



INDEPENDENCE CUP TOURNAMENT RULES HANDBOOK

Tournament rules are subject to change at the discretion of the Tournament Director at any time during the course of the tournament.

Tournament Site and Directions

- All fields are located at the Bethpage State Park Polo Fields
Directions: Long Island Expressway (Route 495) East to exit 44S, Seaford/Oyster Bay Expressway (Route 135) South to exit 8, Powell Ave. Head East to Park.

Player Rules

- SHIN GUARDS MANDATORY
- NO JEWELRY
- SHOW GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AT ALL TIMES

Team Rules

- ALL TEAMS MUST HAVE APPROPRIATE UNIFORMS
- NO REMATCHES ALLOWED
- NO ADDITIONAL PLAYERS ALLOWED AFTER SUBMITTING ROSTER
- NO FOUL LANGUAGE, OR VULGAR CHANTING FROM TEAM
- MINIMUM OF 5 PLAYERS REQUIRED TO START GAME FOR U7 and U8
- MINIMUM OF 6 PLAYERS REQUIRED TO START GAME FOR U9 and U10
- MINIMUM OF 7 PLAYERS REQUIRED TO START GAME FOR U11

Spectator Rules

- NO FOUL LANGUAGE, OR VULGAR CHANTING FROM FANS
- NO SMOKING OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON PREMISES
- OUTSIDE FOOD AND DRINKS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED

Scheduling

Games cannot be rescheduled or changed once the tournament schedule has been posted on the Rough Riders Training Center website. **No exceptions!**

Eligibility

All players must be born on or after August 1st in the year of the age group in which they are playing in accordance with USYSA rules. Younger players are permitted to play “up” on older teams, but no player may play “down” on younger teams. **NO PLAYER MAY BE REGISTERED WITH MORE THAN ONE TEAM OR SWITCH FROM ONE TEAM TO ANOTHER DURING THE TOURNAMENT.**

- U7 (8/1/99-7/31/00), U8 (8/1/98-7/31/99), U9 (8/1/97-7/31/98), U10 (8/1/96-7/31/97) and U11 (8/1/95-7/31/96)

Running Time

A five minute grace period will be allowed for the required minimum number of players and an adult supervisor (coach). Any team not on the field ready to play by the time the grace period expires will be declared a forfeit for the match.

- U7, U8, U9 and U10 will consist of two 20 min halves with a maximum 2 min halftime. Each team will switch sides at halftime.
- U11 will consist of two 22 min halves with a maximum 2 min halftime. Each team will switch sides at halftime.
 - Time kept on the field by referee (running time).
 - No stoppage of time except for serious injury or at ref’s discretion
 - Games start promptly according to tournament schedule

Determination of Standings

- Each team in the U7, U8, U9 and U10 divisions are scheduled to play a minimum of three (3) 40 minute games.
- Each team in the U11 division is scheduled to play a minimum of three (3) 44 minute games
- Each division will be broken up into two groups. The teams with the most points from each group will play each other in the championship game held immediately after all games in the division have been completed. The teams with the second most points in the group will play each other in the consolation game held immediately after all games in the division have been completed.

Point System

Teams are awarded: 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss.

The tournament standings are determined by the following:

- Total Team Points
- Tie-breakers:
- Head to Head Competition
 - Least Goals Against
 - Goal Differential
 - Goals Scored

If a team **forfeits** a game, the opposing team will be awarded with a win, one goal scored, and zero goals against.

All scores, results and standings will be posted on www.liroughriders.com.

Championship and Consolation Game

- Championship and consolation games will be decided by penalty kicks if the score remains tied at the end of regulation.
- Each team shall select five players who will enter a rotation of five penalty kicks alternating teams with each kick, with the higher scoring team winning after the first round.

Online Team Roster

- A completed online team roster is due 1 week prior to the tournament.
- Rosters are not considered complete if players do not fill out a waiver form.
- Coaches may not add, cross out, or substitute players once the Online roster has been submitted.
- Players cannot play for another team in the same tournament.
- Player identification needs to be available during team registration or participant(s) may not play

For U7 and U8:

- Each team is allowed 14 players on the roster.
- Team consists of 6 field players and a goalkeeper.
- A minimum of 5 players is needed to field a team.
- Less than 5 players result in an automatic team forfeit.

For U9 and U10:

- Each team is allowed 15 players on the roster.
- Team consists of 7 field players and a goalkeeper.
- A minimum of 6 players is needed to field a team.
- Less than 6 players result in an automatic team forfeit.

For U11:

- Each team is allowed 16 players on the roster.
- Team consists of 10 field players and a goalkeeper.
- A minimum of 7 players is needed to field a team.
- Less than 7 players result in an automatic team forfeit.

Team Sideline & Substitutions

Team Sideline:

- Only **two** adults are permitted to coach from the team sideline.
- All other adults must watch the game from the spectator area.
- Coaches and players may not cross over the designated team sideline area.
- All team bags must be placed neatly on the sideline
- Coaches and players must leave their team sideline immediately after their game.
- Players are responsible to clean up any garbage from their team

Substitutions:

- Unlimited substitutions.
- Substituted players must first come off the field before a new player may enter.
- All substituting players and coaches must remain on team sideline during the game.
- Coaches may not enter the field at any time unless the referee permits.
- Goalkeepers who are substituted must be differentiated with a different colored team shirt.

Field Play

- U7, U8, U9 and U10 – Two 20 minute halves (2 minute halftime)
Field Dimensions – *65 yards x 45 yards*
- U11 – Two 22 minute halves (2 minute halftime)
Field Dimensions – *100 yards x 65 yards*
- Ball size: **Size 4**
- Offside: U7, U8, U9, U10 and U11 – Offside in effect
- Substitutions – FIFA rules apply
- Direct and Indirect – FIFA rules apply
- Penalty Kicks – FIFA rules apply
- Corner Kicks – FIFA rules apply
- Goal Kicks – FIFA rules apply – taken at goal box line

Awards & Trophies

The first and second place teams in each division are awarded trophies. Participation awards will be given to teams ages U10 & below.

Fouls & Penalties

The following card system applies for fouls and penalties

- Yellow Card = Caution
- Two Yellow Cards = Red Card
- Red Card = Player Ejection from Game

If a player is ejected from a game, the player may be suspended for an additional game(s) depending on the severity of the incident.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Committee will have the authority to change games as follows:

- Reschedule any game(s)
- Change the duration of any game(s)
- Cancel any preliminary game(s)

In cases of severe weather conditions before play, the Tournament Committee may reduce the length of the game by fifty percent. Should a game in progress be stopped due to weather conditions after one half has been played, the game will be considered official and the score at the time of stoppage will stand. If a game is postponed or cancelled before one half has been played, the game will be considered a 1-1 tie.

Sportsmanship

Players, coaches and spectators are expected to act in the nature of good sportsmanship at all times. There will be no abuse of referees or tournament officials tolerated, verbal or otherwise. Any indication of such behavior by a coach or parent will result in immediate removal from the Tournament site. **We are all here to play soccer and have fun!**

Referees

- The referee's will have sole jurisdiction over the conduct of the game. It is the responsibility of the winning team or in case of a tie, the home team, to report the score to the Tournament Director.
- If a referee terminates a game for any reason, the score at the time of the termination will stand.

Protests

- **NO PROTESTS** will be considered or allowed.
- If the Tournament Rules appear to be violated, the matter may be brought to the attention of the Tournament Committee for the final resolution.
- All decisions made by the Tournament Committee will be final.

Dismissal from Tournament

The result of a coach, parent, or team fan involved in any type of physical confrontation with other spectators, referees and/or league officials will automatically disqualify **their entire team** from the tournament.

Refund Policy

There is a \$40 administrative fee included in the team entry fee. This fee is non-refundable if the tournament is cancelled due to severe weather.

Any questions regarding the rules of the tournament should be directed to a Rough Riders Tournament Director before the game.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decide on all matters pertaining to the tournament.

Tournament Committee

- Michael Pugliese – Director
- Peter Zaratini – Director
- Flavio Ferri – Director
- Meghan Frey – Assistant Director
- Fred Watcher – Director of Referees

