



2025 FC UNITED MIDWEST CLASSIC TOURNAMENT RULES (Aug 2025)

LAWS OF PLAY

Play will be governed by the FIFA Laws of the Game, except where amended by USYSA Rules of Play, the State Soccer Association Rules of Play and/or the tournament Rules. These rules may be modified by the Tournament Committee before the beginning of tournament play.

TEAM, PLAYERS AND COACHES CREDENTIALS

Player Cards - All players must be properly carded for the current year, with US Club or USYS. All players must be registered to the competing team. Teams must be in good standing with US Club, US Youth Soccer, the Iowa Soccer Association, and other accredited US Soccer programs. Any ineligible player discovered will cause the team on which they played to forfeit any game results for the event. The opposing team would be awarded the maximum points as outlined in the scoring provisions of the tournament.

Coaching Cards – All coaches must have an approved ‘coach card’ from US Club or USYS or an approved US Soccer affiliate. Only coaches and players are allowed on the ‘team’ sideline. There shall be no more than 2 coaches allowed on the team bench at a game.

Guest Players - Teams may have up to 5 guest players; guest player forms will be required and must be pre-approved by the MWC Tournament Director and included on your team check-in and game rosters.

Player Cards – Player cards must be submitted to the MWC Registrar at MidwestClassic@fcunitedcr.com, prior to the event. If there are any issues or discrepancies during the event, the game may be played, at the discretion of the referee, however, the issue will need to be addressed and resolved only at the Official Headquarter immediately upon conclusion of that game. Should an unauthorized player be used during a game, the team at fault would forfeit that game and the resulting score shall be 4-0 in favor of the opposing team.

Traveling Teams - Teams must comply with their state association’s travel procedures.

Dual-Rostered Players - All Dual Roster player requests must be pre-authorized by the Midwest Classic Tournament Committee. Unless approved with the MWC Tournament Director(s), a player can only play on one team in any single age-group/flight during the tournament.

Rosters - A certified state roster must be submitted before the tournament begins. These are to be submitted electronically to Midwestclassic@fcunitedcr.com All teams must follow the applicable procedures of the US Youth Soccer Travel Policy for your state.

Medical Waivers – All participating players must have completed a fully executed US Club or USYS medical waiver with their home club and these waivers must be available at any time at the request of the MWC Tournament Committee or MWC Tournament Director. Teams are required to carry these written medical releases from parents/guardians in case emergency medical care is necessary.

Foreign (non USA) Teams - Foreign teams or a team coming from a CONCACAF nation: Players must present passports at registration or, if from a nation that the United States does not require a passport, proof of entry into the United States that is required by the United States. Teams are also required to have player picture identification cards. You must also have the required completed form from your Provincial or National association approving the team's participation in the tournament.

GAME ROSTER

After check-in/registration, teams may not alter their rosters or make additions/subtractions at any time. Tournament roster will be limited as follows: 7v7 at 14 active players, 9v9 at 16 active players, 11v11 at 20 active players.

HOME TEAM

There will be no pre-game coin toss. The home team, as listed, shall select either the side of the field or the ball. The away team is responsible for wearing an alternate color jersey, in the event a uniform conflict is determined by the referee. The team listed first in all rounds shall be the home team.

Both teams (players) shall use the side of the field with team benches and spectators shall use the opposite side of the field.

EQUIPMENT/UNIFORMS – SHINGUARDS ARE MANDATORY

Teams must have matching uniforms, and should have numbers on the jersey back. Goalkeeper must have a different color from their team as well as the opponent. If team colors conflict the "Away" team is responsible for changing colors. All player equipment is subject to Referee approval. **All players must wear shin guards and the referee has the right to request players to put on shin guards that are sized properly.**

PLAYING CONDITIONS

Teams will be expected to play according to the official tournament game schedule. Only the Tournament Director(s) may reschedule games or alter the competitive format because of inclement weather or other just cause. Games shall be considered complete if one half has been completed and play is stopped by the Field Representative or Referee, Commissioner of Referees or the Tournament

Director(s). In the event any game is stopped by the referee or the MWC event Director(s), the match result will stand as reflected at the time the game was terminated. Should the game be in the first half, the match may be suspended and restarted at a later time, at the discretion of the MWC Tournament Committee. When necessitated by playing conditions or just cause, the game format may be altered to include shortening the length of the game.

BRACKETING

4-TEAM BRACKETS: (one four-team bracket): Round robin games with each of the other teams in the bracket. High point team will be Champion. Team with second highest point total will be the Runner-up.

5-TEAM BRACKETS: (one five-team bracket): Bracket play is round robin games with other teams within the bracket (each team gets 3 game min). If teams do not play an equal number of games, the final results will be based on the average points per game.

6-TEAM BRACKETS (two three-team brackets): All teams would play 3 games. Teams would play 2 games against teams within their bracket and one match-up game versus the opposite bracket. The primary objective applied will be separating teams from within your own club. The cross-over match may otherwise be random. Points from your cross-over match will figure into the final standings.

PLAYOFFS — There currently is no playoff format at this event.

POINT SYSTEM - BRACKET WINNERS & RUNNER-UP

Bracket winners and Runner-up for the U11-19 Divisions will be determined by the following point system:

Win ----- 3 (three) points

Loss ----- 0 (zero) points

Tie ----- 1 (one) point

Shutout ----- 1 (one) point

A team that forfeits a game will give up 4 (four) points, 3 for the win and 1 for the shutout, to the declared winner of the game. Registered teams forfeiting a game agree to a \$200 fine, along with forfeiture of their registration fee. The match will be scored as a 4-0 win for the declared winner. If a team is not scheduled for three bracket games, that team's point total will be prorated based on the number of scheduled games played. This would include games abandoned due to weather.

AWARDS - BRACKET WINNERS & RUNNER-UP

U11 – U19 team player awards will be given to the Champion & the Runner-Up in your division.

U9-U10 will play in a festival format. No Championship or Final. These teams would qualify for a participation recognition.

TIEBREAKERS

If at the conclusion of bracket play, two or more teams have the same point total, the following criteria will apply:

1. Head to Head
2. Goals Scored Minus Goals Allowed (Max. diff. of 4 goals – ex. game score of 7-1 would be scored 5-1)
3. Total Lowest Goals Against
4. Total Highest Goals For (Max of 4 per game)
5. Most Shutouts
6. Fewest Red Cards
7. Earliest to Register for the event.

SUBSTITUTIONS

U09 - U12 – at any stoppage and unlimited (at the discretion of the Referee)

U13 - U18 – Unlimited. At any stoppage, with the consent of the Field Referee, substitutions may be made from the center of the field, prior to **either** team's throw-in or **either** team's goal kick, after a goal scored by **either** team, during a stoppage of play for an injury and in accordance with the Laws of the Game. A cautioned player may be substituted for before restart of play with the Referee's permission, this is not mandatory.

GRACE PERIOD

U9 – U12 A minimum of five players constitutes a team to kick off a game.

U13 – U14 A minimum of seven players constitutes a team to kick off a game.

A (5) five-minute grace period shall be extended beyond the scheduled kick off time if five (U9U12)/seven (U13-U14) are not available at the scheduled kick off time. A team of five (U9-U12)/seven (U13-U14) players must start the game as soon as seven players are at the field after the originally scheduled start time. If at the end of the 5-minute grace period the team does not have five

(U11-U12)/seven (U13-U14) players, the referee shall terminate the game and report the failure of the team to appear to the Tournament Director(s). The Director(s) may declare a forfeit. Forfeit rules noted in the event rules will apply.

GAME LENGTH

U9 & U10 (7v7) Two 25 minute halves. Halftime 5 min.

U11 & U12 (9v9) Two 30 minute halves. Halftime 5 min. (pk's if necessary in the event of a tie, only if there is a scheduled championship match/final)

U13 - U14 (11v11) Two 30 minute halves. Halftime 5 min. (pk's if necessary in the event of a tie, only if there is a scheduled championship match/final)

U15 - U19 (11v11) Two 35 minute halves. Halftime 5 min. pk's if necessary in the event of a tie, only if there is a scheduled championship match/final)

Due to the restrictions of the event and tournament format, injury time or 'extra' is not a provision of this event. The referee shall have discretion to determine the expiration of match time, as long as this does not infringe on the subsequent scheduled game from kicking off on time.

Game duration for all ages may be modified at the Tournament Director's and Committee's discretion.

SHOOT-OUTS (PENALTY KICKS) – NOT APPLICABLE AT THIS TIME

Penalty kicks used in any championship matches resulting in a 6-team division, will be run in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game. The referee chooses the goal at which the kicks will be taken. The referee tosses a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss will take the first kick. Both teams take five kicks; kicks are taken alternately by the teams.

If before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could score, even if it were to complete its five kicks, no more kicks are taken. If after five kicks the score is tied, kicks continue until one team has scored a goal more than the other (sudden victory) from the same number of kicks.

Only the players on the field at the end of the match are allowed to take kicks. A different player must take each kick and all eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick. If the player is under suspension they may NOT participate in the kicks.

U9-U12 TOURNAMENT SPECIFIC RULES RELATED TO THESE AGE GROUPS

The following rules apply to all U9-U12 games

- No punting is allowed
- DROP-OFF RULE – To encourage building out and player development, teams will need to drop off to the designated line as indicated below, during opposing team goal kicks and 'punts':
 - U9-10 - Teams will drop off to the mid-field line.
 - U11-12 – Teams will drop off to the top of the center circle.

RED CARDS

The player(s) receiving the Red Card and the Coach must report to Tournament Headquarters following the game. Player will be suspended for a minimum of 1 game. The suspension may be increased depending on the severity of the incident, at the discretion of the Referee and the Tournament Director. If a Red Card is received in Final Match, the player will have to serve suspension in the following year's event. All red cards will be reported to the appropriate state association.

MISCONDUCT AND ABUSE

Referee, player and spectator abuse will not be tolerated during the tournament. The player, coach or fan will be removed from the soccer complex and will not be allowed to return for the day. As such, re-entry may be approved only by first reporting to the Tournament Headquarter. All misconduct and abuse by the player, coach or fan will be reported to their home state association within 48 hours of the end of the event.

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND GAME STOPPAGE POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, at the discretion of the Midwest Classic Tournament Committee games may be modified (shortened game times), rescheduled, or canceled. Should a game need to be delayed or stopped for any reasons, weather included, the game will be considered a full match if the match completed the first half. The final score will be reported as the actual score at the time of the stoppage.

REFUND

There are no refunds, unless games are not played due to weather. In the event matches are canceled by the Midwest Classic Tournament Committee and/or the City of Cedar Rapids, the refund policy shall be as follows:

65% - No games played

30% - 1 game played

0% - 2 games played

No other refunds will apply.

TEAM DISCIPLINE

A coach is responsible for the words and actions of his players and the conduct of their fans/parents. Verbal abuse of the opponents or referees by players, coaches or spectators will not be tolerated. Violations may result in forfeiture of the game and/or expulsion from the tournament. A coach may be carded for failure to control his/her players and/or team fans.

A red carded player and his/her coach must report to tournament headquarters immediately after the game in which the card was given to determine the player's status for subsequent games. Decisions will be based upon the rules of the Iowa Soccer Association, the sanctioning organization for the Midwest Classic.

PROTESTS

Protests must be presented in writing by the head coach to the tournament headquarters within one hour of the completion of the game, and must be accompanied with a \$100.00 cash bond, which will be returned only if the protest is upheld. Only protests that concern the Laws of the Game and ineligible players will be considered. Referee judgment will not be a basis for protests. Decisions of the Tournament Director are final and may not be appealed.

COMPLIANCE

All players must be properly registered with US CLUB SOCCER, USYSA and/or an approved US Soccer affiliate.

Any damage to vehicles or personal articles are not the responsibility of the Midwest Classic tournament, it's Directors or Agents, or the City of Cedar Rapids. Any vehicles ticketed or towed due to non-compliance of the complex, the municipality or the tournament rules, are the responsibility of the vehicle owner.

Any spectators or players asked to leave the complex by the game officials or the MWC Tournament Committee, must report to headquarters prior to being allowed re-entry to the event or the complex.