

Mt Hood Challenge Tournament Rules

IFAB 2024/2025 Laws of the Game apply with the following modifications:

Tournament Headquarters

Tournament Headquarters will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 14811 Kruse Oaks Blvd., Lake Oswego, OR 97035.

Tournament Director:

The Tournament Director reserves the right to make a final call on any rule interpretation impacting the Mt. Hood Challenge for the well-being of all participants and the quality of the tournament.

Refunds

Registration fees are payable in full by the stated deadline unless you have written permission from the Tournament Staff to pay at team check-in. NO refunds are issued for games canceled due to weather (excessive high heat, lightning, thunder), an opponent not showing up, shortened games, abandoned games, or acts beyond our control (smoke, fires, closed fields, government mandates, etc.). If a team is *not scheduled* for four games, a maximum 20% refund of the registration fee paid by a team will be refunded to them; regardless of the number of games not scheduled. Should the Tournament Staff be required to cancel scheduled matches for a reason other than those already listed, a 10% refund of the registration fee paid by a team will be refunded to them for each canceled game. Teams that withdraw from the tournament prior to the date registration closes will receive a full refund, subject to any processing fees. Teams that withdraw from the tournament after registration has closed will not receive a refund.

Team Check-in

Every team must check in at a designated location as posted on the tournament website. We suggest the team leader check-in a minimum of two hours prior to their first game in case there are traffic issues. If you have an early Friday game, you might want to consider checking in on Thursday. Teams must bring six typed copies of the official tournament roster form to team check-in along with player cards or their equivalent as described below. The tournament will keep one roster, returning five approved rosters to the team. One approved and stamped roster will be provided to the referee crew prior to each match.

Every player, coach, and manager on the team must be registered with the same national soccer association, AYSO, USYSA, US Club, etc. Work with your club leaders if you are using players that are not from your sanctioning organization so they get registered with the same organization. Every player/person listed on the tournament roster must be properly registered and in good standing with their state/national association. For documenting this at team check-in, we will accept the following:

- Player cards issued by their state or national association. We do not require photos or laminating. **OR,**
- Official roster issued by their state or national association. Player names, birth dates and ID numbers (if they assign these) must be included. Coach and manager names must be included if they are to be on the team's side of the field. Handwritten names on this roster form will not be allowed. If you have players that are not listed on this roster, you must have a player card for them. This roster does NOT need to be signed by anyone. **OR,**
- The six TYPED Official Tournament Rosters along with the tournament's approved 'Certified Roster Form' (available on the tournament website), completed and signed by your club registrar or other club official.

Once teams have completed the team check-in procedure prior to their first game, they do not need to check in prior to their subsequent games.

We expect each team to make sure they are abiding by the rules set forth by their club and association as to which cards are used for participating in a tournament. It is the club's or the team's responsibility to confirm that every player and adult listed on the roster is allowed to participate with the team and that they are fully insured (medical and liability) by their respective national associations. It is the team's or club's responsibility to confirm that the medical and liability insurance is not adversely affected by the guest players participating with the team for the tournament. It is the club's responsibility to confirm that all adults listed on the roster have completed their background check process and are eligible to coach/manage the team.

Teams will need to check with their respective state governing body for the status of travel papers and other requirements that are necessary when traveling outside of their home state. International teams must bring approved travel papers from their national association, one of the items listed under Team Check-in, and the six typed official tournament roster forms. We do not require medical releases for players, but we strongly recommend you have these in your possession as required by your club when participating in tournaments.

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Player Cards

EVERY person listed on the roster (players / adults) must be properly registered with one of the national soccer associations (AYSO, US Club, or USYSA). Everyone listed on the roster must be in good standing and adults must have completed their background check process and be authorized to coach by the national association issuing their player cards. We will accept the valid 2024/2025 player cards as well as 2023/2024 player cards that have not expired. Lamination and photos are not required.

Player Ages

Age groups in this tournament will be based on the birth year of the oldest player on the team in conformance with US Soccer's birth year registration initiative. All players must be eligible to play in their age division, any exceptions to the rule must be approved in writing by the Tournament Director prior to team check-in. A player may not play on more than one team during the tournament, regardless of the age groups &/or gender of the teams they wish to play on.

U09 = Born in 2016

U10 = Born in 2015

U11 = Born in 2014

U12 = Born in 2013

U13 = Born in 2012

U14 = Born in 2011

U15 = Born in 2010

U16 = Born in 2009

U17 = Born in 2008

U18 = Born in 2007

U19 = Born in 2006

U20 = Born in 2005 (can play on the U19 teams, but cannot have played on any college team)

Roster Size and Guest Players

The U9 and U10 teams will play 7v7 and may roster a maximum of fifteen players. The U11 and U12 teams will play 9v9 and may roster a maximum of eighteen players. The U13-U20 teams will play 11v11 and may roster a maximum of twenty-two players. All teams may have up to six guest players. (A guest player is a registered player participating in a competition for a team to which the player is not on the regular roster for purposes of league play.) No more than eighteen players can be on the match roster to play in a particular game so you must cross off any players above eighteen that might be listed on the approved roster prior to the start of any single game. All eighteen active players may be on the team's sideline during the game for all age groups. Any crossed-off players may sit with the team if not dressed to play **and** with the approval of the referee. A player may not play on more than one team during the tournament, regardless of the age groups &/or gender.

Substitutions

Free substitution will be allowed for all age groups, with the referee's permission, any time play has stopped. A referee may deny a substitution request if the referee considers it to be an intentional plan to disrupt the play, or an attempt to run off an excessive amount of time. Referees are responsible for making sure games do not impact the start of the next game.

Minimum Number of Players

Teams playing 7v7 must have a minimum of five players and one adult who is listed on the roster to participate in a match. Teams playing 9v9 must have a minimum of six players and one adult who is listed on the roster to participate in a match. Teams playing 11v11 must have a minimum of seven players and one adult who is listed on the roster to participate in a match. In the event a team does not have the required participants by fifteen minutes after the scheduled kickoff, the site coordinator shall be notified, and they will communicate with the Tournament Director/Coordinator to obtain instructions on how to proceed. Depending on the decision made, the halves may be shortened to ensure the match terminates at least five minutes before the next match. **At no time shall the referee make the decision to resolve the problem. There are no time restrictions the referee can impose for the short-handed team to field the required minimum participants.** Any decision made about the game will only be made by the Tournament Director/Coordinator. A team that forfeits a game will advance to the medal round if they would otherwise qualify.

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Team Sidelines

Players and Coaches must be on one side of the field, spectators on the other side. Coaches, players, and spectators are not allowed behind the end-line for any reason. Teams may have a maximum of four adults on the team's sideline and all adults must be listed on the approved tournament roster. All active players may be on the team's sideline during the game for all age groups. Any crossed-off players may sit with the team if not dressed to play **and** with the approval of the referee.

Tournament Format and Brackets

Teams within each Division will be placed in brackets and play a preliminary schedule. Teams will be scheduled for a minimum of four games. Home and visiting team designations will appear on the schedules.

Scoring Method

Scoring during the tournament will be based on the following system (maximum of 10 points per game):

Win	6 points
Tie	3 points
Loss	0 points
Shutout	1 point
Goals	1 point for each goal up to 3 points maximum

Tie Breakers

If two teams are tied in points after the preliminary round, the following tie breakers will be used.

1. Head-to-Head Results.
2. Goal Differential. The maximum difference allowed is four per game.
3. Least Number of Goals Allowed.
4. Coin Flip (The coin will be flipped by Tournament Staff).

If three or more teams are tied after the preliminary round, the tie breaker criteria listed will be used in the order shown, beginning with criteria #1, to first eliminate, or second, advance one of the three teams. The remaining teams will then be compared, beginning again with criteria #1.

Game Start Times

Referees will start the game clock at the designated time regardless of whether teams are ready to play. If a team is late for any reason, the referee will work with the onsite tournament staff to contact the Tournament Director/Coordinator, who may decide to delay the start of the game (and the possible restart of the game clock) so the team is able to get to the field. The Tournament Director/Coordinator may allow the start time to be delayed for teams that do not have either the minimum number of players or an adult that is listed on the roster by the scheduled kickoff. In situations where the start time has been delayed, the Tournament Director/Coordinator shall determine the length of the halves.

A referee may add time lost due to injury or perceived time wasting. Regardless of the reasons that the game clock is adjusted, the game must conclude at least five minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff for the next match.

Shortened/Abandoned Games

Referees are the sole arbiter of the game clock and their decisions regarding game length are final (make sure to contact the Tournament Director to discuss all situations) and may not be appealed. If games are shortened or abandoned for any reason, the Tournament Director/Coordinator will decide how the game result shall be determined. Decisions by the Tournament Director/Coordinator in determining the official game result are final and may not be appealed. No refunds are issued due to games being shortened or abandoned.

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Length of Games, Overtime

U09, U10: 25-minute halves

U11, U12: 30-minute halves

U13-U20: 30-minute halves

All games will have a 10-minute half-time.

If Quarterfinal or Semifinal games are tied at the end of regulation time, the game will go to IFAB kicks from the penalty mark. Only players on the field at the end of the game may participate in the kicks from the penalty marks.

If a championship (medals awarded) game is tied at the end of regulation time, a ten-minute overtime period will be played to conclusion. Teams will switch sides at the five-minute mark. If the game is still tied after ten minutes of overtime, the game will go to IFAB kicks from the penalty mark. Only players on the field at the end of the overtime period may participate in kicks from the penalty mark.

Modifications: U9 & U10

Build Out Line: For this tournament, the Build Out Line will be the center line at all fields. At the taking of a Goal Kick or when the goalkeeper takes possession of the ball in his/her hands, the opposing team must retreat quickly to behind the build out line (half line) and remain there until the goalkeeper distributes the ball by throwing or passing or place-kicking the ball. The ball is not in play until either a teammate of this goalkeeper touches the ball, or the ball directly crosses the Build Out Line (half line). If a defending player is nearer to the opponents' goal than the Build Out Line when the ball is distributed, then the goal kick will be retaken. Note: if the goalkeeper **deliberately** distributes the ball before opposing player(s) have retreated behind the Build Out Line they do so at their own risk.

No Goalkeeper Punts: A goalkeeper who has taken possession of the ball in his/her hands may not put the ball in play by punting or drop kicking the ball. If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, the opposing team is awarded an indirect free kick from the spot of the offense. If the punt occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

Modifications: U9-U12

No Deliberate Headers: A player may not use his/her head to play the ball. The infraction consists in deliberately playing the ball with the head. If the referee determines that the ball struck a player in the head when the player is not trying to play the ball, the referee will allow play to continue. The penalty for playing the ball using the head is an indirect free kick at the spot of the infraction. If the infraction is committed within the goal area, the indirect free kick will be taken from the goal area line parallel to the end line at the nearest point to where the infraction occurred.

Player's Equipment

Hard and unyielding items (guards, casts, braces, etc.) on the hand, wrist, elbow, upper arm, or shoulder must be covered and must be padded with a closed-cell slow-recovery foam padding that is no less than one-half inch thick. In addition, if the referee *at any game* determines that the player is (a) using the cast as a "weapon" (that is, using it to gain an unfair advantage or using it as a striking device) OR (b) if the player appears to be significantly unbalanced due to the weight of the cast, the referee shall determine the player to be ineligible to participate further. All equipment is subject to approval by the match referee.

Shin guards, covered by socks, are mandatory.

No jewelry of any kind (earrings, nose rings, body rings, bracelets, necklaces) is permitted. Taping to conceal jewelry is not permitted. Medical and religious items are not considered jewelry and are allowed but must be taped to the body.

Jersey Colors/Numbers

Each team must have an alternate jersey color (or pinnies of a different color). The home team (listed first) will be responsible for changing jerseys if the referee determines the jerseys are too similar in color. Numbers are NOT required on jerseys for teams playing 7v7. We realize that summer tournament teams often borrow players. We discourage having duplicate jersey numbers on the same team but understand this may happen. There is no penalty in these situations, but make sure the referee can differentiate the players and that they have been told in advance of duplicate jersey numbers.

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Game Balls

U09, U10 (7v7): Size 4 ball
U11, U12 (9v9): Size 4 ball
U13-U20 (11v11): Size 5 ball

Each game will be provided with a single Nike ball and will be brought to each game by the referees. If teams/players choose to use their own balls in addition to the provided game ball, they do so at their own risk. The tournament is not responsible for lost or stolen balls.

Concussion Situations

A player who demonstrates signs of concussion because of an observed or suspected blow to the head or body must leave the field and may not return to playing in that match. Referees will include in their match report information about any player required to leave the field because of a suspected concussion. A player who has been removed from a game by a referee because of a suspected concussion is ineligible to play until the Tournament Director has received a copy of a medical release signed by a health care professional that has seen the player in person and has authorized an unrestricted return to competition.

Cautions and Send-Offs/Dismissals

Any player who is sent off (either a “straight red card” or two cautions/yellow cards in a single game) may not be replaced. Any player who is sent off or any coach who is dismissed will receive a minimum one-game suspension (the next game). In addition, any player sent off for violent conduct will receive a minimum two-game suspension. The Tournament Director (or designee) may impose a larger number of suspensions.

Any coach or team official who is dismissed from a game must immediately leave the game site so as not to be within sight or sound of the field, including the use of electronic communication (e.g., cell phone). In the event the coach or team official refuses to leave, the match will be terminated and subsequently abandoned, and the referee will submit a report to the Tournament Director (or designee) who will declare a forfeit by the offending team. Players who are sent off from a match shall remain on the team sideline. The coach is subsequently responsible for that sent-off player and his/her actions. Should that player fail to behave in a responsible manner, then those actions shall be deemed as having originated from the coach who will be held responsible for them, which may result in the coach’s dismissal from the game and the game venue.

Official’s Report

Coaches should verify with the referee at the game’s conclusion that their score matches his report. All game results will be called into tournament headquarters by the site coordinator immediately following each match. In the event of a conflict, the referee report shall be deemed the official score for the game.

Venue Rules

Rules governing game venues are posted at each venue. All teams, coaches, and spectators are expected to follow all posted venue rules. Dogs, smoking, alcohol, and swearing are not permitted at any location. Additional venue rules may be applied at any time before or during the tournament. Violators of ANY rules will be required to leave the venue. Failure to leave the venue when asked may result in a forfeit by the team that person is associated with.

Tournament Rules, Appeals, & Protests

Referee judgment decisions are final and may not be appealed.

Any other appeal/protest must be verbally lodged with the referee and the opposing coach at the game site. The appeal must then be made in writing to the Tournament Director/Coordinator within two hours of the end of the match. There will be a \$150 non-refundable fee for any appeal that is filed. The Tournament Director/Coordinator will review any appeal correctly filed under this rule. All decisions about the appeal/protest of the Tournament Director/Coordinator are final. The tournament Director reserves the right to make a final call on any rule interpretation impacting the Mt. Hood Challenge for the well-being of all participants and the quality of the tournament. The Tournament Director has the final say on all matters concerning this event.

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Referee Assault / Abuse – All Assault / Abuse

Any person who assaults/abuses a referee, coach, player, spectator, or tournament staff will be banned from further participation in the tournament. If the assault/abuse is committed by a player, coach, a team's spectator, or other team official, the team will be removed from the tournament and will forfeit all tournament games, whether played or not. No refunds will be issued to teams that are removed from the tournament for any assault/abuse. Information regarding the assault/abuse will be forwarded to the home state association or national organization and the team's club for further action as required by the US Soccer Federation. If a referee reports abuse/assault, the situation will be reviewed by the Tournament Director and appropriate actions will be taken, which could include removal from the tournament and forfeiting all games.

Medical Trainer and Injuries

Medical staff or trainers are not provided at any game locations. Teams are encouraged to bring their own first aid equipment as the tournament does not have those items, and this includes ice. Emergency services (911) are to be called for all injuries, both on and off the field.

Weather Guidelines

Any changes in game times due to excessively high temperatures will be announced on the website and approved by the Tournament Director/Coordinator. ALL referees will follow all changes to the game times or allow for water breaks as announced. Coaches can always substitute for players to provide additional water breaks as deemed necessary. If excessive heat is forecasted, additional changes may be implemented as deemed necessary for the safety of players, coaches, spectators, tournament staff, and referees.

If play cannot be started or is stopped due to thunder/lightning, teams will take cover, but will remain at the game site and proceed as follows:

The United States Soccer Federation (USSF) position is that if you can hear thunder, you are within reach of lightning and referees must protect the safety of all participants by stopping game activities quickly.

When anyone – Players, Coaches, Referees – sees lightning or hears thunder:

1. Regardless of how far away it may seem, the Referee shall suspend play and stop the match immediately.
2. Players, team personnel, spectators and officials shall leave the field and seek shelter.
 - a. Under a tree is NOT shelter!!!!
 - b. If there are no other options, they shall go to their cars.
 - c. No one may return to the field without approval from the Referee (who will have consulted with the Tournament Director).
3. If no further instances of lightning/thunder have occurred for 30 minutes, then the game will continue as follows:
 - a. If there is sufficient time, resume play and play to completion.
 - b. If there is insufficient time to play the entire game, the game will be continued until five (5) minutes before the next scheduled game-time start. The game will be considered complete.
 - c. If time does not permit resumption of the game, then the game will be abandoned, and Tournament Director shall determine the final game result. The referee will report the score at the time of the suspension to the Field Marshal.
4. If there are subsequent occurrences of thunder/lightning before the game can be restarted, then the 30-minute waiting period shall be "reset" and no play is permitted until that time has lapsed.
 - a. This "timer reset" shall repeat at the occurrence of any subsequent occurrences of thunder/lightning.
 - b. If consequently play cannot be resumed then refer to 3.c., above.

The Tournament Director/Coordinator will coordinate the stoppage of play. The Tournament Director/Coordinator reserves the right to make whatever adjustments may be necessary in game length to proceed with the schedule following delays due to inclement weather, including shortening subsequent games as necessary to complete the schedule. No refunds are issued because of weather delays or due to cancellations because of weather (rain, heat, lightning) or loss of fields due to acts beyond our control.