

Spring Festival 2026 Tournament Rules Summary

Penalty Kicks - There will be no penalty kicks in the Under 8 age bracket. An indirect kick will be taken at the place of an infraction.

Forfeits - Your team must be on the field with the minimum of players at game time. If after 10 minutes, your team is still not at a minimum strength, a forfeit will be recorded with the score of 4 - 0. Referee's watches are official game time.

Championships/Overtime - There will be no overtime except in Championship matches. In those matches, overtime will consist of two five-minute periods, with a 3-minute rest between. If after this there is still a tie, the match is over and Co-Champions will be awarded in the U-8 Division. Ties remaining after overtime in all other divisions will be determined by penalty kicks per FIFA rules. Groups of 5 teams No championship games will be played for In these groups, winners are determined based on points.

Jersey Colors – Home Team Wears DARK color uniform - Away team wears LIGHT color uniforms. In case of a uniform conflict the first team on the schedules wears DARK color uniform. Home team is listed FIRST on the schedule.
CESA Recreation teams wear their red jersey as the home team

Protests - There will be no protests.

Games: **NO HEADING AND NO PUNTS NO Drop Kicks in U8 ,U10 and U12 small sided games**

U8 7 v 7 - 2 x 20 Minute Halves and a five-minute break at the half. One referee. Boys and Girls – Size 4 ball. Minimum 4 players to start. **WHEN A GOAL KICK IS AWARDED THE DEFENSIVE TEAM MUST HAVE ALL THEIR PLAYERS RETREAT TO THE HALF WAY LINE BEFORE THE GOAL KICK CAN BE TAKEN**

U10 Recreation 7 v 7 - 2 x 22 minute periods with 5 Five-minute break at the half. One referee. Boys and Girls – Size 4 ball. Minimum 4 players to start. **WHEN GOALKEEPER HAS THE BALL or is TAKING A GOAL KICK OPPOSITION MUST DROP BEHIND THE RETREAT LINE**

U12 Recreation 9 v 9 – 2 x 25 minute periods with a five-minute break at the half. One referee. Boys and Girls – Size 4 ball. Play Minimum 6 players to start.

11 v 11 Recreation U15- U19 – Two 30 minute periods with 5-minute break between. One referee and two linesmen for games if available. Play 11 a side, minimum of 7 to start.

Substitutions - Teams are permitted unlimited substitutions during the following times:

- Any throw-in
- Goal kicks for either team
- Following a goal
- Injured players

All players entering and leaving the field of play must do so at midfield nearest the designated team bench area.

All recreational players must be on the official state roster to be able to play in the tournament. Player cards are NOT REQUIRED. **Players can only play for 1 team during the tournament**

Spring Recreational Festival 2026 – Additional Rules Tournament Point System

TABLE “A”

Point System to Determine Group Winners

Win: Winning teams get 3 points.

Tie: Tying teams get 1 point each.

Loss: Losing teams get 0 points.

TABLE “B”

No Over time...Tie-Breaking Procedure

Note that the order of the tie breaking rules is important. If the first rule can determine a winner, then the process is over. If the first fails, then the second is used and so on until a winner is determined. These procedures are only used when Table “A” fails to determine a winner.

In the event of a 3-way tie, the team that has amassed the greater goal difference will advance. If one team is eliminated due to inferior GD, the process for advancement will start again with head-to-head tiebreaker.

1. Results of head to head competition within the group.

2. Goal Differential (4 goal Maximum per Game)

THERE IS NO ADVANTAGE TO WINNING BY MORE THAN 4 GOALS SO IF YOU ARE IN A MIS-MATCH PLEASE DO NOT RUN UP THE SCORE

3. Least Goals Allowed

4. Number of Shutouts

5. FIFA Penalty Kicks (at a time and location to be determined by the Tournament Director)

Inclement Weather: Every effort will be made to reschedule games if the weather is bad. There will be no refunds if games are cancelled or cannot be rescheduled. The Tournament Directors will make final interpretations of any and all tournament rules and/or tie-breaking decisions.

Weather Hotline is 864 288 0980 and www.carolinaelitesc.com