

## **Tournament guidance to coaches**

U10 and U12 practice field reservations will no longer be in effect. Available practice space will be scarce and will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

All players WILL be provided the opportunity to participate in at least 50% of every game or as closely as possible, except for reasons of injury, illness, absence, discipline or lack of required equipment (e.g., shin guards). Any player arriving after the start of the game MUST be allowed to play not less than one half of the game or the remainder of the game if less than one half remains. The 50% Rule applies to regulation time but not to the overtime period.

Coaches and substitute players need to remain within their technical areas throughout the game. Coaches need to be wearing their team's coach's shirts.

For substitutions, have your substitutes ready near the midfield line but back at least a yard from the field so as not to obstruct the assistant referee's view. Players may substitute only during a game stoppage by the referee and may enter or exit the field only with the referee's permission.

Times that substitutions may be made:

- A. Prior to a throw-in, but only if the team with the throw-in substitutes.
- B. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
- C. After a goal, by either team.
- D. After an injury, on either team, when the referee stops play.
- E. At halftime.

Notify the referee before changing the goalkeeper. (Not required at halftime.)

U10 goalkeepers can play that position the whole game.

Keep water breaks limited to players' getting hydrated and back on the field quickly.

When a player is injured, the non-injured players should not take a knee but should remain standing, to enable the referee to better identify the injured player. An injured player can signal the referee by taking a knee, but the referee may or may not stop the game immediately as the referee will take into account the severity of the injury and the proximity of the injured player to the play in progress.

Group games can end in a tie; semifinal and championship matches need a clear winner. If the teams are tied at the end of regulation in semifinal and championship matches, one 12-minute "golden goal" overtime period will be played. ("Golden goal": Team to score first wins.) If still tied at the end of the "golden goal" period, a penalty shootout, with kicks taken from the 10-yard penalty mark. Only players on the field at the end of the "golden goal" period will be allowed to take penalty kicks.

After the game, the referee will ask the coaches to sign the game report. Your signature just verifies the score.

After the last game of the day/night, the home team will collect and bring the corner flags to the concession stand.

Best of luck to your team in the tournament.