

## VIII. TOURNAMENT GAMES

A. **Tournament Ranking** – The following methods will be used to rank teams unless otherwise stated in Section VIII.F.

1. **Round Robin Divisions** – When the tournament schedule is played as expected and teams within a tournament division are scheduled using the round robin format, they will be ranked in the following order: (1) tournament game points, (2) head to head competition (including regular season games if they have played each other), (3) tournament bonus points, (4) least goals allowed during the tournament, (5) whether the team received a regular season award (if applicable), (6) least goals allowed during the regular season, and (7) shoot out. A 3 or 4-way tie is broken in the following order: (1) tournament bonus points, (2) least goals allowed during the tournament, (3) whether the team received a regular season award if applicable, (4) least goals allowed during the regular season, (4) regular season game point percentage, and (5) coin flip.

**Note:** Normally only the Under 19s are provided regular season awards. Furthermore, coaches should ensure that a shoot out is not required before dismissing their players.

2. **Single Elimination Tournament Divisions** – When the tournament schedule is played using the single elimination format, the teams will be ranked as follows:
  - a. **Three, Four, Five Team Divisions** – The winner of the final game receives the first place trophies while the loser receives the second place trophies.
  - b. **Six Team Divisions** – Teams scheduled for 6 team divisions are ranked as follows:
    - (1) **Original tournament game schedule played** – In 6 team divisions, the two teams winning the second round games, play for first and second place trophies with the winner of this game receiving the first place trophies and the loser receiving the second place trophies. Fields and officials permitting, another game to decide the winner of third place trophies will also be played. The teams playing in the game to determine who wins the third place trophies are the losers of the second round game.
3. Should a game be tied at the end of regulation play **AND** the tournament division is scheduled as a single elimination tournament, then a shoot-out will be conducted. Therefore, games in divisions scheduled using the round robin format may end in a tie. The winner of a shoot out will be awarded one goal to their game score regardless of the number of goals scored in the shoot out. For example, if the game score is tied 2 – 2, and one team scored 5 goals during the shoot out while the other team scored 3 goals, then the final game score will be 3 – 2 with the team winning the shootout having the 3 goals.
  - a. **Shoot Outs** – If a shoot out is required, the FIFA Procedures to Determine the Winner of A Match – Kicks from the Penalty Mark will apply, in accordance with applicable USSF guidance, except as noted below.
    - (1) Players who participate in the shoot out:
      - (a) If the tournament is scheduled as a single elimination tournament, then only the players on the field at the end of the game may participate in the shoot out. This is consistent with the FIFA rules.

- (b) If a shoot out is required for some other reason, such as to determine the ranking of teams who are not playing each other in the final games, then the coaches may select the 11 players who will participate in the shoot out. This rule is very rarely used and generally only applies in tournament divisions scheduled using a round robin format where all other tie breakers have been exhausted.

(2) Coaches may stay with the players in the midfield circle.

**B. General Tournament Requirements** – The tournament weekend is expected to be June 9/10, 2007. However, the tournament will only be scheduled if a majority of the regular season games can be played before the tournament scheduling process is expected to begin. If weather or other circumstances do not allow a majority of games to be played by the time that the tournament scheduling process normally begins, the tournament will not be scheduled and the tournament weekend will be used to make up games.

1. A majority of regular season games will be considered played if scores have been received for 80 percent of the games that were originally expected to be played at the start of the season by the tournament scheduling date. For example, if the SFL has 500 teams then about 250 games can be expected to be played each game week. If, on average, less than 200 games are played each week, then the tournament will not be scheduled and the weekend reserved for the tournament will be used to make up games.
  - a. Forfeits caused by rescheduling problems are not considered games played for the purpose of determining whether the tournament will be scheduled. For example, if Team A was awarded a forfeit because a game was cancelled due to weather and an adequate slot was not available to make up the game (see section on game rescheduling), then the game will not be considered played for purposes of determining the number of games that have been played. On the other hand, if Team B was awarded a forfeit because Team A did not have a roster, then Team A and Team B would be given credit for a game played. As noted elsewhere, although this forfeit counts towards the games played, it does not count for tournament division ranking purposes.
  - b. If the tournament is cancelled under these circumstances, then no trophies or other awards will be provided to the teams.
2. SFL Club Representatives will be requested to provide field and referee availability information for the tournament weekend, no later than five weeks after the season starts. The SFL will use this information to determine the maximum number of tournament time slots that are available for each club. The number of time slots will then be translated into number of teams supported. For purposes of this computation, a field available all day on Saturday and Sunday afternoon translates into 9 time slots which can support about 10 teams.
3. If a club has more teams than it can support in the tournament, the SFL Club Representative will be asked to assign a priority to each team in each age group. The SFL will use this information to determine which teams will play in the tournament. The SFL Club Representative is not required to provide an overall priority for the club's teams. For example, if a club has 5 teams in each age group and has 6 age groups, then the SFL Club Representative should provide a list for each age group showing the priority (1 to 5) for each team. The SFL Club Representative is not required to rank the 30 teams from 1 to 30.

- a. In making this decision, the SFL Club Representative should confirm that the coach of a given team is willing and able to (1) act as the division commissioner for a tournament division and fulfill the responsibilities outlined in the rules for a division commissioner, (2) pick up trophies for the tournament site, and (3) field a team on the tournament weekend. If a coach cannot, is not willing, or unable to perform tournament division responsibilities and pick up trophies, then that team should be given a lower priority. In addition, the SFL should be notified to ensure that this individual is not asked to perform these duties. If the coach cannot field a team, then the SFL should also be notified to avoid scheduling problems.
  - b. During the scheduling process, the SFL will determine which teams will actually be scheduled as discussed elsewhere in this section. This will be primarily based on field and referee availability and the priority assigned to a given team. Based on past experience, we expect that most teams can be accommodated. However, the SFL reserves the right to limit the number of teams and determine which teams will not play in the tournament. The SFL Club Representatives will be notified of any teams not selected for tournament play before the tournament schedule is published. Clubs with 4 or more teams are expected to provide at least one field and officials for the tournament. If a club has 4 or more teams registered in the SFL but the club cannot provide any fields and officials, all teams will be considered ineligible for tournament play unless adequate fields and officials can be obtained elsewhere. Clubs which can provide officials but no fields are given a higher priority than clubs which provide only fields.
4. **Teams Eligible to Participate in the Tournament** – Teams that have played an adequate number of games and desire to play in the tournament will be scheduled for tournament games when the criteria for scheduling a tournament is met. In other words, teams do not have to register to play in the tournament if the club has provided adequate fields and referees to support the teams associated with their club.
- a. A team will be considered to have played an adequate number of games, if that team has played at least 40 percent of the games originally expected to be played at the start of the season by the tournament scheduling date. For example, if the tournament schedules are being prepared after 5 regular season game weeks have passed, then a team must play in at least 2 games to be considered eligible for tournament play. On the other hand, if the tournament schedules are being prepared after 6 regular season game weeks have passed, then a team must have played in at least 3 games to be considered eligible for tournament play.
    - (1) Forfeits caused by rescheduling problems are not considered games played for the purpose of determining tournament eligibility. For example, if Team A and Team B from the same club were awarded forfeits because a game was cancelled due to weather and an adequate slot was not available to make up the game (see section on game rescheduling), then the game will not be considered played for purposes of determining whether a team has played the minimum number of games. On the other hand, if Team B was awarded a forfeit because Team A did not have a roster, then Team A and Team B would be given credit for a game played. As noted elsewhere, although this forfeit counts towards the games played, it does not count for tournament ranking purposes.

- b. A team which has been assessed 2 or more forfeits for any non scheduling reason may be excluded from the tournament. Examples of forfeits that can result in a team being declared ineligible for tournament play include:
    - As noted in Section II., a forfeit may be assessed because the SFL Club Representative failed to turn in a roster by its due date. Therefore, it is critical that team rosters are received by their due date.
    - As noted in Section IX., if a team does not properly report a red card, then the team is subject to suspension from the tournament.
- C. **Tournament Responsibilities** – A coach may be assigned to be a Site Coordinator, Division Commissioner, and/or Trophy pickup person.
1. The SFL Club Representative must provide **positive** confirmation by Email that a team eligible to play in the tournament is willing to participate in the tournament and that the club, if 4 or more teams are registered, can provide game field(s) and referees. This includes confirmation that the coach is willing to serve as a tournament division commissioner and/or pick up trophies. (As discussed elsewhere, if a club cannot provide adequate fields and officials, then its teams may be excluded from the tournament.) In addition, if a coach is unable to serve as a division commissioner or pick up trophies, then that team may be eliminated from the tournament.
    - a. Since the tournament format for most groups is a single elimination tournament, it is possible that the original division commissioner assigned to a given division may not play in a subsequent tournament game. If this happens, the coach of the team beating the division commissioner’s team becomes the division commissioner for trophy purposes. However, other division commissioner responsibilities, such as phoning the other teams in case of weather cancellations, remain with the originally assigned division commissioner unless the tournament site coordinator decides otherwise.
  2. The Site Coordinator is responsible for (1) providing the fields and nets (2) ensuring that the field(s) are properly lined, (2) ensuring that adequate officials have been assigned for the fields provided, (3) notifying the League Commissioner (703-406-8550) or the SFL Administrator (703-476-6611), and the Division Commissioners for their site in case of game cancellations due to the weather. Generally, the site coordinator is the SFL Club Representative for the club hosting a given tournament site.
  3. The Division Commissioner is approved by the applicable SFL Club Representative and is responsible for the following.
    - a. Preparing a game board (round robin tournament divisions only) for their division and ensuring that the scores are posted. (The SFL Web site has a sample game board on the SFL Documents page.) If the division commissioner’s team loses, then the board is given to the new division commissioner who assumes this responsibility. In some cases, the division commissioner’s team may not play until later in the day. Therefore, the game board may not be available until the division commissioner’s team plays its game.
    - b. Notifying the teams in their division of game cancellations. In the case of inclement weather, the division commissioner should also notify the teams in their division if games are going to be played and of any schedule changes. This responsibility remains with assigned division commissioner even if the division

commissioner's team loses before the final tournament division game unless the site coordinator performs these duties.

- c. Distributing the trophies for their division. Generally the site coordinator is assigned the responsibility for picking up trophies. However, in some cases, in order to reduce the travel requirements, other individuals are assigned this responsibility.
  - d. The division commissioner is **NOT RESPONSIBLE** for collecting rosters. However, as noted elsewhere, each team is required to present their roster to the other team **BEFORE** the start of their game. **IF A TEAM DOES NOT HAVE A ROSTER, THAT TEAM FORFEITS THE GAME**, the referee is notified that the game will not be played, and both teams leave the field of play.
  - e. In the case of teams playing the "round robin" tournament format, determines the final team rankings for the division.
4. The individuals assigned for Trophy Pickup are also approved by the SFL Club Representative. The SFL sends these individuals an Email on how to pick up the trophies and when they are ready for pickup. All trophies should be picked up by the Friday night preceding the first tournament game. All trophies should be taken to the first tournament game.
- a. When the SFL Rules call for the trophies to not be distributed because of cancellation of one or more tournament division games (see section on tournament game cancellations), then the SFL Club Representative responsible for the trophies assigned to that tournament division must return those trophies to the SFL in accordance with the guidance received from the SFL.

**D. Placement of Teams in Tournament Divisions** – Teams that have played a majority of their games will be ranked for tournament play based on their game point percentage (game points earned divided by total games played times maximum number of points that can be earned for a game), game points, bonus points, and least goals allowed. Games where a team is assessed a forfeit and points lost due to reporting scores late do not count in this calculation since the goal of the tournament is to place teams with comparable abilities against each other. Therefore the actual game results associated with games played are used to determine the rankings that are used for creating tournament divisions. The tournament ranking will normally be based on the results through the fifth or sixth game.

1. A team will be considered for tournament division placement purposes to have played a majority of games if that team has played at least 70 percent of the games originally scheduled rounded up to the next highest game at the time the tournament schedule is created. For example, if the tournament schedules are being prepared after 5 regular season game weeks have passed, then a team must have played at least 4 of those games to be considered eligible for top or bottom divisions. On the other hand, if the tournament schedules are being prepared after 6 regular season game weeks have passed, then a team must have played at least 5 of those games to be considered eligible for the top or bottom tournament divisions.
  - a. Forfeits assessed because of scheduling reasons are not considered games played for this purpose. For example, if a Team A and Team B from the same club were awarded forfeits because a game was cancelled due to weather and an adequate slot was not available to make up the game (see section on game rescheduling), then the game will be considered not played for purposes of determining whether a team has

played the majority of its games. On the other hand, if Team B was awarded a forfeit because Team A did not have a roster, then Team A and Team B would be given credit for a game played. As noted elsewhere, although this forfeit counts towards the games played, it does not count for tournament division assignment purposes.

- b. **Placement of Teams in the Top and Lowest Tournament Divisions** – A team will be placed in the top tournament division or the lowest tournament division only if they have played a majority of their games, as defined above, at the time the tournament divisions are determined.
- c. **Placement of Teams That Have Not Played a Majority of Their Regular Season Games** – All teams eligible for tournament play but not playing a majority of games, as defined above, when the tournament schedules are prepared, will be placed together in a separate tournament division(s) if practicable.

- (1) If it is not practicable to create a special division(s) for the teams that have not played a majority of games, then teams with a game point percentage of about 50 percent or less will be placed with teams that have a game percentage point ranking of about 50 percent. All other teams that have not played a majority of games will be placed with teams that are in the division after the top tournament division.

#### Example

Teams A and B have not played a majority of their games and are playing with teams in tournament divisions 1 through 10 for that age group with division 5 containing the teams with a game percentage point ranking of about 50 percent. Team A has won 3 games and Team B has lost 3 games. All other teams in the age group have played majority of their games. Therefore, Team A would be scheduled with the Division 2 teams and Team B would be scheduled in Division 5 against teams that have a game point percentage of about 50 percent.

- (2) The appropriate SFL Age Group Commissioner or SFL Commissioner may determine that this requirement does not apply to a given team based on information obtained by that individual and place the team in another tournament division. For example, the SFL Age Group Commissioner may review the current season results and see that the team has lost every game by at least 3 goals and determine that a better placement for that team would be in a lower division.

E. **Tournament Format** – The teams selected for the tournament will be divided into divisions (generally 4 or 5 teams each). Most of the age groups have two regular season groups which are also commonly referred to as divisions. Resources permitting, the top tournament division in the top two regular season groups will use a “round robin” format while the remaining tournament divisions will use a single elimination format. Depending of the availability of fields and officials, additional divisions may also be scheduled using a round robin format.

- 1. As the SFL has grown, the ability to conduct the tournament has become much more difficult. Due to the limited availability of fields and officials during the tournament weekend, the SFL has been forced to adopt a single elimination tournament format for most tournament divisions.

2. **Single elimination format** – Teams playing in tournament divisions scheduled using the single elimination format will play games with the winners or each game advancing to the championship game. These games may not end in a tie. Section VIII.A. discusses how to rank teams in these divisions.
  - a. In some cases, a 6 team division may be scheduled. In 6 team divisions, the two teams winning the second round games, will play in the championship game. Fields and officials permitting, another game to decide the winner of third place trophies will also be played. The teams playing in the game to determine who wins the third place trophies are the losers of the second round game.
3. **Round robin format** – Teams playing in tournament divisions scheduled using the round robin format will play at least 2, and in most cases, 3 other teams in their division. Unlike the single elimination format, games scheduled using this format may end in a tie. Section VIII.A. discusses how to rank teams in these divisions.

#### F. **Actions Taken When Tournament Games Cannot Be Played As Scheduled**

1. Coaches should assume, regardless of the weather, that tournament games will be played unless they are notified by their tournament division commissioner (or site coordinator) that the games have been canceled. Therefore, in the case of inclement weather, if a coach has a question on whether a game will be played, they should contact their tournament division commissioner. If this individual cannot be reached, then they should contact the appropriate site commissioner.
  - a. The division commissioners should contact coaches and notify them of game cancellations and schedule changes, however, the coaches are also responsible for checking to see if the games are canceled or if their games have been moved.
2. A cancelled game is a case where both teams are available for play, however, due to weather, field conditions, or some other reason, a scheduled game cannot be played.
  - a. Games where a team has received a forfeit are considered games played as scheduled regardless of the reason for the forfeit.
  - b. As noted in section V.C., when a tournament game is halted due to unsafe playing conditions, the game result at the time of termination will be used as the final game result unless waived by the SFL Age Group Commissioner regardless of when the game is terminated.
  - c. The tournament is designed so that the clubs ensure that adequate officials have been assigned to cover the scheduled tournament games. In the past, due to circumstances beyond the control of the club, the assigned referees may not appear at the game. When referees are not available at the scheduled start time, the teams should wait a reasonable period to determine if officials will be present. After waiting a reasonable period the referees do not appear, then the game is considered a cancelled game. In the past, some teams have agreed to play the game using someone other than the assigned referees. The SFL has consistently maintained that should the teams agree to play the game using someone other than the tournament site assigned referees, then (1) the game is considered as a game played and (2) no protests are allowed due to referee issues.

3. If one or more tournament games in a tournament division are cancelled, then (1) the remaining tournament games in that tournament division are cancelled and (2) the trophies will be returned to the SFL unless one of the following exceptions are met.
  - a. **All Saturday games are played in a 3 team round robin division and one team wins both games, however, the Sunday game is cancelled.** In a 3 team round robin division, one team normally plays two games on Saturday. If that team wins both of its games on Saturday and Sunday's game is cancelled, then the first place trophies would be awarded to the team winning both of its Saturday games since that team would have received the first place trophies regardless of the outcome of the Sunday game. On the other hand, if the team playing two games on Saturday did not win both games, then it is impossible to determine which of the 3 teams should be awarded first place trophies and no trophies will be awarded.
  - b. **A tournament division is scheduled using a 6 team round robin division with mini groups or a 6 team single elimination format and all Saturday games are played, however, only one Sunday tournament game can be played since the field is unavailable for the other game normally scheduled using this format.** In these two game formats, the Saturday results clearly show the two teams eligible for first and second place trophies and the two teams eligible for third place trophies. When only one of the expected two games can be played because of field conditions, then (1) the field slot available for play will be used by the teams eligible for first and second place trophies, (2) the first and second place trophies will be awarded based on the results of the game played, (3) the game for third place trophies will be cancelled with the SFL Club Representative returning the third place trophies to the SFL. It should be noted that this situation is only expected to occur when two fields are used for playing the Sunday games.

The following are examples of how these rules apply to a tournament division.

Condition	Impact on Game Schedule and Trophy Awards
Saturday tournament games are cancelled	All Sunday tournament games are cancelled and no attempt is made to reschedule any tournament games. No trophies are awarded and the SFL Club Representative returns the trophies to the SFL.
Sunday tournament games are cancelled	No trophies are awarded and the SFL Club Representative returns the trophies to the SFL unless (1) the tournament division is a 3 team division playing a round robin format and (2) one team has won both of the Saturday games. In this specific case, first place trophies are awarded the team that won both of its Saturday games while the second place trophies are returned to the SFL by the SFL Club Representative.
One Saturday tournament game is cancelled	All remaining Saturday and Sunday tournament games are cancelled and no attempt is made to reschedule any tournament games. No trophies are awarded and the SFL Club Representative returns the trophies to the SFL.

Condition	Impact on Game Schedule and Trophy Awards
<p>All Saturday games are played and one Sunday game can be played in a 6 team single elimination division or 6 team round robin division using mini groups.</p>	<p>In these two game formats, the Saturday results clearly show the two teams eligible for first and second place trophies and the two teams eligible for third place trophies. For example, all tournament games are played on Saturday. Based on Saturday's results (1) Team A and Team B were scheduled to play for first and second place trophies on Field 1 and (2) Team C and Team D were scheduled to play for third place trophies on Field 2. However, due to weather or other conditions, Field 1 cannot be used on Sunday while Field 2 is available. Accordingly, (1) the game between Team A and Team B is moved to Field 2 with the results of that game used to determine who receives first and second place trophies and (2) the game for third place trophies is cancelled and the third place trophies are returned to the SFL by the SFL Club Representative.</p>
<p>Team A is assessed a forfeit since it does not show up to play its scheduled tournament game with Team B.</p>	<p>The tournament game is shown as a game played with Team B being declared the winner with a 1 – 0 score. Assuming the remaining games in that tournament division are played, the trophies will be awarded in accordance with the process applicable for that type of tournament division, i.e., teams will be ranked using the processes outlined elsewhere in this document if the tournament division is scheduled as a round robin division or the winner of the final game associated with the single elimination division.</p>