

# TOURNAMENT RULES:

1. The matches will be played according to the rules of F.I.F.A and the National/State Soccer Association.

2. **Credentials:** At registration/check-in, teams must provide the required credentials. This includes: US Soccer affiliate approved roster signed or stamped by an appropriate authority with matching player I.D. cards with photographs; Travel permits for teams outside the state where the tournament takes place.

3. **Rosters:** Teams may register a maximum of 18 players for the tournament. Teams must designate before each game – on the line up card – which 11 players will start for that particular game and which players will be substitutes.

4. **Substitutes:** Four players from the substitutes listed on the game roster may be played per game per team. The referee shall be informed of the proposed substitution before it is made. A substitution can only be made during a stoppage in the game. No player may re-enter after being substituted.

5. The matches will be officiated by referees, affiliated to the National/State Soccer Association. Decisions of the referees are binding.

6. **Format:** There will be 4 groups with 4 teams each. Each group will play a round-robin format. After this, the winner of each group will advance to the semi-finals. The winners of the semi-finals will play in the final. All remaining teams will play in placement games (for places 3-16). Placing within groups after group games will be determined by points. If teams are tied in points within the groups, the following applies:

- 1 goal difference
- 2 most goals scored
- 3 the result of the mutual match

If teams remain tied, penalty kicks will be taken. If more than 2 teams are tied, the toss of a coin or drawing of lots will determine the tie-breaker.

7. **Preliminaries:** Points will be awarded as follows: 3 for a win, 1 for a tie and 0 points for a loss.

8A. **Tiebreaker for semi-finals, finals:** If the teams are tied after regulation, the teams will play two full 5 minute overtime periods. If teams remain tied after the overtime periods, then penalty kicks will be taken.

8B. **Tiebreaker for placement matches:** If the teams are tied after regulation, then penalty kicks will be taken.

9. **Age-category:** Boys born on or after January 1, 1990 and girls born on or after August 1, 1990. The age of the players will be checked before the start of the tournament. All players need to have a valid identification with a picture (player card). The team leader must hand in a US Soccer affiliate approved roster prior to the start of the tournament. The roster may be checked against the identification/player cards at any time. The tournament committee or referee may require identification at any time from any player(s). Team leaders/coaches need to report to the tournament secretary 30 minutes before the start of their first match at the latest to turn in the team's line up card.

If a team plays with an ineligible player, the team is disqualified. Any prizes that the team may have won must be handed in.

The boy's winner of this U.S. event will play in the NIKE Manchester United Premier Cup World Final and the girl's winner will play in the 2005 Gothia Cup. Both tournaments have an age category cut off date of born on or after January 1, 1990.

10. **Duration of play:** All matches will consist of two 20 minute halves; the tournament committee is entitled to alter duration of play and the play schedule if circumstances so dictate.

11. Every club must bring an alternate jersey (must be another numbered jersey or t-shirt) of contrasting color. The home team (team listed first on the schedule) will determine what color jersey they will wear, and if, according to the referee, before the start of a match, the club colors of both teams show too little difference, the away team (team that is mentioned second on the schedule) is obliged to change.

12. **Red cards/Yellow cards:** Two yellow cards accumulated by a player in one game equal a suspension from that game and the next scheduled game. 3 yellow cards accumulated by a player throughout the tournament equals a suspension from the next scheduled game. One red card in any game will result in the player being suspended from the remainder of that game plus the next scheduled game of the tournament. The tournament committee reserves the right to extend the suspension length on any infraction resulting in a red card depending on the severity of the infraction. When a player is sent off the field or is given a caution, the tournament committee will be notified immediately after the match.

13. If a team is late for a match without a valid reason or if they don't show up, they automatically forfeit the match by a score of 3-0. In case there is a question of guilt when a match is suspended (stopped during the game) in a group all the results of the team in question are rendered invalid. If the team in question had to play in a follow up round they automatically forfeit the match by a score of 3-0.

14. Penalty kicks to obtain a decision are taken according to the rules of the F.I.F.A. The referee decides at which goal all the penalty kicks will be taken. The team that wins the coin toss will decide which team will kick first. The teams alternately take 5 penalty kicks each. If after 5 penalty kicks the teams remain tied, each team will take a penalty kick until a decision has been obtained. Only players that are on the field at the end of a game are entitled to participate in the penalty kicks. Each penalty must be taken by a different player. Only after all the players of a team have taken a penalty kick is a player allowed to take a second penalty. All players, with the exception of the goalkeepers and the player who is taking the penalty kick, must remain in the center circle while the penalty is taken.

15. Protests against arbitrated decisions are not possible. Protests concerning other matters should be made by the responsible team leader to the tournament committee no later than 15 minutes after the game. The tournament committee decides in the above-mentioned cases and in matters not covered by these tournament rules.

16. The tournament organizer, Euro-Sporting and NIKE are not responsible for damages, personal injury and loss of possessions of any of the participants.

**NB:** These rules are a standard version. These rules may be altered according to the rules and regulations of the National/State Soccer Association of the USA.