



## Ohio State Cup powered by GLA\_NPL

**Tournament Weekends: U12 (11v11 only) and U-13 through U-19**

**Northern Ohio Preliminary Matches - May 1-3, 2026**

**Location: Weekend Preliminary Matches - HOF Village, Canton and Strongsville Soccer Complex, Strongsville, Ohio**

**Tournament Weekends: U9-U12 (9v9)**

**Northern Ohio Preliminary Matches - May 9-10, 2026**

**Location: Preliminary Matches - Lost Nation Sports Park, and Andrews Osborne Academy, Willoughby, Ohio**

**Tournament Weekends: U-9 and U-19**

**Southern Ohio Preliminary Matches - May 1-3, 2026**

**Location: Weekend Preliminary Matches -Warren County Sports Park, Lebanon, Ohio**

**The top 2 teams from the Northern preliminaries and the 2 teams from the Southern Preliminaries will meet in the Semi-Finals.**

**Semi-Finals and Finals - ALL AGES - May 15-18, 2026**

**Location: Semi-Finals and Finals U9 through U16 May 16-17 Sports Ohio, Dublin, Ohio. U17 & U19 Semifinals will be played May 15 in Columbus while U17 & U19 Finals will be played May 18 at a neutral site.**

(Out of town teams will not need to play before Friday evening however, in most cases, there will be an opportunity to play either a self-scheduled game or a mid-week game closer to Columbus. This is being done with older teams with the goal to play only 1 game a day if possible. All teams will be playing Saturday and Sunday.)

**Age Categories:** U9 through U19 Boys and Girls.

The Ohio State Cup will offer Both a Super Group Division as well as a Premier Division.

Winners of the U13 and Older Super Group advance to the Super Group Competition of National Cup XXIII Finals at DICK'S Sporting Goods Park in Commerce City, Colorado July 20-24, 2026 or girls and July 17-21, 2026 or boys.

Winners of the U13 and Older Premier Group advance to the Premier Group Competition of National Cup XXII Midwest Regional at Waukegan / Libertyville, Ill. June 19-22, 2026

The Great Lakes Alliance pays for entry fees into the National Cup for the Super Group Champions and the entry fees into the Regional event for the Premier Champions.

The Tournament Director reserves the right to adjust the team's selected divisions in order to balance the competitiveness of certain divisions, based on the teams entered. If there are an insufficient number of teams in a particular division, the tournament reserves the right to play that division as one division in the Super Group.

**Team Eligibility:** All U8-U19 teams from Alliance Premier Soccer League, as well as all Ohio teams will be all eligible to enter. You do not have to play in a qualifying league to participate in this open event.

Teams that are not currently carded with US Club Soccer can easily do so prior to competing in State Cup.

Format: Traditional Round Robin play with Championship Games. In groups of 4 or 5, the top 2 teams go directly to the Finals. In groups of 8 or more, there will be semi-final matches with those winners going to the finals.

U8-U10 Teams play 7v7, U11 Teams play 9v9; U12 teams play 9v9 or 11v11; U13-U19 teams 11v11.

### Age Requirements

In order to play in a given age category, you must meet the following requirements:

Age groups for the seasonal year that begins July 1, 2026 and ends July 31, 2026.

Birth Year	2025-2026
2017	U9
2016	U10
2015	U11
2014	U12
2013	U13
2012	U14
2011	U15
2010	U16
2009	U17
2008	U18
2007	U19

The age groups are determined by the player's year of birth.

### Number of players

U8, U9, 10 – 7v7 (6+Keeper)

U11 – U12 9v9 (8+Keeper)

U13 and up – 11v11 (10+keeper)

**Roster Size** – You may dress 14 players for 7v7 and 16 for 9v9. You may dress 18 for 11v11 matches. Younger players are allowed to play up an age group as an individual or as an entire team. Each team may roster up to 30 players. Any player in your club, provided they are age appropriate, may be listed on US Club tournament team roster. A player may not play for more than one team in an age group regardless of division.

### ALL TEAMS MUST GO THROUGH REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS CHECK-IN.

Each team is required to submit one copy of an official US Club approved roster. Validated team US Club pass cards are required for each player and coach.

In compliance with Ohio HB 143 of the 129<sup>th</sup> General Assembly:

All teams are required to submit a copy of certificate of completion of online concussion course for ALL adults (coach, manager, team parent(s) who will be present on players sideline during all tournament matches.

This online training course has been approved by the Ohio Department of Health:

National Federation of High School Association (NFHS) Concussion In Sports

<http://www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=38000>

This is the ONLY concussion training courses that are accepted by ODH and CASA Tournaments. Certificate of completion must be issued by NFHS, NAYS or CDC. Copies of certificate are to be submitted to tournament officials at team registration/check in.

## II. Game Procedures

All games, including playoffs and championships will be played as follows:

Age Group	Length of Game	Ball Size
U8, U9, U10 (7v7)	Two 25 minute halves	4
U11, U12 (9v9)	Two 30 minute halves	4
U13 and U14 11v11	Two 35 minute halves	5
U15 and up 11v11	Two 40 minute halves	5

The first team listed on the schedule will be the home team.

The home team must have an alternate jersey and be prepared to change if, in the opinion of the referee, there is a color conflict.

The home team must supply the game ball.

Teams should warm up in an adjoining area by the field and should be prepared to start their game on time. No warm up on the field.

The minimum number of players necessary to start game: 11v11 is 7 (6+keeper), 9v9 is 6 (5+keeper), 7v7 is 5 (4+keeper)

In case of a team not having the minimum number of players to field a team or a "no show" by opponent: the game may NOT be called and declared a forfeit by referee. Referee must consult with assignor and tournament director. The tournament director is the ONLY official that has authority to declare forfeit.

### Competition Format

The competition format will be determined by the number of entries per age category.

Referees will enforce the offside rule in all matches regardless of age.

There will NOT be a buildout line enforced in any matches.

The Ohio State Cup Tournament officials reserve the right to combine age brackets should the number of teams participating warrant such a move.

Games scheduled for teams with no opponent (TBA) will be awarded the win (1-0) and the points (3).

### **III. Determining Champions in Each Group**

All teams standings shall be determined by using the following criteria, in order of importance.

- 1) Total number of points- each team receives 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss.
- 2) Record head to head (If 3 or more teams are tied, head to head will not be used.)
- 3) Goal difference- Subtract total goals allowed from total goals scored. Please note: The maximum recorded goal difference in any one game shall be four (4)
- 4) Most goals scored (up to 4 per game)
- 5) Least goals allowed
- 6) FIFA penalty kicks

In event of forfeit, rules 3 and 4 will be placed in a "per game average"

**The team's coach or manager is responsible for checking accuracy of scores recorded on game card at field.**

### **IV. Overtime Periods**

During group competition, no overtime will be played. Each team will be awarded one point for a tie. In playoff competition, if game is tied at completion of regulation play, no overtime will be played. Teams will go directly to FIFA tie-breaking method of kicks from the penalty mark to determine winner.

If tied at the end of the game, a 5-person penalty kick shootout will determine the outcome of the game. The kicks are taken alternately by the teams. Each kick is taken by a different player, and all eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick.

If, before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could score, even if it were to complete its five kicks, no more kicks are taken. If, after both teams have taken five kicks, the scores are level, kicks continue until one team has scored a goal more than the other from the same number of kicks

Only players who are on the field of play or are temporarily off the field of play (injury, adjusting equipment etc.) at the end of the match are eligible to take kicks. If at the end of the match and before or during the kicks one team has a greater number of players than its opponents, it must reduce its numbers to the same number as its opponents and the referee must be informed of the name and number of each player excluded. Any excluded player is not eligible to take part in the kicks.

### **V. Exceptions to FIFA LAWS**

#### **Substitutions:**

- 1) Substitutes are to enter the game at the centerline on the bench side of the field.
- 2) Teams in all age groups are allowed unlimited substitutions.
- 3) Substitutions may take place for both teams at the following times provided that permission is granted by the referee:
  - a) on a goal kick
  - b) after a goal is scored
  - c) on an injury, when the referee has stopped play
  - d) at half time and the start of any overtime period (in the playoffs)
  - e) after a caution is issued
  - f) on a throw in -- If the team in possession of the ball is permitted to substitute, the other team is allowed to also substitute provided the player was already at the center line ready to enter the field.

#### **Heading:**

Heading has been eliminated in all matches U-11 and younger. Intentionally heading the ball in these matches shall result in an indirect free kick awarded to the opponent at the spot of the infraction - or from the top of the goal area for infractions inside the goal area.

## **VI. Ejections**

If, for any reason, a player or coach get ejected from any game (receiving one [1] red card or two [2] yellow cards) the same player or coach will lose his/her eligibility to further participate in this game. In addition, they will lose the right to participate in the next scheduled game. Furthermore, they may lose the right for further participation in the entire tournament depending on the gravity of the offense. The tournament disciplinary committee's decision is FINAL. Foul and abusive language is cause for ejection.

### **Protests**

No protests will be heard. **All decisions by the Tournament Directors Committee are final.**

## **VII. Inclement Weather or Extraordinary Circumstances**

In the event of extraordinary weather conditions or field circumstances, the Tournament Director shall have the authority to change the format as follows:

- 1) Consider a game complete that has been called by the official
- 2) Reduce the scheduled duration of any yet to be played games
- 3) Cancel any preliminary game(s) having no bearing on flight winner selection
- 4) Games called off in the first half, by the referee or Tournament Director, because of weather conditions, will be decided as follows:
  - a) The team up by two goals or more shall be awarded a win.
  - b) Score difference of one goal or less will be recorded as a tie.
- 5) Games called off during the second half are confirmed complete and will be scored according to the score at the time the game is called off.
- 6)

**Under no circumstances whatsoever will the Tournament Committee, Great Lakes Alliance or US Club, be responsible to any expenses (including the tournament entry fee) incurred by any team. This includes a situation where tournament or any game(s) is (are) cancelled in whole or in part.**

**FIFA rules will apply to all games, conditions, and situations unless otherwise specified within these tournament rules.**

## **VIII. Illegal Activity**

- 1) Any player or spectator found using any alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs on premises will be expelled from the tournament.
- 2) Any player who destroys or steals property will be expelled from the tournament.
- 3) No firearms on premises

## **IX. Refund Policy**

Once accepted into the tournament, no refunds will be granted. If weather conditions or the state of the fields make it impossible to carry out the tournament to its full extent, it is up to the organizers to make the necessary decisions concerning the arrangement or cancellation of games for any reason. Fees are non-refundable if games or the tournament are cancelled for any reason.

## **X. Referees**

This tournament will use certified officials for all matches (USSF Rule 3040).

## **XI. Blood Rule**

Any player who is bleeding and/or has blood on any part of the uniform will be sent off the field by the referee. A substitution can be made. The player sent off may return once the bleeding is stopped and/or bandaged. The affected uniform must be cleaned before the player may re-enter the game.

**XII. Spectators**

Coaches and players will be required to stand on the same side of the field during competition – limited to three coaches/managers per team. Spectators will be required to remain on the opposite side of the field.

**XIII. Awards**

Awards will be presented to winners and second place teams for each age group. Team pictures will be taken as well. Please assemble your team at the tournament headquarters immediately following the championship game.