

SCHWAN'S USA CUP 2011 Tournament Rules

July 19- 23, 2011

The Schwan's USA CUP will be played under FIFA Laws and Regulations in effect January 1, 2011 as modified by the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association with the following modifications:

I. TOURNAMENT FEES

- U11/U12 Fees = \$395 Team Fee plus \$85 per player fee due for each rostered player for Minnesota teams and \$99 per rostered player for visiting US and international teams.
- U13-U19 Fees = \$445 Team Fee plus \$85 per player fee due for each rostered player for Minnesota teams and \$99 per rostered player for visiting US and international teams.
- Teams that drop from the tournament will not be refunded their team application fee and dorm housing deposit.
- Player fees are due June 1, 2011.

II. TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS

Schwan Center (The NSC Campus)
 1700 105th Avenue Northeast
 Blaine, MN 55449
 Tournament Director: Steve Olson 763-785-3639

III. FINAL TEAM CHECK-IN

- Final Team Check-in schedule: Monday, July 18, one day only – See Team Central on USA CUP web site for hours.
- Updated game schedules, USA CUP Ceremonies line-up and other final tournament information will be provided at Final Team Check-in (and may also be found on the USA CUP web site at www.usacup.org)
- A team representative may check in the team. Players do not attend Final Team Check-in.
- Laminated US Club Soccer, NSC, US Youth Soccer, or AYSO player passes, Canadian booklet player cards or passports/international player passes (International Teams Only) are required.
- Arrange player passes/books/passports in alphabetical order to match roster.
- Bring any changes for previously submitted forms per team packet.
- Do not bring player passes of players that are not participating in the tournament to Final Team Check-in.
- Your Official Tournament Roster will be frozen and no changes will be made to your roster for the remainder of the tournament and Final Team Check-in.
- Non-US Youth Soccer teams must provide proof of insurance.
- Non-MYSA US Youth Soccer teams must provide proof of permission to travel from home association.
- All teams must present medical authorization forms.

IV. ELIGIBILITY

- The Schwan's USA CUP is open to all boys' and girls' teams who are registered and in good standings with their FIFA affiliated association.
- Teams will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis. Once an age group fills, teams will be placed on a waiting list and duly notified of their acceptance.
- If an age group does not have enough teams, teams registered will be given the opportunity to play up a category.
- National Teams are not eligible.
- Age group offered are as follows
 - Boys and Girls U11 Born on or after 8/01/99
 - Boys and Girls U12 Born on or after 8/01/98
 - Boys and Girls U13 Born on or after 8/01/97
 - Boys and Girls U14 Born on or after 8/01/96
 - Boys and Girls U15 Born on or after 8/01/95
 - Boys and Girls U16 Born on or after 8/01/94
 - Boys and Girls U17 Born on or after 8/01/93
 - Boys and Girls U18/U19 Born on or after 8/01/91

V. GAME FORMAT

- U11-U12 – 8v8
 - Maximum number of 8 players on the field: 7 field players and a goalie
 - Will play a minimum of 4 games
 - The maximum number of games is determined by the number of teams in an age group.
 - Teams are generally scheduled one or two games per day.

- Minimum field size is 45 yards wide by 70 yards long; maximum of 55 yards wide by 80 yards long.
 - Goal size is 7 feet high by 21 feet wide.
 - Three referee per game.
 - Offside is in effect.
- U12-U19 – 11v11
 - U12 only offers a single Gold Flight
 - A minimum of four teams must register for this option before it is viable.
 - Teams will be placed on a waiting list until the minimum of four teams registers.
 - U13-U19 offers gold and Silver Flights. In age divisions where competition warrants, the PUMA Flight will be formed. The PUMA Flight will consist of premier level teams. Teams will be invited to play in the PUMA Flight after they have been accepted to the tournament. Teams will apply for initial acceptance into one of two flights, gold and silver.
 - Maximum number of 11 players on the field: 10 field players and a goalie.
 - Will play a minimum of 4 games (3 world cup group matches and 1 playoff game).
 - The maximum number of games is determined by the number of teams in an age group.
 - Teams are generally scheduled one or two games per day.
 - Field size meets FIFA regulations.
 - Goal size is 8 feet high and 24 feet wide.
 - Three person referee team per game.
 - Offside is in effect.
- Minimum number of teams at any age/flight is 4.

VI. PLAYERS AND RESERVES

- U11- U12 may roster and dress up to 18 players.
- U13 - U15 may roster and dress up to 18 players.
- U16 - U19 may roster 22 and dress 18 players for games.
- Teams must have a minimum of 5 players (U11/12 – 8v8) or 7 players (U13-19 – 11v11) to begin a game.
- All players must meet the age requirements and be listed on the team roster with unique jersey numbers.
- Girls may roster on boys' teams; boys may not roster on girls' teams.
- Shin Guards must be worn by all players.
- Hard casts are not prohibited, but they must receive “explicit” approval from the referee before a player wearing such a cast is allowed to play in the game. All casts must have the approval of the Referee. It is not a given that soft casts will be approved.
- No jewelry will be allowed.

VII. PLAYER PASSES

- Approved player passes, signed and laminated or Canadian booklet player cards are checked at Final Team Check-in and by the officials prior to the start of each game.
- Players must have player passes in order to play. No pass - no play policy.

VIII. GUEST PLAYERS

- Teams may roster up to 6 guest players. Double rostered players are limited to two per team.
- Players may only guest play or double roster on one team in addition to their primary team, providing they are not playing on a team in the same age bracket and flight.
- Guest players may come from any FIFA or USSF affiliated association/team.
- A jersey must be provided to the guest player by the host team.
- If age eligible, players may play up or down.
- Players may not play on two teams in the same age and flight. Example: A player may play on a U16 Silver Flight and a U16 Gold Flight team but may not play on two U16 Gold Flight teams.
- Players that are age eligible but registered with an adult league with an adult player pass are not eligible to play.
- Premier level players cannot play on a Silver Flight team.

IX. SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURE

- All teams are allowed unlimited substitutions with their entire roster.
- Unlimited substitutions may be made with the consent of the referee at the following times:
 - Prior to a goal kick by either team.
 - After a goal by either team.
 - After an injury by either team when the referee stops play.

- At half-time.
- Prior to a throw-in. The team in possession of the ball for a throw-in may substitute. If the team in possession of the ball chooses to substitute, the opposing team may also substitute at that time, provided they are ready and waiting at the midfield line.
- FIFA Substitutions Rules are observed in the U17-U19 age groups.

X. HOME TEAM JERSEY

- The first team listed in the schedule is the home team.
- The home team must have an alternate jersey and be prepared to change, if, in the opinion of the referee, there is a color conflict.
- Team jerseys must match with unique numbers for each player as submitted on the Official Tournament Roster.
- No sharing of jerseys permitted.

XI. LENGTH OF GAME

Age Group Classifications	Minutes Per Half
Boys or Girls 11	30
Boys or Girls 12	30
Boys or Girls 13	35
Boys or Girls 14	35
Boys or Girls 15	40
Boys or Girls 16	40
Boys or Girls 17	45
Boys or Girls 18/19	45

XII. SCHEDULES, RESULTS AND STANDINGS

- After every game the referee will complete a game card to report the score. The winning coach must verify both scores on the game card after the game. Any scores that are marked incorrectly on the game card will affect the standings and playoff standings. Game cards are collected by tournament runners and brought to Tournament Headquarters for recording.
- Schedules, results and standings are posted at various locations on the NSC campus.
- Scores are posted on the event web site and posting boards around the NSC Campus. Posting boards are located:
 - North of field U2 under the flagpoles.
 - In the lobby of the NSC Schwan Center.
 - On the East campus
 - On the North campus across 105th Avenue, north and south of the pond

XIII. OFFICIAL GAME BALL

- The tournament provides each team an official Puma game ball to be used in all matches. It is the responsibility of both teams to have their tournament game ball at all tournament games and make every effort to ensure that this ball remains in play. The home team shall provide the ball to start the game.
- If additional balls are needed, they may be provided by either team.
- U11-U12 teams use a size 4 ball.
- U13-U19 teams use a size 5 ball.

XIV. PLACEMENT OF TEAMS AND SPECTATORS

- Teams and rostered coaches only will position themselves on the same side of the field.
- Coaching may only occur on the team's half of the sideline from the centerline to within 30 yards of the end line.
- Spectators for both teams will be positioned on the opposite side of the field from the teams.
- Parents/Guardians are responsible for supervision of their children at all times.
 - In the event that a child is lost, immediately notify any volunteer with a radio who will notify the police.
 - Found children will be brought to Tournament Headquarters to be reunited with parents/guardians.

XV. REFEREE SYSTEM

- The diagonal system of control is used with certified referees.
- Referees must be currently registered with USSF; international referees must be certified by their national association.
- Referees are assigned for all matches; however, teams must be prepared to provide a Club linesperson, if necessary.
- A Club linesperson may only determine balls out of play.
- Referees are evaluated by assessors during the week. These evaluations are used to help determine referee assignments for the play-offs.

XVI. FACILITY

- Minnesota State law prohibits the use of drugs and alcohol on NSC fields. Players in violation will be ejected from the tournament.
- Schwan's USA CUP is committed to promoting an environment that is free from harassment and violence in any form: verbal or physical intimidation; vandalism; drug, alcohol or tobacco use; gambling and inappropriate language. These policies apply to all players, coaches, referees and spectators. The NSC is a state-owned facility and adheres to the NO SMOKING POLICY mandated for all state facilities.
- Pets are not permitted on the NSC campus.

XVII. UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOR

- Unsportsmanlike behavior is not tolerated on or off the field.
- Know and understand the laws of the game. Educate players on the technical/tactical/physical demands of the game.
- Zero tolerance for fighting or heckling. Persons exhibiting these behaviors will be asked to leave the premises.
- Be a positive role model. Set the standard for sportsmanship with the opponents, referees and spectators.
- Encourage moral and social responsibility.
- Encourage players to have fun and to keep a positive attitude about winning and losing.
- Show pride and support for your club, state and country, but be respectful of other nation's customs and traditions.
- Any player, coach, spectator or participant who is ejected from a game or participates in any misconduct will be contacted by Tournament Headquarters; the local authorities may be called if necessary. Misconduct by any of the above listed may result in a warning, game forfeit, tournament disqualification or other action if necessary.

XVIII. FIELD MANAGERS

- A field manager system is utilized to keep the games on time and as a first line of communication in the event of a problem.
- There will be one field manager for every two to four fields.
- Each field manager will have a communications radio and ice for injuries.
- Only tournament officials may use the field manager's tents. This is not a meeting or gathering place for teams or players.
- There will be no pre-game warm-up on the field. Plan your pre-game warm-up in an adjoining area or on the sideline.

XIX. RED CARDS

- Red cards will be administered as per FIFA laws of the game.
 - A player sent off will not be allowed to play for the remainder of that game and the next game at a minimum.
 - Violent Conduct may result in more than a one game suspension by tournament committee decision.
 - If a player receives a red card, the player pass will be collected by the referee and forwarded to Tournament Headquarters.
 - After the suspension is served, the coach may pick up the pass in Tournament Headquarters.
 - A coach who is removed from a game must leave that area of the field. The area of the field includes but is not limited to the bench and spectator areas.
- Player passes for un-served red cards from Minnesota players will be recorded by the tournament and forwarded to MYSA within 48 hours of the end of the tournament.
- Player passes for un-served red cards from non-Minnesota teams will be returned to the coach at the coach's request. Unclaimed, un-served red cards from non-Minnesota teams will be forwarded to MYSA at the end of the tournament.
 - A red card report will sent to MYSA within 48 hours of the end of the tournament. MYSA will contact the appropriate state associations.
 - Unclaimed player passes (suspension has been served) will be kept at NSC for pick up by the owner or coach.

XX. PROTESTS

- No protests will be heard on any judgment calls by the referee. All decisions by the referee are final.
- Protests on player eligibility and other technical matters may be made in writing and submitted to headquarters within one hour of the conclusion of the match.
- Express concerns regarding violations prior to the start of the game or at the time the incident occurs.
- If you have a problem regarding the rules or procedures at your game, take the following steps:
 - Notify the referee immediately so that a correction can be made.
 - If the situation is not resolved, notify the field manager and a tournament official will respond.

XXI. SCHEDULING

- U11-U19 teams will be divided into groupings of 3, 4, or 5 for round robin play.
- U11-U19 teams will be assigned at least three games in initial play and will play games against other teams within its group.
- Groups with three teams will play two games within their own group and one game against a team from another group.

- If there are an insufficient number of teams in a group/flight, the tournament reserves the right to play that group as one all-team World Cup group. The top two teams from the World Cup pool will play a championship game to determine the winner. Example: For an age group or flight with a total of 6 teams, the tournament may choose to play a 6 team round robin rather than two groups of 3.
- In the event that a Flight only has 7 teams, teams may play no games against teams in their group and play all of their initial pool play games against the other group.
- All games do count in the group standings for determining play-off placement
- Forfeits: The tournament will make every effort to avoid a forfeit. A forfeit may only be decided by Tournament Headquarters. The tournament philosophy is to put its effort into playing tournament games rather than declaring forfeits. In general a forfeit will be called if a team consisting of at least 7 players has not arrived at the field within 1 hour of the start time. The tournament reserves the right to reschedule a game to avoid a forfeit.

XXII. WORLD CUP GROUP RANKING

- No overtime will be played during group competition.
- Teams will be awarded three points for a win and one point for a tie.
- A forfeit score will be recorded as a 3-0 victory.
- The winning coach must sign the game card after verifying both scores (either coach may sign in the event of a tie). Any scores that are marked incorrectly on the game card will affect the standings.
- Following preliminary rounds, criteria in order of importance will determine placement for the play-off brackets:
 - Greater number of points. Each team receives 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss.
 - Goal difference. Subtract total goals allowed from total goals scored.
 - Greater number of goals.
 - Earliest Application Date

XXIII. ADVANCEMENT PROCEDURES

- All PUMA Flight teams will play in the PUMA A Play-off.
- The 1st and 2nd place teams in each Gold Flight group will advance to the Gold A Play-off. All other Gold Flight teams will advance to the Gold B Play-off. Exception: If there is an insufficient number of teams for a Gold B Play-off, all Gold teams will play in the Gold A Play-off.
- The 1st and 2nd place teams in each Silver Flight group will advance to the Silver A Play-off. All other Silver Flight teams will advance to the Silver B Play-off. Exception: If there is an insufficient number of teams for a Silver B Play-off, all Silver teams will play in the Silver A Play-off.
- Overtime. In play-off competition, including finals, of two 5-minute overtime periods will be played in full.
 - If a team is in the lead at the end of two 5-minute overtime periods then that team will be declared the winner.
 - If the game is still tied at the end of the second overtime period, the FIFA tie-breaking procedure of kicks from the penalty mark will be used to determine who advances.
 - Players may be taken to a designated area where a referee crew will control, monitor and officiate the series of kicks from the penalty mark.
 - Only those players on the field at the end of the overtime period may participate in the taking of the kicks from the penalty mark.
- If at any point in the play-offs, a team chooses not to continue, Schwan's USA CUP reserves the right to move other teams forward into its position, even if that other team has already lost. Teams who choose not to continue may not be invited to participate in Schwan's USA CUP in the future.
- **PLAY-OFF BRACKETING SEEDING**
 - PUMA, Gold and Silver Flight teams advancing to the A playoff will be positioned into brackets as follows:
 - Group winners will be placed in the brackets first with groups receiving byes selected at random.
 - Second place teams will be positioned next.
 - PUMA, Gold and Silver Flight teams advancing to the B playoff will be positioned into brackets as follows:
 - Third place teams will be positioned first with groups receiving byes selected at random.
 - Fourth place teams will be placed next.
 - Fifth place teams, if applicable, will be positioned next. Exception: W
- When there is not enough teams in the overall group to conduct B Play-off, all teams will move to the A Play-off.
- For all play-off brackets, adjustments will be made to keep teams in the same World Cup group from competing in early play-off rounds.

XXIV. AWARDS

- All play-offs will have 1st and 2nd place games only, with trophies awarded to the 1st and 2nd place teams.
- Individual gold medals are also awarded to 1st place teams; silver medals to 2nd place teams.
- All medals and trophies will be awarded at a ceremony area no more than two hours from the end of the championship game.
- Photo opportunities are available at the award presentation area.

XXV. WEATHER PROVISIONS

- The Schwan's USA CUP will follow MYSA weather guidelines
- Severe weather is a possibility. All weather decisions are the sole decision of the tournament committee and are based on the Weather Sentry storm tracking system and weather spotters used by Anoka County Airport, TPC Golf Course and the NSC Victory Links Golf Course.
- If weather or the condition of fields makes it impossible to carry out the tournament to its full extent, the tournament committee will make the necessary decisions concerning the rearrangement or cancellation of games for any reason. **Every effort is made to play all games in their entirety.** Fees are non-refundable, if games or the tournament are cancelled for any reason.

The tournament committee has the right to:

- Institute water breaks, if the heat index is high. This is not a coaching break; players must remain on the field.
- Shorten the length of games.
- Suspend games due to lightning or tornado warning.
 - A game may be suspended by the tournament committee without being cancelled or considered complete if in the second half of play. If the decision to terminate a game is made, and, if one half of the game has been played before termination for weather conditions, the game stands as a completed match.
 - If it is necessary to suspend games due to lightning, suspension and "all clear" announcements will be made over the PA system in the Sports Hall, Schwan Center, Schwan Super Rink, and NSC Stadium, as well as over the radios to the field managers. Information will also be posted on the website.
 - When games are suspended due to lightning, coaches and players are instructed to proceed to the nearest safe location: buses, cars, or the buildings on the NSC campus. Teams should not be on the playing fields, in tents or shelters during game suspension due to lightning.
 - When games are suspended due to tornado warning, coaches and players are instructed to proceed to either the Sports Hall or the Schwan Super Rink – as these buildings have portions that are underground and are the safest locations. The Schwan Center (HQ) building will be closed during tornado warning.
 - Coaches are requested to stay with their teams. A team representative may come to tournament headquarters to await updates. Tournament HQ will be abandoned during tornado warning so coaches are requested to stay with their team in either the Sports Hall or the Schwan Super Rink.
 - Coaches/players should stay in a safe location until they see field managers return to their posts with radios.
 - Coaches and referees should then proceed to their respective field manager to receive instructions on resuming games.

XXV. WEATHER FLAGS

- The health and safety of participants is a primary concern. If the tournament officials and medical staff determine that the risk of heat exhaustion is becoming too high, various options using a flag indicator system will be utilized.
- Heat index flags will be flown north of Field U2 on the flagpole.
 - Green Flag - Normal play conditions. Follow regular conditions and allow free access to fluids.
 - Yellow Flag - Moderate heat conditions; 2-minute water break at the middle of each half is instituted. The clock is stopped during water breaks.
 - Red Flag - Extreme heat conditions. Game shortened by 5 minutes per half. In play-off rounds, the overtime periods may be eliminated. Instituted water breaks continued.
 - Modified Red Flag - Game length shortened. Please ask field manager or referee headquarters for protocol during modified red flag conditions.
 - Black Flag - Suspension of play. Inclement weather or other emergencies may cause suspension of games. Suspension does not mean cancellation of games. After a suspension is called, games may be restarted. In the event games are cancelled, games that have completed the first half of play are considered final.

XXVI. INJURIES

- Coaches are considered guardians for underage participants when the parents are unavailable, and for all players regardless of age, when impairment of mental status renders the player incapable of making an informed decision. As such, they have a responsibility to make decisions in the best interest of the health and safety of the player.
- A coach's decision to allow a participant to play, contrary to the recommendation of the medical staff, may leave the coach open to legal liability.
- If the coach is under the legal age, the team is required to have an official representative of legal age at the field who will serve as the legal guardian.
- Coaches are responsible for having emergency medical information for all players in their possession at all games.
- Referees are responsible for summoning the coach and first aid personnel onto the field, in the event of an injury.
 - The injured player will first be evaluated on the field by first aid staff.
 - If further evaluation is warranted, the injured player will be moved to the sideline when medically safe, according to emergency medical protocol.