

LOUDOUN PREMIER CUP



Rules of Competition

1. TOURNAMENT AGE GROUPS:

- 19U (2005 birth year)
- 18U (2006 birth year)
- 17U (2007 birth year)
- 16U (2008 birth year)
- 15U (2009 birth year)
- 14U (2010 birth year)
- 13U (2011 birth year)
- 12U (2012 birth year)
- 11U (2013 birth year)
- 10U (2014 birth year)
- 9U (2015 birth year)

Teams that withdraw from the tournament will not be refunded their application fee. Refunds will only be provided for teams not accepted for tournament play.

2. AGE AND ELIGIBILITY

A Participation in the Loudoun Premier Cup is open to boys and girls teams composed of:

Maximum rostered players:

- 9U-10U 14 players
- 11U-12U 16 players
- 13U-19U Unlimited players (20 players may be suited)

- B. Each team must meet the age limit of the specified division (see below for loan player requirements). Players must have been born during, or subsequent to, the divisional year. Each team accepted must be registered with a National State Association affiliated with the USYS/USSF or national equivalent and must present a valid State or Provincial roster. The only acceptable proof of age will be a valid US Soccer State registration card and a photograph of the player. **CURRENT, DULY AUTHORIZED MEMBER PASSES, MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS AND OFFICIAL STATE APPROVED ROSTERS MUST BE PRESENT AT THE FIELD FOR THE DURATION OF THE GAME.**
- C. **Loan/Guest Players:** A maximum of five (5) for 9U-19U loan/guest players may be used on a Tournament Roster. However, a team using loan/guest players must have no more than a total number of players required by that age group. Loan/guest players must be current US Soccer players. In addition, **ALL** teams must provide duly authorized National State Association documentation (from both state associations) denoting the use of loan player(s) and permission to travel. Teams failing to abide by this rule will not be permitted to play in the tournament. US Club Soccer teams may only bring guest players registered through US Club Soccer. USYS teams may only bring guest players registered through USYS. No roster may be a combination of players registered by different organizations (No “mixed” or double rostered players in the tournament).
- D. **US Youth Soccer Permission to Travel – Region I Teams:** Region I has established the following policy concerning permission to travel when attending US Youth Soccer sanctioned tournaments in Region I. The purpose of this policy is to make it as simple as possible for the US Youth Soccer Region 1 teams to travel to tournaments within Region I. The new policy states that any US Youth Soccer State Association teams within Region I that is accepted into a tournament in Region I do not need permission to travel papers. Permission to Travel is not required in friendly games within Region I.

National State Associations in Region I:

Connecticut
Delaware
Eastern New York
Eastern PA
Maine
Maryland
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York State
West Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont
Virginia
West Virginia

- E. **US Youth Soccer Permission to Travel – Non-Region I Teams:** All non-US Youth Soccer Region I Teams must obtain and approved US Youth Soccer Permission to Travel Form, approved and signed (if required) by a duly authorized State or National Association representative, to attend the Loudoun Premier Cup Soccer Tournament.
- F. Teams that are members of organizations of the United States Soccer Federation but not members of US Youth Soccer (such as AYSO, SAY, US Club Soccer or Super Y Leagues) DO NOT have to have a US Youth Soccer Application to Travel form (although that team’s organization may require that the team have permission). An approved team roster does need to be provided to tournament officials, along w/ current player passes from its organization.

3. LAWS OF THE GAME

All games shall be played in accordance with FIFA Laws, except as specifically modified by these rules.

4. DURATION OF GAMES

The duration of tournament games shall be in accordance with the following:

Age Group	Game Length	Ball Size
9U-12U	50 min games	4
13U-15U	60 min games	5
16U-19U	70 min games	5

5-minute half-time

All games will be played with a running clock. The referee may add time for serious injuries or other incidents, including, but not limited to, deliberate time wasting. The referee is the official timekeeper and therefore all decisions regarding game duration are solely at the referee’s discretion. Each team will play a total of three games minimum. In the event of inclement weather, Loudoun Soccer reserves the right to shorten game times to accommodate an alternative schedule.

5. **FIELD, GAME MANAGEMENT AND PLAYER EQUIPMENT**

- A. DULY AUTHORIZED MEMBER PASSES AND LOUDOUN PREMIER CUP ROSTERS MUST BE AVAILABLE AT THE FIELD 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE GAME AND FOR THE DURATION OF THE GAME
- B. Players (excluding the goalkeeper) must wear numbers on the back of their uniforms and these numbers shall coincide with those listed on the team's Official State Roster.
- C. **PLAYERS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR SHIN GUARDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME.**
- D. Where uniform colors are similar, the designated home team will change colors. Home team is listed first on the schedule.
- E. For all age groups, players and coaches will take one side of the pitch, and supporters will take the other side of the pitch. No one will be allowed behind either end line.
- F. Loudoun Soccer will provide tournament game balls for each game.

6. **PROTESTS**

THERE WILL BE NO PROTESTS.

7. **SUBSTITUTIONS**

- A. **Unlimited substitutions may be made, with the referee's permission:**
Substitutions are permitted between the final whistle and the beginning of Kicks from the Penalty Mark (KFTPM), however, once the first kicker leaves the center circle, the KFTPM phase is considered to have begun and no additional substitutions are permitted except as outlined in FIFA Law 10 (injured goalkeeper).

8. **GAME AND SCORE REPORTING**

- A. The Field Marshal will ensure that the game report forms are properly completed, signatures obtained; each team's head coach or designee as well as the referee will sign game report and scores recorded at the end of each game. Loudoun Soccer will provide a designated field Marshal for their respective game. The field marshal will provide final game score to the on-site Scorekeeper's tent.
- B. The Loudoun Soccer Site Coordinator will ensure that the scores of each game are reported to the Tournament HQ, in a timely manner. Scores will be uploaded to the tournament website.

9. CONDUCT

- A. Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves within the spirit AND the letter of the Law. Displays of temper or dissent are cause for ejection from the game and surrounding field area.
- B. Players, coaches, and team officials ejected from a game by the referee shall be ineligible for the next scheduled game. Also, Tournament management will report yellow and/or red cards issued to players from other State Associations to those players' home State Associations. Repeated violations may result in the suspension of the team from the tournament as decided by the Tournament Committee. The local authorities will be called if necessary.
- C. In the event of an assault or abuse of a game official, a judiciary hearing shall immediately be convened at a Tournament site to be designated by the Tournament Director or Club Technical Director. All terms described in the USSF Official Administrative Rule Book – Misconduct toward Game Official – shall apply. In any event, a player or coach or other team official who is charged with an assault on, or abuse of a game official is suspended from further participation in the Loudoun Premier Cup Tournament and will be reported to the VYSA State Office for further action.
- D. Loudoun County Parks and Recreation, Loudoun Soccer Park, Prince William County Fields, Fairfax County Parks and Recreation prohibit the use of alcoholic beverages at all park and school facilities. Pets are not permitted at any Loudoun Premier Cup sites.
- E. No mechanical noisemakers are permitted.
- F. **SMOKING IS PROHIBITED AT ALL LOUDOUN COUNTY PARKS, LOUDOUN SOCCER PARK, PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY FIELDS AND FAIRFAX COUNTY FIELDS**

10. GROUP WINNERS

- A. Each team will be awarded three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and no (0) points for a loss.
- B. The group winner shall be the team with the most (win/tie) points in their group. In the event of a tie within a group, the following criteria shall be used to determine the winner.
 - a. Head-to-head competition. (In the event of a tie between more than two (2) teams, this criterion will not be considered).
 - b. Most wins.
 - c. Goal Differential (goal differential up to a maximum of 5 goals. Thus, a team winning 5-0 or 8-3 would receive the maximum +5 in goal differential)
 - d. Least goals allowed.
 - e. Most goals scored
 - f. Penalty Kicks – FIFA-Penalty Kick Procedure will be used to determine a winner.
- C. In the event, that a wildcard team must be selected for the playoff round; the above procedure will be used across the entire flight.
- D. During a semifinal and final match, if a tie score exists at the end of regulation, the FIFA penalty kick procedure will be used to determine a winner. Overtime periods will not be used. The winner of the penalty kick shootout will be awarded with 1 additional point to be added to the final score (for example, at the end of regulation, if the score is tied 1-1 the winner of the penalty kick shootout will be awarded 1 additional point to the final score. The final score will be 2-1.)

11. PRE-TOURNAMENT CHECK-IN RULES

On-Line Check-In will be mandatory for this event. All requirements are listed on our Loudoun Soccer tournament website: www.loudounsoccer.com. Go to the Loudoun Premier Cup link for details on how to check-in your team.

12. FAILURE TO SHOW AND FORFEITS

- A. A team shall be allowed a FIVE (5) minute grace period after the scheduled kick-off time before the match is awarded to their opponent. A minimum of
 - o 9U-12U - five (5) players constitute a team and if five (5) players are present, the game will not be delayed.
 - o 13U-19U – seven (7) players constitute a team and if seven (7) players are present, the game will not be delayed.
- B. In no case shall a team, which forfeits a game, be declared a group winner. If an apparent group winner forfeits a game, the group team with the next best record shall be named the group winner.
- C. If a team is the cause for termination of a game, that team will be considered to have forfeited that game.
- D. **A forfeit shall be awarded as three (3) points for the win. The score shall be recorded as 5-0.**
- E. **If (at any time) a team is asked to produce either their duly authorized member passes and/or Loudoun Premier Cup Tournament Roster and they fail to do so, their game MAY result in a forfeit.**

13. INCLEMENT WEATHER

- A. Regardless of weather conditions, players and coaches must be present at the schedule field at the scheduled time, ready to play. In the event of inclement weather, the tournament committee will have the authority to change any game as follows:
 - a. Relocate or reschedule game(s).
 - b. Change the duration of game(s).
 - c. Cancel preliminary game(s) that have no bearing on the selection of division winner(s).
 - d. Games terminated by Game or Tournament officials after one half of play shall be considered official as of the time of termination.
 - e. Cancel the tournament in whole or part.
- B. The tournament officials cannot control the weather, nor can they control whether the fields remain playable. Regardless of weather conditions, players and coaches must be on the field at the scheduled time, ready to play. In the case of inclement weather or field conditions, the tournament will strive to keep teams informed through the website, email, texts, Facebook, and Twitter. Please do not call for information as we will work diligently to keep you informed. C
- C. Any disruption to the tournament because of inclement weather will be communicated to all teams via the website, social media, email, and text. In case of inclement weather, the Tournament Committee will have the authority to change games as Necessary.

14. GENERAL

- A. Under no circumstances whatsoever will the Tournament Committee, Elite Tournaments, Loudoun Soccer Club, its partners, or its subsidiaries be responsible for any expenses (including the Tournament entry fee) incurred by any team. This includes a situation where the Tournament or any game(s) is canceled or terminated in whole or part.
- B. The Tournament Committee's interpretation of the rules shall be final.
- C. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decide on all matters pertaining to this Tournament
- D. This is a STAY TO PLAY tournament. All commuting teams participating in the tournament **MUST** (as a condition of acceptance) make all hotel accommodations using our tournament housing services. Teams not using our tournament housing service will be disqualified.

15. CANCELLATION AND WITHDRAWAL POLICY

If the tournament or any game(s) are canceled or terminated in whole or in part, the Tournament Committee, Elite Tournaments, Loudoun Soccer, INOVA, NSMI or VYSA will NOT be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team. If weather conditions force the Loudoun Tournament officials to cancel the event prior to the start date of the tournament a partial refund of the application fee (\$100) may be returned to the accepted teams after tournament expenses are received and recorded.

Teams that withdraw from the tournament will not be refunded their application fee. Refunds will only be provided for teams not accepted for tournament play. Three games for each team accepted over three days.

16. TOURNAMENT HOUSING SERVICE

Teams participating in the Loudoun Premier Cup **MUST** (as a condition of acceptance) make all hotel accommodations using our tournament housing service partner, a travel/booking agency with a nationwide reputation for excellence in managing travel for sports events.

17. HEADING RULES (U9-U11)

- Play stops when the ball strikes a player in the head. The proper restart depends on whether the player deliberately played the ball with their head.
- If deliberate, the proper restart is an indirect free kick to the opposing team.
- If deliberate and within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.
- If the play by the head is deemed inadvertent, then the proper restart is a dropped ball.

18. BUILD OUT RULES (U9-U10)

- The build out line promotes playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting.
- The Build-Out Line is a line extending from touchline to touchline halfway between the penalty area and the center line.
- Where a physical line is not present, the referee may mark the line with appropriate soft cones, pennies, or other markings placed off the field.

- When the goalkeeper has the ball in hand or a team has been awarded a goal kick, the team not in possession of the ball shall retreat behind the Build-Out Line until the ball is put back in play. The team in possession of the ball is not required to wait until the opposing team retreats behind the Build-Out Line.
- A player shall not be deemed to be in an offside position if such player has not crossed their attacking Build-Out Line at the time the ball is last played or touched by a teammate.
- There are no punts or drop kicks by the goalkeeper. If the goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the punt or drop kick occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick will be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the offense occurred.

19. HOSPITAL INFORMATION

LOUDOUN COUNTY SOCCER FIELDS
INOVA Loudoun
44045 Riverside Parkway Leesburg, VA 20176
Phone: 703-444-6060 or 703-858-6000
Urgent Care Locations – Loudoun County ONLY
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY FIELDS
UVA Health Haymarket Medical Center
15225 Heathcote Blvd, Haymarket VA
FAIRFAX COUNTY FIELDS
Reston Hospital Center
1850 Town Center Parkway, Reston VA

CONCUSSION POLICY

Pursuant to State law, Coaches, referees, medical staff, or tournament officials must remove from play an athlete exhibiting the signs and symptoms of a concussion during practice or a game. Once a coach, referee, medical staff, or tournament official removes an athlete from a game the decision cannot be overturned. Once the athlete is removed from play for symptoms of a concussion the player, is not permitted to return to play until he or she has been assessed by a Licensed Neurologist and received written clearance, signed by the physician. This written clearance must be submitted to, and approved by, a Head Athletic Trainer and the tournament director before the athlete is permitted to return to play.

Additional Info:

Loudoun Soccer Club, its partners and/or its subsidiaries, INOVA, Elite Tournaments, its partners and/or subsidiaries, the Tournament Committee, Virginia 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 tournament rules and regulations shall be deemed final, and the Committee reserves the right to decide on all tournament matters. The Tournament Committee has the responsibility to uphold any previous suspension imposed by ALL Youth Soccer Associations, US Youth Soccer and/or affiliates of USSF. Loudoun Premier Cup, Elite Tournaments and the Tournament Committee, Virginia Youth Soccer and/or the host affiliate will not be 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.

Please Remember:

- At the end of each match, a team representative must sign/initial the match report
- Please ensure your team removes all trash from the sideline after each match.
- In the event of a medical emergency, there are certified athletic trainers on site.
- Head Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their own staff, players, and parents.

Thank you for choosing Loudoun Premier Cup!!!