Recreational Tournament Philosophy, Policies, and Rules

Noblesville United Soccer Club (NUSC) recreational teams will play in an end-of-season tournament. The philosophy of participating in an end-of-season tournament is:

- Provide teams with the opportunity to experience a travel-like tournament experience where teams will play multiple games quickly.
- Provide competitive experience for all teams by balancing tournament brackets with similarly skilled teams.
- Learn sportsmanship by never winning at all costs.
- Each game is designed to improve the knowledge, skills, and abilities of players individually and collectively as a team.
- The goal is that players are enjoying themselves and their experiences.
- Have fun.

Policies

NUSC will seek to create balanced tournaments within divisions. Each tournament will be established based on regular-season results. Utilizing regular-season results:

- Overall Points (Divided by the number of games played in leagues with an odd number of teams)
- Head-to-Head Results
- Goals Against
- Goal Differential (maximum +4 goals)
- Goals Scored
- Coin Flip (Best of Three)

The goal of each tournament is as follows:

- Create tournaments with similarly skilled teams. This will allow for the best competition to occur at the end of the season.
- Avoid having one team win all their tournament games and not make the final. No team should not make a championship game if they win all their tournament games.
- Create a fun and competitive end to the recreational season.

Rules

Tournament Staff

The tournament staff will be made up of members of the NUSC Board and Staff.

Laws and Regulations:

- All matches will be played utilizing NUSC recreational rules with the following modifications:
    - If a team has only one sub, a mandatory water break will occur halfway through each half. The clock will stop for one minute during this water break.

Rosters and Guest Players:

If a guest player is needed, coaches must communicate that need to the tournament staff before the start of the tournament.

No team shall ask any player to join their team as a guest player. If the team is short on players before the tournament is set to begin, guest players will be assigned only by the Tournament Staff. Should a player be found to be playing for a team for which they are not rostered, that player will be removed from the field/sideline, and the team will be considered to forfeit the game. Forfeit rules will apply.

Sendoffs & Expulsions

Any player sent off, or coach expelled from a match, will adhere to the Red Card, Ejection, and Expulsion Policy. At the time of the send-off, no substitutions will be allowed for the player sent off. Anyone fighting will be subject to further disciplinary action, including removal from tournament participation.

Failure to Show and Forfeits

A five-minute grace period from the scheduled kick-off will be used to determine if the match is subject to forfeit. The Tournament Staff will make the final decision as to whether a forfeit will be declared, depending on extenuating circumstances or other reasons that prevented a team from making the match on time. If a forfeit is declared, the winning team will be awarded a score of 4-0 and will receive appropriate points for the match.

Qualifier Rounds

All age divisions will play FIFA-style qualifier rounds. The teams with the highest point totals (3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss) after the qualifier rounds will play in the finals. If multiple teams have the same number of qualifier points after the qualifier rounds, the various tiebreaker scenarios will be used to determine who moves on. Tiebreaker scenarios are as follows:

- Overall Points
- Head-to-Head Results
- Goals Against
- Goal Differential (maximum +4 goals)
- Goals Scored
- Regular Season Points
- Coin Flip (Best of Three)

Championship Match

Should the Championship game end in a tie the game will go directly to penalty kicks.

- Penalty Kicks: 5 players from each team will be chosen to complete penalty kicks. PKs will alternate between teams, with each player taking one kick until all 5 players on each

team have kicked. The team with the most PKs scored will be considered the winner. If there is still a tie, it will go to sudden death PK, each team will select additional players who were on the field at the end of the overtime golden goal period (If all eligible players have kicked, they may then refer to players on the bench. No player should shoot twice until each player has attempted one PK).

Coaches, Players, Parents, Guardians, and Spectators Code of Conduct

All participants in the tournament are expected to follow their Code of Conduct policies.

Referee No Shows

If a referee does not show, please reach out to a tournament staff member. If no reserve referee is available, a coach, parent, guardian, or spectator may referee the match if the following applies:

- Both head coaches must agree on the individual who will be refereeing.
- The individual must understand the rules of the tournament.
- The individual must be fair in decisions and judgments.
- The individual will not be paid.

NUSC Board and Staff will enforce the rules as written. However, the NUSC Board and Staff reserves the right to amend any rules as necessary to accommodate unanticipated situations that may arise before, during, and/or after the tournament. All decisions made will be final.

There are no protests.