



Kohl's American Cup TOURNAMENT RULES and COACHES INSTRUCTIONS

Revision 3

The Kohl's US Youth Soccer New Hampshire American Cup Policy and these rules will govern this tournament.

REGISTRATION:

All players/teams must be registered with NHTSA and in good standing. Only regular season recreation teams may enter. NO competitive teams will be allowed to participate. No merging of teams will be allowed.

Registrations cannot be accepted after registration is closed. All registrations must be completed through GotSoccer. **Official team rosters must be submitted with team registration through GotSoccer.**

CHANGES/ROSTERS:

Team rosters are frozen as of October 15th. New players may not be added to the team roster after October 1. Errors on player/coach data to a previously submitted roster must be to the VP of Recreation one week before the first game of the tournament. Only recreational teams that have been playing together for the season may enter. No all star teams are allowed.

Rosters must include team name, player name, player birth date, coaches/asst. coaches names, and coach contact information including email address as well as player jersey numbers.

Only coaches on the roster and completed the Kidsafe process may be on the players bench area.

PLAYER PARTICIPATION/UNIFORM/ELIGIBILITY:

NHTSA requires that each player on each team play **at least** (1/2) one-half of each game except for reasons of injury, illness or discipline. Goalies may play the full game in goal. This includes the round robin games. **Play time will be monitored.** Infractions will be reported to the tournament director for action. Action could result in forfeiture.

- a.) NHTSA encourages proper uniform to be worn. Same color shirt, shorts and socks should be worn. If cold weather makes it necessary to wear warmer clothing, the clothing must be worn under the uniform and the socks pulled up over any pants. Hooded sweat shirts are NOT allowed. Goal keepers do not have to have socks over pants. All players must wear shin guards under the socks.
- b.) Mouth guards are not mandatory; however we strongly encourage the use of a mouth guard for those players with dental braces.
- c.) A player may only be on one roster in any given division. A player may be doubled rostered only if they are playing up in a division. For example: a U14 player may be on a U14 roster and a U16 roster. No player may play down in a division. If it is proven to the satisfaction of the tournament director that an ineligible player was used, that team will forfeit all games played while using that player. Protest of use of an ineligible player must be filed with the Site Coordinator within 30 minutes of the end of the match.

TEAM SIGN IN:

The coach must sign in the team at the registration tent. All players and coaches should check in as a group. You must check in each *day* that your team plays. Rosters submitted through GotSoccer are the official roster. Rosters must include jersey numbers for all players.

NHSA ask that a coach sign in his/her team in at least 30 minutes prior to the first scheduled match that day. Matches must start on time and if only seven players are present, the match will begin on time.

A player who arrives at the playing field after the start of the game may enter the game after checking in with the Site Director and then the Center Referee.

GAME PROCEDURES:

a.) Round Robin Format:

Teams will be placed into groups randomly and play other teams in that group. The winner of that group will play the winner of the other group and so on to determine who will advance to the semifinals/finals.

Games will consist of 30 minutes of running time for all preliminary games. Depending on the number of teams in a group each team will play 3-5 matches that day. Byes may be assigned as needed.

Advancement will be determined in priority order, as follows

- 1) Most points in the group (win = 3 pts, tie = 1 pt, loss = 0 pt)
- 2) Head to head competition
- 3) Least goals allowed
- 4) Goal differential (goals scored minus goals allowed) with a maximum of a four goal (differential) per game
- 5) Penalty kick shoot out (one round)
- 6) Penalty kick shoot out golden goal rounds (round is one player from each team, first team that leads after a one person round, wins)

The second place team with the most points will decide Wild Card Play off spots when teams play the same number of games in a round robin. If groups are uneven and teams play a different number of games, then the Wild Card will be determined by the Best Goal Difference Average of the teams in second place in each group. Best Goal Difference Average will be determined by dividing the Goal Difference by the number of games played.

Check your schedule or the sign in area to see where to play your next match if you are advancing.

Coaches must verify the final score and sign off with the center referee before leaving the field after each game played.

NOTE: There is NO advantage to scoring many goals against an opponent in terms of advancement potential. A four-goal differential is considered a comfortable win. Coaches that deliberately and unreasonably run up scores against weaker opponents will be cautioned. Repeat offenders may face other sanctions.

b.) Substitutions:

Substitutions may occur at any stoppage to include all free kicks, throw-ins and injuries.

Substitutes may only enter the field with the consent of the referee and must be at the halfway line prior to the substitution opportunity.

c.) Elimination matches/Quarter Finals/Semi-Finals

If needed, elimination/quarter or semi final matches will be played as follows: U12 – two 30 minutes halves, no more than 5 minute half period; U14 – two 35 minute halves, no more than 5 minute half period, U16, two 40 minute, U19, two 45 minute. The referee may use discretion in extremely hot, humid weather for halftime periods. In the event of a draw at the end of regulation play, two 5 minute periods will be played in there entirety. Golden goal is not in effect during the two overtime periods. If the match remains a draw, one round of five (5) penalty kicks will be used, followed by a second round, "golden goal" penalty kicks consisting of the remaining players who have not yet taken a kick. Only those players on the field after the overtime are eligible to participate in penalty kicks. During each "golden goal" penalty kick round, both teams will be allowed the opportunity to score. Once all remaining players on the field have taken a kick, any player on the field may take ensuing kicks, in any order. The "golden goal" penalty kick process will be repeated until a winner is named

d.) Finals:

Matches will be conducted in the same manner as the elimination matches except: U12 shall play two 30 minute halves; U14 two 35 minute halves; U16 two 40 minute halves and U19 two 45 minute halves.

e.) Forfeits:

Teams must show at the scheduled time. After the scheduled time has passed and upon a reasonable wait period agreed to by the coach of the team present not to exceed 10 minutes, a forfeit shall be called. Teams must have at least seven players to start a legal game. Teams must assume the game will be played unless contacted by the tournament official. Teams that call in a forfeit will not be allowed to recall the forfeit once the other team's coach and the referees have been notified. A \$50.00 fine will be assessed for each game forfeited.

f.) Post Game Procedures:

Please ensure that the sideline area is clean and all trash is in containers before leaving the area.

CONDUCT:

Players will be instructed to play according to FIFA Laws of the Game.

Verbal/physical abuse by coaches, players and spectators will not be tolerated and may result in expulsion from the field area. This caution is extended during and immediately after the game. Violations are considered a serious offense, particularly if it occurs against referees during or after a match. **The NHSA Coaches Code of Ethics is in effect at all times.**

Coaches will ensure that players respectfully shake hands at the end of each match.

Games must be played in their entirety unless the referee shortens the match. Any coach that pulls its team from the match before the final whistle could be fined up to \$500 and suspended from any New Hampshire Soccer Association event for up to 13 months.

AWARDS:

a.) Regional: (if regional format is used): There will be one team plaque awarded to each team that represents their age group from their region in the semi-finals. There will be one Regional Sportsmanship Award plaque awarded to one team from each region. One Sportsmanship Award winner will be selected from the four regional candidates.

b.) Finals: State champion teams will receive a permanent team award, a rotating team trophy (that remains at the NHSA State office), and individual awards. Finalists will receive individual awards.

Players from the team awarded the Sportsmanship Award will receive individual awards during the break of the finals and the team will receive a rotating team Sportsmanship Award trophy,(that remains at the NHSA State office), and a permanent team award.

Participation Awards: Every player and coach that participates in the Kohl's NHSA American Cup will receive a memento of the event. These will be handed out to all team coaches upon their first sign-in.

PROTESTS AND CHALLENGES

Once play has begun, the decision of the referee is final. No protests will be permitted.

Challenges on player/team eligibility shall be filed with the Site Coordinator within 15 minutes of completion of the match. Decisions of the site coordinator are final. Teams found to have used ineligible players as a result of a challenge shall forfeit all games in which the player was used

EXTRA EXTRA:

Parents and spectators may not sit or stand behind goals at any field.

Parents and spectators must be on the opposite sideline of the players.

Concession will be available at all fields.

No dogs are allowed on the fields

The Kohl's Experience Vehicle will be at tournament

