

# 2025 PA WEST SOCCER OPEN TOURNAMENT RULES

## 1. RULES OF COMPETITION:

All games shall be played in accordance with FIFA laws, PA West Soccer and US Youth Soccer playing rules except as specified. USSF certified referees are used. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to disqualify any team in violation of these rules.

## 2. PLAYER EQUIPMENT:

Alternate jerseys are required. In the event of a color conflict, the first team listed on schedule changes colors. Each jersey must be numbered and no duplicate numbers are permitted on the field. Where numbers are the same, one must be altered by the use of tape or marker to make a difference. All players participating are required to wear the colors and name/logo of their club.

## 3. DEADLINES: Deadline to Register 05/15/25, some brackets may close sooner; No refunds after team is accepted;

**4. REGISTRATION:** Open to **USYS affiliated teams, not playing in Regional and Sub-Regional leagues.** PA West teams will be given preference to Gold, Silver, Bronze and Copper unless standings dictate otherwise.

## 5. ROSTERS:

All PAWest Teams: Rosters and Player Passes must be generated from the Affinity League Software. Rosters are frozen on the Wednesday before you kick off. ALL OUT OF STATE TEAMS must have Rosters entered into the Affinity System, player passes will be accepted from your State Association. Maximum roster limits are defined by PA West Soccer Association as recommended by USYSA. **Current roster size for dress is 18, 17 and 13. (rosters may expand 4 additional players, but Max roster size is 22, 21, 17)**

Awards will be given as follows:

U-10 age participation bracket-13 players and 3 coaches will receive a participation award

Champion and Finalist-U-10 Competitive bracket- 13 players and 3 coaches

Champion and Finalist U-11/12 age bracket-17 players and 3 coaches,

Champion and Finalist U-13 and up bracket-18 players and 3 coaches.

## **A player may only play for 1 team on any given weekend**

### \*\*\* **GUEST PLAYERS**\*\*\*

1. Up to 4 loaned players are permitted. Teams requesting in excess of 4 guest players must apply under a tournament roster through the tournament director. Use of classic players must be approved by tournament director.
2. Player passes of guest players are required (see 4.1.2)- pulled correctly onto the GDR
3. Any Coach rostered on a team can coach any team within his Club
4. Game ejections need to be served on the primary team if the suspension cannot be completed during the tournament
5. Coaches will be issued one single pass
6. If the tournament committee discovers an ineligible player, the player would be ejected immediately.

In-house players from your club may guest on travel rosters for the tournament. An Affinity photo player pass and copy of 2024-2025 In-House Roster will be required and validated by the tournament committee.

**5.1 TOURNAMENT TEAM-** The use of a tournament team is permitted at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

**5.2 PLAYER PASS:** No Pass No Play NO EXCEPTIONS- **ALL PLAYERS PASSES MUST BE SHOWN ON GDR**

## **7. CHECK-IN:**

**All coaches and managers must be signed up/ Opted into text messaging within AFFINITY prior to check in. This assists with field changes, closures, and tournament communication.**

Coaches must present valid Affinity player/coach passes (including guest players/coaches), valid legal Affinity roster, game day sheet (listing all players, coaches and guests) and medical waiver forms at check in. (Medical waiver forms do not need to be notarized, however all information must be completed). All teams must check in at the Registration Tent at designated time. At that time you are required to hand in an emergency contact information sheet. NO team will be permitted to check into the dorms or permitted to play their first game until the documents necessary are completed and handed in to the tournament committee.

All Out of State teams are required to complete the Tournament Roster within the Open Tournament Registration system. Tournament Roster must match player passes as authorized by your State Association. Only USYS teams are eligible to participate.

All Out of State teams must bring to registration the following:

Permission to Travel-approved by State Association...please note teams coming from Region 1 do not need travel papers, except for NJ and Conn

Approved Roster

Copy of Player Passes

Copy of Any Guest Players

Team Season and Tournament Record

## **8. TEAM PLACEMENT:**

Tournament committee reserves the right to move teams between divisions based on the past/current session standings.

## **9. GAME RULES/SPECIFICATIONS:**

- Both Home and Away teams must provide quality game ball approved by game referee. No exceptions.
- The first team listed on the schedule is designated as the home team. In the case of uniform conflicts, the home team will be responsible for changing to a different color.
- U-10 – U-12 Two 25 minute halves with a 5 minute halftime  
U-13 – U-19 Two 30 minute halves with a 5 minute halftime.
- Heading is permitted in U11 and up
- A team not prepared to play a scheduled game at posted start time will forfeit the game and the opposing team will be declared the winner. There will be a 10 minute delay of game grace period for lateness before game is forfeited, unless otherwise directed by Tournament Directors
- A team must check-in 30 minutes prior to their game with the Field Marshall.
- Tournament Committee reserves the right to shorten game times if necessary
- Head coaches are responsible for their players, spectators and other coaching staff's behavior. They are responsible for the removal of any ejected players, spectators and coaching staff from the area if a referee asks for them to be removed. Failure to do so will result in a game forfeiture for the offending team.
- Referee will sign and validate the game sheets (GDR). Both coaches must verify the written score of the referee before signing game sheet.

### 9.1. Forfeit-

Tournament committee reserves the right to disqualify a team responsible for the forfeit depending on the circumstances of the forfeit. This rule applies even if the schedule reads opponent **TBA**. If corrected schedule posted at administration tent reads **BYE**, teams do not have to report on the field. **Failure to complete a match, or a team leaving the field during play, will result in forfeiture. No team that has forfeited a game will be declared a wild card or group winner.**

**Note: Any forfeited game will result in that team not proceeding to any playoff round.**

Each forfeited round robin game: The non-forfeiting team shall be awarded:

- 1) 3 points for the win
- 2) 4 goals for
- 3) Zero goals against

Each forfeited round robin game: The forfeiting team shall be awarded:

- 1) Zero points for the loss
- 2) Zero goals for
- 3) 4 goals against

### 9.2. Rules for Advancement-

The teams are ranked in order of points earned for wins and ties. 3 points for a Win, 1 point for a Tie and 0 points for a Loss.

Among teams with the same number of points, final placing will be determined by the following tiebreaker rules:

A. *First Tie Breaker:* Head to Head competition\*\* (In the event of a 3 way tie, or uneven brackets head to head competition will not be considered, and tie breakers will start with "B" Goal Differential)

B. *Second Tie Breaker:* Goal differential

#### **EXAMPLES:**

Actual score	Actual Difference (Max. 4 more than opponent)	Goal Differential Winner	Goal Differential Loser
8 - 2	6	+4	-4
4 - 2	2	+2	-2
10 - 7	3	+3	-3
15 - 0	15	+4	-4
15 - 1	14	+4	-4
6 - 6	0	0	0

C. *Third Tie Breaker:* Least goals allowed

D. *Fourth Tie Breaker:* Discipline Points: Yellow Card = 1 Red Card = 3

All cards to players and coaches apply. If this tie breaker comes into play, the team with the least accumulated discipline points will be judged to win this tie breaker.

F. *Fifth Tie Breaker:* Kicks from the Mark

### 9.3. TIES Quarterfinals/Semi-Finals/Finals-

Ties will stand at the end of regular play. In quarter-final, semi-final and final games, the procedure is as follows:

A. **Two 5-minute periods. GOLDEN GOAL**

B. Kicks from the Mark (coin toss to determine team to kick first)

## 10. INCLEMENT WEATHER:

In severe weather conditions COACH must appear at the headquarters' tent 45 minutes prior to scheduled game time to receive information concerning the start-up of games and conditions. Rain alone does not constitute "severe" conditions unless accompanied by lightning, tornado, hurricane, flooding, etc. At the sign of any thunder or lightning, 30 minutes must pass without another strike or rumble before games can be resumed or started. Should the weekend call for Inclement weather a detailed plan of action will be posted at headquarters prior to the first game with explicit directions for semi final and finals.

- ❖ Only the tournament committee can postpone or cancel a game. Inclement weather before start of tournament including severe weather causing cancellation of the tournament will result in forfeiture of the entry fee.
- ❖ Inclement weather includes: storms, tornadoes, flooding, snow, severe heat or cold.
- ❖ Inclement weather before a game: tournament committee may reduce length of game
- ❖ Inclement/severe weather during a game: after 20 minutes of play, the game will be considered official and score at that time stands.
- ❖ Edinboro University in conjunction with a referee representative will determine field playability and continuation of the tournament during periods of inclement weather.
- ❖ In the event of an inclement weather delay, the game interrupted will be rescheduled to later in the day, please monitor the field conditions page for important updates.

In the event of extreme heat, the tournament committee reserves the right to change the format of the games to allow for additional water breaks for the health and well being of the players, coaches and referees.

## 11. BEHAVIOR/CONDUCT:

Please be advised that the players, coaches and spectators are to conduct themselves within the Spirit and Letter of the Law. Players ejected from a game will not be permitted to participate in the next scheduled game. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of the team's spectators. Where feasible, teams will be located on one side of the field and spectators on the opposite side. The referee or field marshal will determine the location.

**A RED CARD** - GIVEN FOR SERIOUS FOUL PLAY OR VIOLENT CONDUCT = 1 GAME SUSPENSION **PLUS A HEARING AT HEADQUARTERS WILL BE HELD TO DETERMINE IF ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINE IS REQUIRED.** All other red cards are 1 game suspension no hearing necessary.

**TWO RED CARDS**- accumulated by 1 player/coach = suspension from remaining tournament games.

Disciplinary findings from the tournament rules committee will be forwarded to the appropriate District/Division Director or State Association. Further discipline may be deemed necessary by the District /Division Director.

Please be advised that the updated **Referee Abuse Policy (Policy No. 531-9)** is now in effect and will be strictly enforced.

Any individual **suspected of violating this policy will be subject to a disciplinary hearing** in accordance with organizational procedures.

We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a respectful and safe environment for all participants.

### 11.1. UNRULY BEHAVIOR:

No unruly behavior will be tolerated! Any person who is abusive, including verbally or physically, will be asked to leave the tournament and the Edinboro campus. **Coaches are responsible for any and all persons associated with their team. Clubs are responsible for their teams.** Teams and clubs are responsible for any damages done by team members, etc. Clubs will be billed accordingly, when damages occur. Unruly coaches will cause termination of the game and dismissal from campus. Coaches and players dismissed for unruly behavior may face disciplinary action from Pa West Soccer Association.

### 11.2 NOISE ORDINANCE:

To ensure peaceful co-existence with all on campus activities, a noise ordinance from **10:30 pm to 7:00 am** is in effect, campus police may be notified for failure to abide. You may gather quietly in common areas but no loud music or obnoxious behavior will be tolerated. There is NEVER to be any soccer balls played with while inside the buildings.

### 11.3 USE OF ALCOHOL and CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES:

Alcohol and controlled substances, not under the immediate direction of a medical provider, are illegal at the tournament and on the Edinboro campus. Any person in possession of controlled substances or alcohol may be removed from campus and the Tournament committee and/or Edinboro University officials reserve the right to notify campus police if a situation should arise.

**11.4 PETS ARE NOT PERMITTED AT TOURNAMENT!** (Certified working dogs only, and must be registered with the campus a minimum of 1 week prior to tournament)

## 12. PROTESTS:

Protests on violations of the Laws of the Game must be submitted in writing along with \$100 cash within 2 hours of the conclusion of the game. If a Law of the Game violation has been committed a hearing will be set. Protests on referee calls do not constitute a violation of the Laws of the Game.

**13.1 GENERAL:** The tournament committee reserves the right of final decision on any matter not expressly covered in these rules. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to disqualify any team in violation of these rules.

**13.2** For the safety of our players, coaches, referees and spectators a ZERO '0' TOLERANCE WILL BE IN EFFECT AT THIS TOURNAMENT FOR ALL IN ATTENDANCE, this includes any physical violence or verbal abuse toward anyone at the tournament, this includes but is not limited to racial, gender, religious or any type of bullying.