

2016 LTSC CHALLENGE CUP TOURNAMENT RULES AND INFORMATION

1. The decisions of all referees are final. The Challenge Cup Tournament Director (Committee) has the final say on all other matters. If a game is terminated early for any reason, the Tournament Committee shall review and determine the final outcome. If a team, through the actions of its players, coaches, and/or spectators is the cause for a termination of a game, the match will be awarded to their opponent as a 5-0 forfeit win.
2. **Any player removed from a game for a suspected concussion may not return to play in the tournament until they are cleared by a certified health care professional. There will be no exceptions.**
3. Age determination is based on calendar year of birth. Players may play up an age group without limitation on the number of players playing up. Players are not allowed to play for more than one team in an age group. Teams must play in an age group fitting their oldest player. Any team using an ineligible player will forfeit any games in which the player played. Coaches are expected to have ID cards or copies of birth certificates for all players along with a copy of their roster.
4. Teams are limited to using:
 - a) Their upcoming Fall roster
 - b) For teams playing in divisions other than Premier, Guest Players from the same organization's second or third team in the same age group or younger players of the same organization. Premier-level (or first team) players from the same organization may not compete at the Classic or Challenge levels.
 - c) For teams playing in Premier Division, Guest Players that are age-appropriate players from the same organization.
 - d) Teams may add up to 3 Guest Players not listed on their upcoming Fall roster provided they have some proof of age, i.e. a copy of the player's birth certificate. Since we cannot verify every player on every roster, we rely on the integrity of the players, coaches and parents.
5. Roster limit for U8, U9 and U10 (7v7) is 14. Roster limit for U11 and U12 (9v9) is 16. Roster limit for U13, U14 and U15 (11v11) is 18. All roster limits are inclusive of guest players.
6. Rosters and completed Parental Consent Form must be turned in at tournament check-in site at team's home venue prior to first game of the tournament. Player cards or copies of birth certificates must be in the possession of the coach in the event of any discrepancy; however, the tournament officials will not routinely check the cards or other proof of age.
7. Forfeit time is game time and will be recorded as a 5-0 loss. Any team that forfeits a game intentionally or causes a game to be forfeited intentionally will not be eligible for a berth in the semi-finals or finals.
8. Shin guards are mandatory for all age groups.
9. Coaching is restricted to the center of the field, with teams being on the opposite side of the field, unless field space does not permit (i.e. Valley Fields South). Each team's spectators shall be on the same side of the field as their team. No coaches or spectators are permitted behind the end lines and goals during games for any reason. Play will be stopped by the referee until such violators relocate. Failure to relocate to allow play to resume will result in game termination and a forfeit 5-0 loss for that coach or spectator's team in accordance with #1 above.
10. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their teams and fans.
11. General Rules:
 - a) The U 8, U9, and U10 Divisions will play 7v7. The U11 and U12 Divisions will play 9v9. All Divisions will play with the Off-Side Rule.
 - b) The U8, U9, U10, U11, and U12 Divisions use a Size 4 Ball. The U13, U14, and U15 Divisions use a Size 5 Ball.
 - c) **For U8, U9, and U10 Divisions, there is no punting or drop kicking by the goalkeeper.** They must distribute the ball with their hands or roll the ball to the ground and play it with their feet. If a goalkeeper violates this rule, the official should stop play and restart it again in the goalkeeper's possession.
 - d) **Build-Out Lines:** For U8, U9, and U10 Divisions, a Build-Out Line ("BOL") will be used that extends sideline to sideline approximately 4 yards outside of each penalty box area. For goal kicks, the opposing team needs to start and remain behind the BOL until the goal kick comes completely out of the penalty box. When goalies have possession of the ball in hand, the opposing team must retreat to behind the BOL before the goalkeeper must play the ball. The goalie has

the option of playing the ball before all opposing team members reach the BOL but is not required to do so until all opposing team members are behind the BOL. Once the ball is played by the goalie, normal play resumes.

- e) **Heading:** No heading is permitted for U8, U9, U10, and U11 Divisions. Deliberate violations, at the official's discretion, will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team. Heading is permitted in U12, U13, U14, and U15 Divisions.
- f) Except as modified herein, the FIFA laws of the game shall apply.

12. The home team will be the first team listed on the schedule for each game.
13. Home teams will have the right to select their bench side of the field, but will be required to change colors if opposing team jerseys are the same color.
14. Games will consist of 25 minute halves for all age divisions.
15. Two yellow cards will equal one red card. Any player or coach receiving a red card or two yellow cards is ejected from the current game (teams must play down a player for the duration) and must sit out the next game. If the official deems the red card offense to be Violent Conduct per FIFA's Laws, that player or coach will be removed for the remainder of the tournament.
16. For Divisional/group play, points will be awarded as follows:
 - 3 Points for a Win
 - 1 Point for a Tie
 - 0 Points for a Loss
17. Divisional standings and playoff berths will be determined based on Total Points. In case of a tie, the divisional champion or playoff seeding will be decided as follows (in order of priority):
 - a) Head-to-Head Competition (only used for a 2-way tie)
 - b) Highest Positive Goal Differential (limit 5 per game; no negative points for a loss)
 - c) Lowest Goals Against (limit 5 per game)
 - d) Most Shut Outs
 - e) Fewest Red Cards
 - f) Penalty Kicks. Teams should be prepared to field 6 players for tie breaking penalty kicks (5 shooters and a keeper): best of 5; if still tied, then teams alternate shots using the same 5 shooters and rotation until one scores and one does not.
18. Divisions with wild card semi-final berths will be filled with the team with the highest total points from all brackets. In the event of a tie, Rule 17 will be used.
19. If a semi-final or championship game should end in a tie, the winner will be decided as follows:
 - a) Two Five-Minute Periods (golden goal); switch sides of field after first period
 - b) Penalty Kicks: best of 5; if still tied, then teams alternate shots until one team scores and other does not. All shooters and goalies must be on the field at the end of the overtime periods; no shooter can shoot twice until all players on the field, including goalies, have had a turn.
20. The Tournament Committee shall have the right to designate a substitute referee as may be appropriate.
21. SIDELINE RAGE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Discipline will be administered at the discretion of the referee.
22. Substitutions: Teams may substitute only with the referee's permission and only at the following times (including overtime):
 - a) Prior to a throw in by the team in possession (if the team with possession substitutes then other team may as well – "piggybacking" is allowed).
 - b) Prior to a goal kick by either team;
 - c) After a goal by either team;
 - d) After an injury to either team where the referee stops play;
 - e) At halftime, and
 - f) On a caution, only the cautioned player may be substituted

23. Individual medals or T-Shirts will be awarded to the first and second place teams in each flight.
24. Game balls will be supplied by LTSC.
25. Referee fees are included in the tournament entry fee.
26. WEATHER
 - a) In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Committee will have the authority to change games(s) as follows:
 1. Relocate or reschedule any game(s);
 2. Change the duration of any game(s);
 3. Cancel any preliminary game(s) that have no bearing on the selection of division winners.
 - b) In the event inclement weather forces total cancellation of the tournament, teams may be refunded entry fees after costs are covered.
27. CONDUCT
 - a. Smoking is NOT permitted at any game sites;
 - b. Pets are NOT permitted at any tournament fields;
 - c. Alcoholic beverages are NOT permitted at any game site.
28. PARKING – Please obey all “No Parking” signs at all field locations, as Baltimore County Police will issue parking tickets. At Valley Fields North, there is no parking on the north side of Timonium Road.