF; the hosting party is not responsible for the behavior of players, coaches, and spectators off

the field, or damages resulting from such behavior. Coaches and players committing breaches of the law may be ejected from the tournament at the discretion of the tournament committee.

TOURNAMENT REFUND POLICY

- A. Within three (3) days after notification that the team is not accepted by their application.
- B. Within five (5) days upon cancellation of the tournament.
- C. Within ten (10) days of withdrawal request of the application by a team prior to acceptance of that application by the tournament prior to January 20.

Any team that will not be permitted to play in the contracted age group shall have the option to withdraw and receive a full refund of all entry fees. All tournaments shall notify any participant not less than fifteen days prior to the beginning of the tournament if any age group advertised will not be offered.

CONCUSSION POLICY

In accordance with Florida Statue 943.0438 a player that receives a possible concussion or head injury during competition under Florida Law must be removed from play. Before the player may return to competition a written medical clearance to return stating that the youth athlete no longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or other head injury must be received from an appropriate health care professional trained in the diagnosis, evaluation and management of concussions. In Florida, an appropriate health-care professional (AHCP) is defined as either a licensed physician (MD, as per Chapter 458, Florida Statutes), a licensed osteopathic physician (DO, as per Chapter 459, Florida Statutes), a licensed physician assistant under the supervision of a MD/DO (as per Chapters 458.347 and 459.022, Florida Statutes) or health care professional trained in the management of concussions.

The Technical Area/Box, Laws of the Game, FIFA Rules: The technical area relates to matches played in game fields with a designated seated area for team officials, substitutes and substituted players as outlined below:

The technical area shall only extend 1m (1yd) on either side of the designated seated area and up to a distance of 1m (1yd) from the touchline

- markings shall be used to define the area, temporary or Permanent.
- the number of persons permitted to occupy the technical area is defined by the competition rules
- the occupants of the technical area: o are identified before the start of the match in accordance with the competition rules o must behave in a responsible manner o must remain within its confines except in special circumstances, e.g., a physiotherapist/doctor entering the field of play, with the referee's permission, to assess an injured player • only one person at a time is authorized to convey tactical instructions from the technical area

PLEASE REMEMBER

AT THE END OF EACH GAME, A TEAM REPRESENTATIVE MUST SIGN/INITIAL THE GAME REPORT AND TO GET YOUR PLAYER CARDS BACK FROM THE REFEREE AT THE END OF EACH GAME

RED CARDS MUST BE RETRIEVED FROM THE TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR TEAM REMOVES ALL TRASH FROM THE SIDELINE AFTER EACH GAME

IN THE EVENT OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY THERE ARE CERTIFIED ATHLETIC TRAINERS ON SITE

COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BEHAVIOR OF THEIR SPECTATORS