



Southwest District Soccer League

Youth Cup Rules

1. Laws of the Game

All games shall be played in accordance with the laws of the game observed by the Ontario Soccer Association, the Canadian Soccer Association and F.I.F.A.

2. Teams and Player Eligibility

All Players must be registered in SportsEngine to their appropriate Club and Team. In cup games scheduled after August 1st all players must have played a minimum of 3 regular season games with the team. Players also require a valid player identification to be eligible to play.

Team shall be permitted up to 3 call ups per game during preliminary rounds only. Call ups must be registrants of the same club. Temporary Eligibility Permits or Short Term Registration Permits shall not be permitted.

No call ups shall be permitted for semi-final and final games.

3. Game Duration

U14 games will be played as two 40 minute halves with a 5 minute half-time. U15 to U21 games will be played as two 45 minute halves with a 5 minute half-time. Water breaks will be permitted at the discretion of the referee unless mandatory due to heat advisory.

4. Substitutions

There is no limit to the number of substitutions during a game, but a substitution can only be made during stoppage in play, and only at the referee's discretion.

- When a goal is scored
- At a goal kick
- At the beginning of the first, or second half, or the beginning of overtime or halftime in overtime
- For an injured player at the referee's discretion
- Own throw-in
- Piggy-backing of substitutions will be allowed.

No substitution will be allowed for a player ordered from the field by the referee because of misconduct.

5. Game Sheets and Referees' Reports

All game sheets and referee reports must be submitted to the district, by the Match Official, as soon as possible after the completion of a game in alignment with league rules. Game sheets must be signed by the referee and all officials from each team.

Payment of referees will be handled according to the policies in the 2025 Rules and Regulations.

6. Tie-Break Rules

As games cannot end in a tie, if the teams are tied after regulation time, a winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.

7. Failure to Show

A team shall be allowed a 15-minute period of grace after the scheduled kick-off time before it is considered that they have failed to show. A minimum of seven players constitutes a team and the game will be started if a team has at least this number of players, even if it must play shorthanded against its opponent. The period of grace may be allowed only if there are less than the minimum players required.

In the event of a failure to show, the offending team shall forfeit the game.

8. Player Uniforms and Equipment

Each player must wear a different number on the back of their shirts that coincides with the player's name and number as shown on the game sheet. If the colours clash, the home team will change colours).

The Home Team shall supply the game balls.

9. Field Supervision

Persons acting in the capacity of Field Convener will do the ID check before all championship games hosted by the league. At all preliminary games each team will perform the ID check for the other team, as per League rules.

10. Extraordinary Weather

In the event of severe weather (e.g., continuous heavy rain, lightning, excessive heat) preliminary round and semi-final games will be rescheduled if the game was stopped prior to reaching 15 minutes into the second half.

At the discretion of the league, at league hosted matches, the competition may be altered to ensure match completion. This could include:

- a) Relocate and/or reschedule any games.
- b) Reduce, by up to 50 per cent, the scheduled duration of any game
- c) Deeming a match complete if 50 per cent or less of the playing time remained when the game was terminated by the referee.

11. Discipline

For preliminary and semi-final rounds hosted by a club, all discipline reports shall be submitted to the district by the Match Official in alignment with league rules.

For semi-final and championship matches hosted by the league, all discipline reports shall be submitted to the league at event headquarters along with game sheets.

- a. Discipline from Semi-Final matches may be handled via Discipline by Review at the event and applied to the Championship match.

12. General

No protest regarding the referee's decisions will be accepted.

The League/ Cup Host will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team if the tournament is canceled in whole or in part. The League and/or Southwest Soccer reserve the right to decide on all matters pertaining to the event