

# **25th Annual Crossroads Challenge**

## **October 11-12, 2025**

### **Tournament Rules**

#### **1. Players and Coaches**

The Head Coach must sign in, in person, an hour before their first game. At this time a complete roster will be checked against the frozen roster. Medical Release information should have been received prior to the tournament and must be submitted for a player to participate in any game.

Each team will provide a suitable game ball for each game. U9, U10, U11, and U12 will use a size 4 ball; all other ages will use size 5. Suitability of the ball is the sole determination of the referee.

Player passes are not allowed at the tournament. Only players on the Soccer Maine frozen roster are allowed to play on said team.

#### **2. Uniforms and Equipment**

All uniforms must be numbered. **Duplicate numbers on any team are not permitted.** It is the home team's responsibility to change uniforms if a color conflict arises. Pinnies, which permit the underlying number to be discerned, are acceptable for this purpose. Shirts must be tucked in and socks must cover shin guards. **The use of shin guards is mandatory.** Referees will exclude players not so equipped from play.

#### **3. Coaches and Sportsmanship**

A minimum of one Soccer Maine licensed and rostered coach must coach the team and be in the player area. A maximum of three Soccer Maine licensed and rostered coaches may be in the team area during games.

#### **Conduct and Responsibility**

Coaches are responsible for their own conduct and for the conduct of their players and fans at all games. **Abusive or obscene language, violent play, violent conduct or other behavior detrimental to the game will not be tolerated.** Failure of a coach to control his/her players and fans may result in action against him/her by the referee. For any sportsmanship problems concerning the spectators, the referee will solicit the assistance of the Tournament Director and direct the offender(s) to leave the immediate area of the playing field. If the offender(s) fail(s) to leave the area as directed, the referee at his/her discretion may terminate the game and the Tournament Director may award a forfeit win to the non-offending team.

Coaches must stay at least 10 yards from the half-way line during the games. They must refrain from loud, persistent or intrusive coaching of field players from the touchline. Parents and other spectators must remain on the opposite sideline. Failure to observe these rules will be considered behavior detrimental to the game and may be dealt with accordingly.

Coaches and managers who are ejected or are under suspension must leave and remain completely away from the playing site. Failure to abide by this rule may result in additional disciplinary action.

#### **4. Referees**

The referee is responsible for the conduct of the game. The 2019 IFAB rule changes that will be in play are as follows. Free Kicks, Goal kicks, Kick off, Dropped ball, Penalty Kicks, Cards for coaches, and Hand ball offenses. There will be a printed list of these rules at the Stats tent. The referee is the sole judge of the suitability of the field at game time and its equipment, the players' uniforms and equipment.

#### **5. Duration of Games**

U9 and U10 games shall consist of two equal halves of 20 minutes each.

U11, U12, U13 and U14 games shall consist of two equal halves of 30 minutes each.

U13 and U14 championship games are full length 35 minute halves.

Half time breaks for all games shall be five minutes.

#### **6. Protests**

- No protests will be allowed in this tournament. Decisions of referees stand for each game. Protests will not be heard on the quality or judgment of substitute referees.
- The Tournament Director has the final authority in the interpretation of the tournament rules and the operation of the Patriot Crossroads Challenge.

#### **7. Player Safety**

Any player who is found to be bleeding or to have blood on his/her uniform shall be asked to leave the field. The player may return only after demonstrating to the assistant referee that the bleeding has stopped and that all blood has been removed from the uniform.

#### **8. Substitution**

Substitutions shall follow Soccer Maine's Fall Handbook for each level as indicated below:

All levels - unlimited and made at mid-field:

- Prior to a throw-in – either team
- Prior to a goal kick – either team
- After a goal – either team
- After an injury when the referee stops the game – either team
- At half time – either team

#### **9. Bracketing**

U-9, U-10 & U-11 age groups are non-competitive per Soccer Maine tournament guideline requirements. For all other age groups, bracketed rounds will be played under FIFA bracketing formats unless the number of teams in the division makes this impossible. Brackets will be formed by random draw. The FIFA bracket format is to be used for all bracketed play which means there is **No overtime** in bracketed play. The winner of each bracket is determined by the FIFA point system of:

**Win = 3 points      Tie = 1 point      Loss = 0 points**

Winners of forfeited games will be awarded 3 points.

FIFA Bracketing means you play everyone within your bracket once; bracket winners meet each other in a final. **Tie breakers for bracket play** will be in this order:

1. Head to Head
2. Goal Differential (3 goals maximum per game)
3. Fewest Goals Given Up
4. FIFA Penalty Kicks

Three-way ties are resolved starting at tie breaker #2, with second place again starting with tie breaker #2.

#### **10. Suspended & Terminated Games**

Fitness of playing conditions will be determined by the Patriot Soccer Club prior to the game. Responsibility then shifts to the referee during the game. Qualifying games will be considered complete if the game is terminated after the first half has been played. Any game terminated prior to completion of the first half will be recorded as a 0-0 tie. Championship games may be suspended during play by the referee. The Patriot Soccer Club will then rule on a possible reschedule to complete the game. If the game cannot be restarted, and the first half is completed, then the winner will be determined by the current score, if there is a tie, and/or the first half has not elapsed, both teams will be declared co-winners.

#### **11. Score Sheets**

Both coaches and referees must sign the referee's score sheet at the conclusion of each game.

#### **12. Cancellations / Refunds**

Any team that is accepted into the tournament and later withdraws will forfeit the registration and entry fees. No refund will be made in the event of cancellation or shortening of any matches due to inclement weather or unsafe field conditions from the inclement weather.

#### **13. Tournament Finals**

- All final games will be played in a single elimination format.
- Games with a tied score at the end of regulation shall complete two (2) 5-minute overtimes (no golden goal). If the game is still tied at the conclusion of two overtime periods, then the FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark Tie-Breaker procedure as specified in the Laws of the Game shall be followed to determine a winner. One round of five (5) kicks from the penalty mark per team will be taken. If a winner has not been determined, sudden death kicks from the penalty mark will be performed. Only players on the field at the end of the match are eligible to take penalty kicks.

#### **14. Awards**

U-9, U-10 & U-11 age groups will be non-competitive and all participating, rostered players will receive a Patriot Crossroads Tournament Medallion. U-12, U-13 & U-14 age groups will be competitive and only the winning team and second place team participating, rostered players will receive Patriot Crossroads Tournament Trophies.

## 15. Zero-Tolerance Policy

### Applicability

Each coach is responsible for their actions, the actions of their players, and the actions of their spectators. Each coach, player, and spectator shall, at all times, support the referee and any/all game officials. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for the players, spectators, coaches, and referees alike. **No one is to address the referee in a negative manner during the game.**

### Coaches' communications with the referee and/or game officials

A coach and/or person responsible for a team may **NOT** address the referee except for:

- Responding to the referee initiated communication.
- Making a request for substitutions.
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues.

### Sanctions

- **First minor infraction:** Warning
- **Second minor infraction:** Caution
- **Third minor infraction:** Ejection
- **First serious infraction:** Caution –or- ejection depending on the seriousness of the infraction.

### Spectator communications with the referee and/or game officials

Spectators should not say anything to the referee and/or game official, nor should they do anything which, in any way, could convey any criticism of the referee. Spectators may respond to a communication initiated by the referee, or may point out any emergency safety issue.

***Coaches are responsible for their spectators and will be responsible for their actions.***

### Sanctions

- **First minor infraction:** Referee will stop the game and ask the coach to quiet the offending party.
- **Second minor infraction:** Referee will stop the game and ask the coach to warn the spectator that the next infraction will be an ejection or the referee will abandon the game.
- **Third minor infraction:** The referee will instruct the coach to direct the spectator to leave the field. If the spectator refuses to leave the field, the referee should abandon the game.
- **First serious infraction:** The referee will instruct the coach to direct the spectator to leave the field. If the spectator refuses to leave the field, the referee should abandon the game.

In the event the referee abandons the game, the offending team will forfeit the game. The game score will be recorded as 3-0.

### Notification

Should a referee be forced to take sanctions against a team, he or she shall notify the Patriot Soccer Club's Tournament Director and Club President who in turn will determine if any additional notice be given to the offending team's club and/or to Soccer Maine.