



# SSA Savannah United

## Tournament Rules of Competition (U8 – U19)

**SCHEDULING:** Until schedules and brackets are posted to our web site, all teams should be prepared to play their first game on Saturday at 8:00am. Schedules, as soon as they are available, will be posted to our web site at [www.savannahunited.com](http://www.savannahunited.com). Schedules will not be mailed. **Please check the web site often for any changes that may have been made to your schedule.** Please do not request schedule information over the phone or by fax. All teams listed first on their schedule are considered to be the home team. All teams are required to provide an alternate color jersey or vest.

**ELIGIBILITY:** All US Club Soccer affiliate teams are welcome to attend. All USYS/USSF affiliated teams are welcome to attend. No need for additional insurance.

**CHECK IN PROCEEDURE:** THE IS NO PHYSICAL CHECK IN FOR THIS EVENT. THE SAVANNAH UNITED FINALE WILL BE USING THE ONLINE CHECK IN SERVICE PROVIDED BY SOCCER IN COLLEGE. THERE IS A NON-REFUNDABLE \$20 PROCESSING FEE. The tournament committee will examine and verify all credentials at initial registration or on the fields prior to the first game. In no event will a player be allowed to participate who has not been certified by the tournament committee. A player who arrives at the playing field after the check in procedure may enter the game once the tournament committee verify the player is eligible and with the permission of the center referee. Only at the pre-game procedure may a player be challenged by an opposing manager / coach. Challenged player(s) will be noted by the referee on the game report and will be allowed to participate in the game, if said player has been verified as eligible by the tournament committee. A late arriving player may be challenged at the time he is allowed to participate by the center referee.

### **ROSTER SIZE:**

U8 will play 5 vs 5. Max roster of 10. Up to 3 guest players allowed.  
U9 will play 7 vs 7. Max roster of 14. Up to 3 guest players allowed.  
U10 will play 7 vs 7. Max roster of 14. Up to 3 guest players allowed.  
U11 will play 9 vs 9. Max roster of 14. Up to 3 guest players allowed.  
U12 will play 9 vs 9. Max roster of 18. Up to 3 guest players allowed.  
U13 + will play 11 vs 11. Max roster of 18. Up to 3 guest players allowed.

**LENGTH OF MATCH:**

U8 boys and girls will play 25 minute halves in all matches, including the finals.

U9 thru U19 boys and girls will play 30 minute halves in all preliminary matches and 60 minutes in the finals including consolation matches.

**METHOD OF SCORING:** U8 – U19 age groups will incorporate the standard 3 point system, which is as follows: \* 3 points for a win \* 1 point for a tie \* 0 points for a loss. A team winning by forfeit shall receive 3 points and the game will be recorded as a 3 vs 0 victory.

**TEAM GUARANTEE:**

Each team will play 3 games minimum.

**GUEST PLAYERS:** Each team U8 through U19 is allowed a maximum of 3 guest players.

**SUBSTITUTIONS:** Substitutions shall be unlimited. Substitutions may be made only upon proper notification of the referee through the assistant referees and with the referee's permission on ***any dead ball situation by either team. (FIFA Rules)***. The goalkeeper does not have to be substituted. If the coach chooses, the keeper may play the entire game.

**LAWS OF THE GAME:**

All games shall be played in accordance with current FIFA 'Laws of the Game' as most recently modified by SSA Savannah United and the tournament committee as noted within these rules.

LAW 1: Field of play: The field of play will be in accordance with GYSA Laws.

LAW 2: Size of the ball: The size of the ball will be as follows: U8 – size 3, U9 through U12 – size 4, U13 and up – size 5.

LAW 3: The number of players: U8 – 5 players (4 field players and 1 goalkeeper), U9 and U10 – 7 players (6 field players and 1 goalkeeper), U11 and U12 – 9 players (8 field players and 1 goalkeeper), U13 and up – 11 players (10 field players and 1 goalkeeper).

LAW 4: No deliberate heading of the ball is allowed in tournament divisions U12 & below. An indirect free kick is awarded for any such infringement.

LAW 5: Players Equipment: Player's equipment must meet these requirements: 1) All players must wear shin guards under their socks, 2) Teams must wear uniforms of a matching design and color, with numbers on the back. 3) In the event of similar team colors, the designated home team will be required to change into an alternative color accepted by the referee. Alternate jerseys need not be numbered. 4) The uniform or jersey of a goalkeeper must be distinctly different in basic color(s) of either competing team or the referee and is not required to be numbered. 5) All players shall conform to FIFA rules concerning player

equipment. 6) Players wearing an orthopedic cast shall not be eligible to play in any game. Orthopedic braces can be worn if the player has a written statement by their physician stating that he/she feels the brace is necessary, but no further injury is likely to occur to the area supported by the brace and the parent has a signed waiver to free US Club Soccer or GYSA if any claim against the US Club Soccer or GYSA or its insurance company in case of further injury to the area protected by the brace.

**LAW 6: Referees:** Following the game, the referee shall complete the tournament game cards, both coaches are required to sign the game cards and the referee or field marshal will submit them to the Tournament Headquarters. In the event the assigned referee fails to appear, the referee assignor will assign an alternate. The game will be played as scheduled and will be deemed official.

**LAW 7: Assistant Referees:** Two assistant referees will be used for U11 through U19 age groups. U8 – U10 games will use 1 center referee only. In the event assigned assistant referees fail to appear, the referee assignor will assign suitable alternates. The game will be played as scheduled and will be deemed official.

**LAW 8: Duration of the game:** The duration of the game will be as follows: The start of games will not be delayed under any circumstances. Preliminary games will run on a continuous clock, including injuries, no time will be added with the exception of the Final / Championship matches where injury time will be added. Overtime periods will be used only for deciding winners in Final / Championship matches. The duration will be 2 x 5 minute halves. In the preliminary rounds, there will be no overtime periods and ties will stand. SSA Savannah United is adopting a 'fair play' or 'mercy rule' for this tournament. The first half of play will be terminated when the score differential is 8 goals. If the goal differential reaches 12 goals in the second half of play the game will be terminated.

**LAW 9: Determination of Quarter Final and Semi-Final game winners:** In quarter final or semi-final head to head competition, if the game is not decided after full time, overtime periods will not be played. The game will be decided by FIFA penalty kicks from the mark. In final matches, if the game is not decided after full time, overtime periods will be played to completion. If the game is still not decided after overtime, the winner will be decided by FIFA penalty kicks from the mark. In group play, determining advancement of teams shall be as follows: 1) Head-to-Head competition, 2) Least Goals Allowed, 3) Goal Differential (goals scored minus goals allowed), 4) Penalty kicks (sudden death).

**CONTROL OF SIDELINES:** Players, reserve players, managers, coaches, assistant coaches and fans are expected to conduct themselves within the letter and spirit of the laws of the game. The tournament committee has the right to remove any person or persons from the tournament for abuses of good conduct, in addition to any specific disciplinary action brought about by any other authority. In addition to the rules of good manners, the following rules will apply in the tournament: A) The tournament director will designate one sideline to be used by the players listed on the game rosters and the managers / coaches of the team. One team will occupy one side of mid-field, with the other team occupying the opposite side of midfield. B) The tournament director will designate the opposite sideline for

spectators and fans. C) Managers / coaches are responsible for the behavior of their fans. Parents are not permitted on the playing field at anytime during the game. **NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO VIEW THE GAME DIRECTLY BEHIND THE GOAL AREA OR MAY BE ASKED TO MOVE.**

**POST GAME PROCEEDURE:** Coaches are required to sign both game cards after the referee completes the game report. We ask that, as mutual courtesy, both teams congratulate each other and the referees for a game well played. 1) Winning coaches or the referees will return all player passes excluding any player or coach that was sent off to the respective manager / coach, 2) Manager / coach of the team will confirm score with referees immediately following the game, 3) Manager / coach of both teams will insure that their sideline area is clean and that all trash is in containers, 4) Referees will complete the game card legibly, 5) Referee or winning coach delivers it to the Tournament Headquarters, 6) Referees will deliver any sent off player or coach's pass with a disciplinary report to Tournament Headquarters.

**DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE:** The discipline committee shall be selected by the tournament director. The discipline committee will review and rule on all reports of unacceptable behavior and conduct by players, managers, coaches assistants, referees, spectators, etc. Rules: A) All players and managers / coaches shall be subject to GYSA Rule 7600 regarding misconduct or the US Club Soccer Disciplinary Procedures, B) A player or manager / coach ejected will have an automatic 1 game suspension (minimum) regardless of the cause of the ejection, C) Depending on the severity of the unacceptable conduct, the discipline committee may recommend suspension of up to the duration of the tournament with further disciplinary action by the appropriate state or national associations. The discipline committee's recommendations must be available to the affected parties no later than prior to their next scheduled game, D) Immediately upon the conclusion of the tournament any retained player passes, along with a completed game report and the discipline committee's action must be forwarded to the GYSA's State Office or US Club Soccer's regional office.

#### **PROTESTS:**

There will be no protests.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER:** In case of severe weather conditions, medical emergency (or any other unforeseen situation) the tournament committee at its sole discretion, may delay, suspend or seek alternate means to determine settlement of matches. Teams will be expected to comply with any changes in the game schedule as decided by the tournament committee. Every attempt to contact affected teams will be made as early as possible. It will be the responsibility of each coach or team manager to contact his/her players. Should the tournament be cancelled, no refunds will be issued.

**GAME TIMES:** The listed starting times for games are rigid and it is expected that games will start on time. All coaches should have their players checked in and ready to begin play at game time. A 5 minute grace period may be extended by the referee to allow for extreme situations which in the opinion of the referee or field marshal may have affected the team's ability to start on time. Teams should be instructed to arrive well in advance of scheduled

game times and be ready to play.

**REFEREES:** At the conclusion of each game, the referee will return any rosters or player passes to the competing teams, complete the “official game card” and direct it to the appropriate field marshal for transmission to the scorers table where scores and points will be calculated, then posted on the official tournament scoreboard. The decisions of the referees concerning any application of rules or other matters surfacing during the game are final. The referee is responsible for placing the two teams (and coaches only) on one side of the field and all spectators on the opposite side. No spectators or coaches may at any time be on the end line or near any goal.

**GENERAL STATEMENT:** It is the intention of the tournament committee to provide a safe and pleasurable experience for the participants in this event. Although every step is being taken to ensure that each player and spectator have a fair chance to enjoy the competition, it is our opinion that we all can benefit greatly by approaching this tournament with a simple understanding that regardless of the individual success of the players or the coaches, a true feeling of winning relates to the competition itself and the message for the future we are able to pass on. Please help us remember why we hold these competitions and the lasting impressions we may bring to the participants.