

## **PHOENIX CUP – RULES OF PLAY**

### **Important Contact Information**

All matters related to the tournament should be directed to the Tournament Director at [mikerocca@ratedsports.com](mailto:mikerocca@ratedsports.com)

It is the responsibility of the coaches and managers to ensure appropriate phone numbers and email addresses are entered into the team's roster/application. Coaches and managers need to review and make sure they are familiar with the rules, pre-match check-in procedures and credentials.

**Online Check-In and Credentials** – please online check-in under forms page.

### **Team Size and Guest Players**

Boys and Girls U9 through U19 are eligible to participate in the Phoenix Cup. Player rosters are limited to 22 players for age groups U15-U20; 18 players for U13-U14 and 16 players for U11-U12, 12 players for U9-U10. All age groups may dress up to the roster size.

A maximum of 6 guest players are allowed during the tournament (must be identified and proper paperwork turned in during team check-in)

### **Foreign Teams**

Foreign players must present passports or legal proof of entry at check-in. Teams are required to have and be able to present player picture passes at all times during play. Tournament rules require that the team have a completed form from its Provincial or National Association approving the team's participation in the tournament.

### **Player Credentials**

Player picture identification cards are to be present and available at all matches. Identification cards will be verified at team check-in. Player cards will NOT be held by the referees for duration of match. Cards for players who receive red cards or suffer a head injury will be retained by the referee and given to the tournament director until a player suspension ends or a player is cleared by medical personnel.

*Any appeal of a player's eligibility must be made before a match begins to a Field Marshal or other tournament official.*

## **Game Card**

Game cards must contain all player names and uniform numbers, which must coincide with the team roster on file. Referees will not allow a player to participate if his/her name and/or number does not conform to the documentation on the roster or game card.

***All teams must print their game cards online*** and bring them to each of their games played. Game cards may be edited at the field using approved players only by writing them in.

Only team personnel (coaches and team managers) whose names appear on the roster and game card may be in the team technical area and represent the team during game situations.

*At the conclusion of each game a Team Representative must sign the game card to verify the documented score is correct. Please verify the written score on the game card is properly documented before signing. Once the card is signed and turned in by the referee the score may no longer be disputed.*

*\*\*Please ensure the game cards are returned to the referee site coordinator at the end of each game.*

## **Player Equipment**

It will be at the Referee's discretion to determine the safety and suitability of player equipment including the wearing of an orthopedic cast or hard brace. Shin guards are mandatory for all players. No jewelry or hair pins allowed.

A soft cast may be allowed at the discretion of the referee or Tournament Director.

Braces and other equipment are subject to inspection and approval by the referee before each match.

## **Head Injury Policy**

The Phoenix Cup follows and adheres to the policies and procedures of US Soccer for treatment and return to play for all head injuries. A player suffering a head injury, at the direction of the referee, must be removed from play and see event medical staff for initial consultation. A player may not return until given proper clearance.

The referee will retain a player pass in the event of a head injury and turn it into the tournament headquarters.

## **Competition Format**

FIFA Laws: All games will be played by FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by USYSA unless otherwise stated in this rules package. Times apply for both bracket and semi-finals/finals. There will be no overtime. Semi/finals will have PKs if necessary.

The Tournament Director reserves the right to alter game formats to enhance competition and improve the overall quality of tournament play. Each team is guaranteed a minimum of

three (3) games.

Format of play is aligned with recommended US Soccer formats for all age groups with the exception that no games will exceed 35 minute halves for this tournament to allow efficient scheduling of all games within the weekend timeframe. Game parameters for each age groups are presented in the competition format table.

### Competition Format Table

Age Group	Players	Duration	Ball
U9	7	2 x 20	4
U10	7	2 x 20	4
U11	9	2 x 25	4
U12	9	2 x 25	4
U13/U14	11	2 x 30	5
U15-19	11	2 x 35	5

U9-U19 will have approx. 5 minute breaks between halves.

Deliberate heading of the ball is not allowed for U9 – U11 play.

One (1) minute water breaks may be ordered for U9 – U12 at the discretion of the Referee. Two (2) minute water breaks are mandated for U13 and above. All water breaks will be taken with a running clock. Players or coaches are subject to yellow card for delay of restart from water break.

Pool play matches ending in a tie will be recorded as such (no PK's). Semifinal and championship games ending in a tie will go immediately to FIFA penalty kicks to determine the winner.

**FOUR TEAM Divisions:** Will consist of one group. Each team will play each other one time with the top two teams advance to a championship game to determine 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

**FIVE TEAM Divisions** Each team will play the others once for a total of 4 matches. Top two teams play in a final match for championship.

### **SIX TEAM DIVISIONS:**

Divisions will consist of 2 groups of 3 teams. Each team will play each team within its bracket and one cross over game for a total of 3 games. Each bracket winner will play in a Final. There is no consolation match.

### **EIGHT TEAM DIVISIONS:**

Divisions will consist of two brackets of four teams. Each team will play each team within its bracket for a total of three matches. The group winner of each bracket will then play in a Final. There is no consolation match.

## **Point System**

The following point system will be used to determine the standings during pool play and preliminary rounds:

- 3 points for a win
- 1 point for a tie
- 0 points for a loss

No points are deducted for accumulated red or yellow cards

A FORFEIT will be scored as a 2-0 win for the winning team.

In the case of a tie in group standings, placement will be determined by:

- Head to head
- Most Wins
- Goal differential
- Goal Against
- Goals Forward
- If a two-way tie exists after steps one through four, FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark will be taken fifteen minutes prior to the scheduled start of the Final match.

If a tie still exists after step 5 penalty kicks will be taken 60 minutes before the start of the semifinal or championship match on a field determined by the Tournament Director. Teams will be notified by phone/text message of the exact time and location of the penalty kicks.

If more than two teams are tied at the end of pool play the tie breaker rules will apply until one team is eliminated and then begin again until only one team remains, or penalty kicks apply.

## **Sideline Assignments**

Both teams will sit on the same side of the field in the Technical Area. Only players and team personnel whose names appear on the filed team roster may be in the technical area. Spectators must sit on the sideline opposite their team bench without crossing the midfield line during the entire match. Spectators must remain at minimum of 3 yards away from the sideline. No spectator affiliated with a team may sit on either end line.

## **Match Ball**

Limited tournament balls will be provided and carried to the field by the referees – home teams are responsible to provide a ball if not provided by tournament.

## **No Shows / Forfeit Time**

All games will begin on time and be considered a forfeit if the proper number of players is not present and dressed/ready for play at game time. The Field Marshal and/or Tournament Director may alter this rule if verifiable circumstances are presented.

## **Substitutions**

Substitutions are unlimited and may be made in the following game scenarios:

Prior to YOUR teams throw in

1. Prior to a goal kick for either team
2. After a goal is scored by either team
3. After an injury, if the referee stops play – one for one (injured player only)
4. Immediately after a player is yellow carded (carded player only)

## **Rules of Conduct**

All coaches have complete responsibility for the conduct of their players, team representatives, coaches, and spectators at all times. If, in the opinion of game/tournament officials, a game must be terminated for misconduct of any affiliated team member or spectator, the offending team will forfeit that game and may be subject to removal from the tournament or further discipline by the Tournament Director. If a team is removed from the tournament all previous points earned remain as recorded.

## **Conduct and Discipline – Red and Yellow Cards**

A player or team representative/coach given a red card in a game shall be expelled for the remainder of that game, shall not be replaced on the field, and is further suspended for the next scheduled match. The Tournament Director shall review all red card reports to determine if an additional suspension is to be administered for violent or unsportsmanlike conduct. Notification of additional suspension will be made by phone to a team representative within 2 hours of the game conclusion. Player cards for red carded players are turned in to the Tournament Director and passed on to governing body if suspension carries beyond the end of the tournament.

Receipt of two yellow cards in the same game constitutes a red card.

A red carded coach must immediately leave the technical area and may NOT sit in the spectator area. The coach must not continue to coach his/her team, nor may have contact with team personnel through electronic communication.

A red carded player may remain on the bench at the discretion of the referee but must remove his/her uniform indicating they are no longer eligible for entry.

The red carded player or coach must have a suspension fulfillment form completed and

signed on file with the tournament before returning to play.

**PROTESTS/APPEALS: NO PROTESTS OR APPEALS WILL BE ALLOWED**

**DISPUTES:** All disputes will be settled by the Tournament director or designee and the decision will be final.

**AWARDS:** Team trophies will be presented to the first and second place team in the U9-U19 age divisions.

**REFUNDS:** NO REFUNDS will be granted to any team accepted to participate in this Tournament.

**TOURNAMENT PLAY:** Each team is guaranteed a minimum of 3 games, with a maximum of 2 games per day.

**TRAINERS AND FIELD MARSHALLS:** The tournament will supply Field Marshalls and Athletic Trainers to help provide your teams a safe experience. Contact the check-in tent for the location of the Trainers.

**FIELD SET UP AND CONDITIONS:** It is the responsibility of each team to treat these facilities with care. The tournament expects that each team clean their sidelines and or pre-game gathering areas of all debris and trash, including tape, immediately after each game. Each field will have numerous trash receptacles, please use them. Your cooperation in this area will ensure that we are able to sue these facilities for future tournaments.

**TBA's**

The Tournament Director reserves the right to amend brackets in the event a team pulls out of the tournament or is a no-show. The Tournament Director will ensure the remaining teams are provided the best possible experience and competitive play in maintaining the integrity of the event.

**Inclement Weather Policy**

**INCLEMENT WEATHER CONTIGENY PLAN:** In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Director reserves the right to modify all tournament rules to fairly and safely complete the tournament. The health and safety of players is our first priority. The tournament has an obligation to protect the fields and facilities that are being used for tournament play. All decisions will be based on field conditions with input from city staff.

It is the responsibility of the coaches to be available for any contingencies and to monitor the tournament website for updates. Field Marshall's at the location will be informed of any changes and will provide instructions to all teams. Coaches are asked to be patient and remain flexible if this unfortunate situation arises.

\*\*\*All coaches/managers are to check their emails and schedules frequently.

As a result of inclement weather, and at the direction of the Tournament Director, one of the schedules will be implemented:

- All games are to continue as scheduled.
- Eliminate pre-game warm up on the field, game times to continue as scheduled.
- Eliminate pre-game warm-up on the field and shorten all games. The Tournament Committee will determine the game length.
- Re-schedule game to another time and or date.
- Cancelled games will sit with a 0-0 score.

Event organizers will not issue refunds or reimbursements of tournament fees for cancellation or forfeiture of individual games.

#### **General Rules – Facility Specified**

- At no time are there to be any alcoholic beverages or tobacco (both chew and smoked) at Tournament sites.
- Absolutely no glass is allowed at Tournament Sites.
- Park in designated parking areas. Do not park along curbs in the sports complex. Overnight RV parking in the lot and in the desert, areas are prohibited.
- Umbrellas/Canopies/Tents or other items cannot be staked into the fields. Weights should be used to secure them.
- Dogs are not allowed at the Reach 11 or Scottsdale Sports Complex. You will be asked to leave the park.
- Skateboards and rollerblades are prohibited.

**SPORTSMANSHIP ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY:** All Spectators, Coaches and Players MUST show respect for each other and the authority of the Referees. Help us set a great example for our youth!

- Please cheer enthusiastically for your team
- Please acknowledge the good play of both teams
- Please do not “help” players or coaches or criticize referees
- Let the players make their own decisions on the field