



1. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Participation in the 2023 Oakwood Premier Invitation (OPI) is open to accepted teams consisting of players meeting the age limit and roster size of the specified division.

Competitive teams, except for foreign/international teams, must be a member of a National Affiliate of US Soccer (United States Soccer Federation), such as US Youth Soccer, US Club Soccer, USSSA, AYSO, etc. and must present a valid roster and valid player and coaches passes/cards. Note, a team cannot “mix-n-match” National Affiliates on the same roster.

Recreational team must submit a roster signed by an official of the club, which must be a National Affiliate of US Soccer listing each player, including their date of birth, and must provide a birth certificate or state or national certified player pass, for each such player evidencing that player’s eligibility to play on that team based on birth date.

Teams participating in the tournament must provide medical releases for each player in a format as required by the Tournament Committee and as posted on the tournament website. These authorizations shall be submitted as part of the eCheck-in process and a copy kept by the team at the field, available for presentation in the event of an emergency.

Out of state teams rostered and carded by a US Youth Soccer state association must provide a Permission to Travel Form, approved and signed by ones US Youth Soccer state association.

- U9-U10 teams will play 7v7 format. Maximum roster size cannot exceed 22 players. A maximum of 12 players can dress out each game. 5 guest players are allowed.
- U11-U12 teams will play 9v9 format. Maximum roster size cannot exceed 22 players. A maximum of 16 players can dress out each game. 5 guest players are allowed.
- U13 thru U19 teams will play 11v11 format. Maximum roster size cannot exceed 22 players. A maximum of 18 players can dress out each game. 5 guest players are allowed.

A player may compete for only one team participating in the tournament. In the event a player is found to have been rostered to more than one team in the tournament, the second team on which the player is rostered in the tournament shall be deemed as the team that fielded an ineligible player. Any team fielding an ineligible player will be disqualified from the tournament and their tournament fee will be forfeited.

2. AGE OF COMPETITION

U9:	Born on or after 1/1/2014
U10:	Born on or after 1/1/2013
U11:	Born on or after 1/1/2012
U12:	Born on or after 1/1/2011
U13:	Born on or after 1/1/2010
U14:	Born on or after 1/1/2009

U15:	Born on or after 1/1/2008
U16:	Born on or after 1/1/2007
U17:	Born on or after 1/1/2006
U18:	Born on or after 1/1/2005
U19:	Born on or after 1/1/2004

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3. LAWS OF THE GAME

All games shall be played in accordance with FIFA Laws, except as specifically modified by these rules.

Law 11: Offside. U9-U10: Offside will be called. U9 and U10 will play with the offside rule in accordance to the FIFA “Laws of the Game”. U11-U19: No change per FIFA “Laws of the Game”.

4. SUBSTITUTIONS

Teams may substitute only with the referee’s permission. Substitutes must wait on the sideline (off of the field of play) until the field player has left the field of play and/or the referee has indicated the substitute may enter the field of play. Substitutions by either Team are allowed at any stoppage of play with the permission of the referee

5. FIELD AND GAME EQUIPMENT

- A. Players are not allowed to wear ANY jewelry. The only exception that may be allowed is a medical alert bracelet or necklace when taped to the body. The referee shall make the decision as to the safety of the player and the referee’s decision is final.
- B. Orthopedic casts are not permitted. However, soft braces can be worn with written approval from a doctor, and judgment as to safety is at the discretion of the referee.
- C. Players are required to wear shin guards in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game.
- D. Players must wear numbers on the back of their uniforms and these numbers shall coincide with those listed on the team’s roster.
- E. Where uniform colors are similar, the designated home team will change colors. Home team is listed first on the schedule.
- F. Both teams will take the same side of the field. All other supporters will take the opposite side. Only three (3) carded team officials are permitted on the sidelines with their players.
- G. No one is permitted behind either goal/end line.
- H. Spectators must remain behind the spectator line and coaches must remain in the coaches’ area.
- I. If requested by the referee, each team must provide a linesperson.
- J. Each team shall be in the immediate vicinity of their assigned playing field 30 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time.
- K. The home team will provide the game ball.

6. DURATION OF GAMES

Age	Length	Group Play	Playoffs
U9-U10	2x30	No overtime	2x30. No OT. Direct to PKs
U11-U12	2x30	No overtime	2x30. No OT. Direct to PKs
U13-U14	2x30	No overtime	2x35. No OT. Direct to PKs
U15 - U19	2x30	No overtime	2x35. No OT. Direct to PKs

- A. **Mercy Rule:** All games will be subject to a mercy rule of an 8-goal differential at any time after the completion of the first half.
- B. **Water Breaks:** Will be mandatorily provided at the midpoint of each half of regulation play during a natural stoppage of play. They will be no shorter than 1 minute in duration and the game clock will continue to run.

7. GAME AND SCORE REPORTING

- A. The Head Referee will ensure that the game report forms are properly completed and presented to the Site Director at the completion of each game. Uniform numbers must be accompanied by player names if a card is issued.
- B. The Head Referee will ensure that the correct score for each game is reported to the Site Director after each game in a timely manner.

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8. FAILURE TO SHOW AND FORFEITS

- A. A team shall be allowed a ten (10) minute grace period after the scheduled kick-off time before the match is awarded to their opponent. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team for ages U13 and older and if seven (7) players are present, the game will not be delayed. For ages U9 and U10 the number of players required is five (5). For ages U11 and U12, the number of players required is six (6).
- B. In no case shall a team that forfeits or does not show-up for a game be declared a division winner. If an apparent division winner forfeits a game, or does not show up for play, the division team with the next best record shall be named the division winner.
- C. A forfeit in the preliminary round will be awarded as three (3) points for the win. If the game has started the score will stand at the time of the forfeit unless the score is 0-0 at the time of the forfeit, in which even the score will be recorded as 4-0.
- D. Forfeits in the play-off rounds shall be recorded as 1-0 games.

9. ABANDONED GAME

If a game is abandoned, meaning the referees have to cancel the game while in progress due to actions or behavior of players, coaches, or spectators, the score will be recorded as follows:

- A. If either team is at fault for the abandonment of the game, that team at fault shall forfeit the match and the score will be recorded as a 4-0 win for the opposing team.
- B. If both teams are at fault the score will remain as is the time of the abandonment.

10. NO PROTESTS SHALL BE ENTERTAINED

11. CONDUCT

- A. The Oakwood Premier Invitation (OPI) will have a Discipline Committee of no less than three (3) members. The Discipline Committee will review and rule on all reports of unacceptable conduct by players, managers, coaches, referees, spectators, etc.
- B. Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves within the spirit of the Law as well as the letter of the Law. Displays of temper or dissent are cause for ejection from the game and surrounding field area and/or the Tournament. Repeated violations may result in the suspension of the team from the Tournament as decided by the Tournament Director.
- C. A player, coach, or team official ejected from a game shall receive an automatic minimum one (1) game suspension regardless of the cause of the ejection. Duration of suspension is cumulative based on further misconduct after receiving the initial dismissal. The Discipline Committee shall determine the appropriate sanction for the action resulting in the ejection, said sanction will be determined and communicated to the affected parties as soon as practicable, but no later than prior to the next scheduled game in which the offending party would have an opportunity to participate, which is no sooner than two games after the game in which the offending party was ejected, since there is at least a one game automatic suspension.
- D. Depending on the severity of the unacceptable conduct, the Discipline Committee may recommend the suspension of up to the duration of the tournament with further disciplinary action by the appropriate National and State Association, Federation or any other USSF affiliated organization. The Discipline Committee recommendations will be available to the affected parties no later than before their next scheduled game.
- E. Any player, coach, team official or parent exhibiting or threatening violence to anyone (player, coach, referee, spectator, or Tournament official) will be grounds for immediate expulsion from the tournament, such determination to be made by the appropriate referees and tournament officials. When serving a suspension, the suspended party must check in and remain at the site tent through the duration of the game, or alternatively may be asked to leave the park.
- F. At the completion of the tournament a complete report will be sent to Connecticut Junior Soccer Association Review and Discipline Committee within 72 hours for forwarding to the appropriate State and National Associations.
- G. Alcoholic beverages, smoking, use of profanity and animals are not permitted at the fields or parks.

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H. Mechanical and artificial noise makers are prohibited.

12. DETERMINATION OF PLAYOFF FINALISTS

Finalists will be determined through a seeding format or by a division winner's format. The Tournament Committee will decide which format each age group and bracket will follow. This will be announced prior to the commencement of competition. The rules to determine tie breakers will be the same for either format. Each team will be awarded three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie and zero (0) points for a loss. At the end of the preliminary rounds, if the finalists for a particular age group and bracket are determined by the division winner, the division winner will be the team with the most points in their division. In the event of a tie within a division, the following criteria will be used to determine who moves forward:

1. Head-to-head competition (this criterion will not be considered in the case of a tie among more than two (2) teams). *
2. Goal differential to a maximum of four (4) per game.
3. Most goals scored to a maximum of four (4) per game.
4. Least goals allowed to a maximum of four (4) per game.
5. Number of shutouts.
6. FIFA penalty kicks.

*In the event of a tie among more than two teams, once a tie is broken by the above system, and if ties among remaining teams still must be decided, those ties would be broken by starting again from the top of the tie breaking procedure.

Note, in the U9-U10 divisions there will be no standings, nor playoffs.

In the event that a wild card team must be selected for the playoff rounds, the above procedure will be used across the entire age group and bracket involved.

- If a division winner does not show up for play, the division team with the next best record shall be named the division winner.
- In the event the finalists for a particular age group and bracket are determined by seeding, the finalists (or semi-finalists if applicable) shall be determined based upon the two teams (or more if semi-finals are applicable) with the most points in the overall age group and bracket involved. In the event of a tie, the same criteria as utilized for division winners shall be used to determine the finalists.
- In the event that there is an age group(s) and bracket in which semi- finals are held, to be determined at the discretion of the Tournament Committee, the foregoing rules shall be applied to determine the teams that shall qualify for the semi-finals.

13. PLAYOFFS

- A. Depending on the number of teams in the division/ age group bracket, there may be a playoff.
- B. If there are playoffs and a wild card team must be selected for the playoff rounds, that team will not be assigned to play the winner of its own division in the first playoff round.
- C. In the case of a draw at the end of regulation time in the playoff rounds, the winner will be determined as follows:
The best of five penalty kicks taken alternately by each team will determine the winner. Only those players on the field at the end of regulation time of the playoff game may compete. If the penalty kick score is tied at the end of the five kicks, the teams will continue to take penalty kicks alternately until there is a winner. All players on the field must kick before any player may kick a second time.

14. INCLEMENT WEATHER

INCLEMENT WEATHER (GROUP PLAY). In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Committee will have the authority (in its sole discretion) to change games as follows:

- A. **Reschedule or Relocate match** (Time and location determined by Tournament Director).

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- B. **Shortened match** - The Tournament Director may reduce the length of halves due to weather conditions before the restart of a match once delayed due to weather; all such matches will be considered official.
- C. **Go to “Penalty Kicks”** (Time and location determined by Tournament Director)
- D. **Be Cancelled** (The tournament committee has the right to cancel any match. Any game that is not started and is canceled [as opposed to postponed] due to weather or other external conditions will be recorded as a 0-0 tie. Canceled games will not be rescheduled.)
- E. Games that have been started and subsequently suspended due to inclement weather or other external conditions will be deemed complete if one half of play has been completed or the first half cannot be completed prior to the start time of the next scheduled game on that field. For any such game that is not completed, the score at the time of the suspension will be the final score. Any game that is not started and is canceled (as opposed to postponed) due to weather or other external conditions will be recorded as a 0-0 tie. Canceled games will not be rescheduled.

If in the event the Tournament Director rules that during the preliminary round “Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark.” will be done due to inclement weather or field conditions, the following rule will apply:

- Each team will take a maximum of five (5) penalty kicks.
- At the end of five (5) kicks the game will be scored as a 1-0 win for the team that has scored more penalty kicks, or a 0-0 tie if both teams are tied in penalty kicks at the end of five (5) kicks.
- In the overall standings, 3 points will be given for the win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss.
- The 1-0 on penalty kicks will be counted for or against to determine the tiebreaker for advancement.
- If regular games have been played in the bracket and the Tournament Director has determined that other games go to penalty kicks due to inclement weather or field conditions, the regular games score will revert back to a 1-0 win or a 0-0 tie.

Only referees or duty manager can suspend a match already started due to weather conditions. The Tournament Director will determine duration of any suspension. In case of extreme weather (heat/humidity), a break will be given at the midpoint of each half of regulation time and at the end of each overtime period (if played) for player hydration. This break will be given at a normal stoppage of play and it is mandatory for any sanctioned match during which the air temperature is or is expected to reach eighty-five (85) degrees.

INCLEMENT WEATHER (FINALS). In the event of inclement weather affecting the Finals, the Tournament Committee will have the authority (in its sole discretion) to change games as follows:

- A. Relocate or reschedule any game(s)
- A. Change the duration of any game(s)
- B. FIFA penalty kicks
- C. Final Games that have been started and subsequently suspended due to inclement weather or other external conditions, will be deemed complete if one half of play has been completed or the first half cannot be completed prior to the start time of the next scheduled game on that field. For any such game that is not completed, the score at the time of the suspension will be the final score.
 - a. If the score at the time of the suspension is tied, or the game cannot be started due to inclement weather, Point E (below) will be taken into account
- D. If the score at the time of the suspension is tied, or any Final game that has not started, and a Champion and Finalist needs to be determined, the tournament will revert back to final group standings based on three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss. In the event of a tie-on points between the two teams that are in the Finals, the following criteria will be used to determine the Champion and Finalist.
 - a. Head-to-Head competition
 - b. Goal differential to a maximum of four (4) per game
 - c. Most goals scored to a maximum of four (4) per game
 - d. Least goals allowed to a maximum of four (4) per game
 - e. Most Shutouts

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f. FIFA Penalty kicks

15. REFUND POLICY

- A. Within five (5) days after notification that the team is not accepted by their application.
- B. Within five (5) days upon cancellation of the tournament.
- C. Within ten (10) days of withdrawal request of the application by a team prior to acceptance of that application by the tournament.

16. GENERAL

- A. Teams that cancel or pullout of the tournament after the registration deadlines of April 24, 2023, are not entitled to a refund of their registration fee.
- B. Teams that register and/or pay after the registration deadline of deadline of April 24, 2023, may incur a \$50.00 late fee.
- C. Under no circumstances whatsoever, will the Tournament Committee, Oakwood Soccer Club, or CJSA will be responsible for any expenses (including tournament entry fee) incurred by any team. This includes a situation where the tournament or any game(s) is cancelled in whole or part, due to any factor including inclement weather.
- D. The Tournament Committee's interpretation of these rules shall be FINAL.
- E. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decide on all matters pertaining to this tournament.
- F. The Tournament Committee, based on its interpretation of these rules, will determine the teams which advance into the final rounds.
- G. Out of area teams are required to stay at tournament approved host hotels.
- H. NO SALES OF ANY KIND ARE PERMITTED WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION.
- I. The use of drones at facilities used by OPI is not allowed.