

2025 Thornhill Thunder Challenge Cup

TOURNAMENT RULES (U13 to U-18)

The objective of the tournament is to promote the game of soccer through sportsmanship, fair play and quality competition. The rules are intended to support the objective; however, all rules have their limitations, and every participant, whether player or official is expected to act in a manner that brings credit to the game. Doing so will add to the enjoyment by everyone.

1. LAWS OF THE GAME

All games shall be played in accordance with the laws of the game observed by Ontario Soccer and the Canadian Soccer Association, except "under the referee's jurisdiction caution and ejections shall be extended to cover all team officials and spectators".

2. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Registrations will be held at the Thornhill Soccer Club on August 15th, 2025 between 1:00 PM and 10:00 PM. All teams are expected to register their teams during this time. Registrations will not be accepted the next day August 16th, 2025 except in special circumstances.

Once a team is registered and the Team Roster is filled out and approved by the Tournament Committee, no additions will be allowed to the Team Roster.

All participating teams must currently be registered with their District and Provincial (State) association. All teams outside of the jurisdiction of the York Region Soccer Association must provide proof of permission to travel (**ATF**) duly authorized by their respective governing association. This proof of permission to travel must accompany the application form for the application to be considered.

ALL ATFs MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 9TH 2025, AT THE LATEST.

A team in the U-13 and up groups may register up to 18 players who may all dress for any game. All players must have a valid player's registration book, approved ID card or approved roster containing player photographs. All except GUEST PLAYERS (see below) must be registered with the team they are playing for in the tournament. Players are not allowed to register with more than one team or to switch from one team to another during this tournament.

All teams must be covered by medical insurance and liability insurance.

3. GUEST PLAYERS – Eligibility

For all age groups:

A maximum of 3 guest players are allowed. These guest players must be registered with the relevant Provincial (State) association. These guest players may be from the same club or from another club with a valid Temporary Eligibility permit. These guest players may be of the same age group or a younger age group (competitive or recreational). All players must have a valid player's book or approved ID card.

4. AGE GROUPS

AGE GROUP	MUST BE BORN DURING OR AFTER THE FOLLOWING YEARS
Under – 13	2012
Under – 14	2011
Under – 15	2010
Under – 16	2009
Under – 17	2008
Under – 18	2007

5. PROOF OF AGE

- Canada: Player's registration cards or approved ID card duly authorized by the District Registrar shall be required as proof of age and eligibility.
- U.S.A. and International: U.S.S.F. player's card or the equivalent, duly authorized by the State Registrar or equivalent shall be required as proof of age and eligibility.

6. PLAYER EQUIPMENT

Player equipment shall be required as per F.I.F.A. Rules.

In the event of similar or identical jerseys (player's shirts), the home team will be required to change colors.

7. SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions are allowed at the following times and upon approval of the referee.

- a) After a goal is scored by either team
- b) At a goal kick by either team
- c) At the beginning of any half
- d) At the referee's discretion for injury
- e) Prior to a team's own throw-in

No substitutions will be allowed for players ejected from the game by the referee.

8. REFEREE'S REPORT and GAME SHEETS

The referee will complete the game sheet and any discipline reports and submits these to the Tournament convenors immediately following the completion of the game.

The game sheet must be completed and signed by one team official from each team and presented to the Field convener with a copy of the official roster no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time along with the players' cards.

9. DISCIPLINE and ABANDONED GAMES

Any player or team official who is ejected from a game in the tournament will be automatically suspended for the following one (1) game. Players may neither dress nor sit at the bench nor play in the affected game. Team officials may not be in the vicinity of the player benches

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to hold discipline hearings for players and game officials who have committed serious offences the result of which may be further suspension or disqualification from the Tournament or Tournament play. The committee will advise the time and location of any discipline hearings.

Note: All red card offenses and the results of the Tournament Discipline meetings will be reported to the team's home district associations.

In the event of misbehavior by either team or spectators (except for referee assaults) the game may be suspended for up to 15 minutes by the referee before he/she abandons the game. The referee must immediately inform the field Convener of the suspension of play and the game may be restarted at any time within the 15-minute suspension. In the event the game is abandoned, the team that is responsible for the misbehavior will forfeit the game and may, at the discretion of the Tournament Committee, be disqualified for the rest of the tournament.

Game forfeits will result in a 3-0 win for the non-defaulting team. Game forfeits will also result in 2 point deducted from the defaulting team's overall standing. Forfeit of the game by both teams will result in a loss for both teams and a deduction of 2 points from each team's overall standing. If it is necessary to request police assistance, the Thornhill Soccer Club reserves the right to pass on any fees or cost incurred to the team/teams responsible or their club(s).

10. FAILURE TO SHOW

A team shall be allowed a 15 minutes grace period from the scheduled kick-off time for late arrival before awarding the game to their opponents. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team.

11. GAME DURATIONS, EXTRA TIME RULES and BALL SIZES

- a) Length of all games will be as indicated on each schedule.
- b) Time limits follow the OS/CSA guidelines for each age group (U13 and U-14 are limited to 150 minutes each day; and U-15 to U-18 are limited to 180 minutes per day); there will be a minimum of 1 hour between each game by any team.

Note re: Length of games for U13 to U-18); each team guaranteed 3 games:

If 4 teams in the grouping, there are 3 round robin games of 50 mins

If 5 teams in the grouping, there are 4 round robin games of 35 mins

- c) Ball sizes are in accordance with OS/CSA rules
- d) No overtime will be played for preliminary games
- e) Half time periods will be 5 minutes
- f) If a Quarterfinal, Semi final or Final game is tied after regulation time game will be decided by penalty kicks as follows::
- g) Best of five penalty kicks by five players of each team.
-If still tied, alternating penalty kicks by the balance of the team until an outcome is decided.
-NOTE: Only players on the field of play at the end of the game can participate

12. GROUP WINNERS, TIE-BREAKERS, WILD CARDS, FORFEIT RULINGS

Each team shall be awarded three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie and no (0) points for a loss. Any forfeited game shall be scored as a 3-0 win for the non-defaulting team and will result in a 2-point loss (from the overall standings) for the defaulting team.

In any given game the maximum goal differential used in calculating the standings shall be 5 goals

At the end of the preliminary rounds the group winner shall be the team with the most points. If teams are tied on points, the following criteria shall determine the winner or other eligibility.

- a) Winner of game between the two teams (if more than 2 teams are tied, this criteria is not used)
- b) Team having the most wins
- c) Goal difference (goals scored minus goals allowed)
- d) Most goals scored
- e) Least goals allowed
- f) Penalty kicks as defined in section 11g) above.

Note: for the divisions with an odd number of teams, only the last 3 (three) games played by the eligible teams will be used to determine the wild card.

Should it be necessary to provide additional teams for quarterfinal or semi final games, a wild card team may be selected. Such team(s) shall be those with the best non-qualifying record in the age division as determined by the number of points accumulated. In the event of a tie, criteria 11-a to 11-g shall apply; if still tied, a coin shall be tossed to determine the wild card team.

Normally, the wild card team cannot play against a team in the playoff round that they have already played in the preliminary round. However, this does not apply if the Tournament Committee needs to select the wild card team by a random draw.

13. PROTESTS

Protests must be made in writing by the team coach or team manager and must be accompanied by a fee of \$150 cash within 1 hour of the conclusion of the game being protested; the protest document must be hand delivered to a Tournament Committee official. In the event that the protest is upheld, the fee shall be returned.

No protest of a referee's decision will be entertained.

14. INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather (i.e., continual rain, poor field conditions, lightning storms etc.), the Tournament Committee will have the authority to change games such as:

- a) Cancel any game in the qualifying rounds which have no bearing in deciding a division winner
- b) Relocate/reschedule games
- c) Change the duration of games
- d) Games terminated after the completion of the 1st half shall be considered official in the qualifying rounds and the scores will stand. All quarters, semi and final games must be completed.

If a game is stopped because of inclement weather and is not restarted within half an hour, a team representative (as indicated on the tournament entry form) must report to the soccer club office (where the registration took place on Friday night) for further instructions. If a team does not report within two hours of the time the game was halted, then they will be deemed to have forfeited the game as per rule 12.

15. GENERAL

The Tournament Committee and/or the Thornhill Soccer Club will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team if the tournament is cancelled in whole or in part.

The Tournament Committee and/or the Thornhill Soccer Club will not be liable for any injuries sustained by any participant or spectator in the tournament, on or off the fields.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decide on all matters pertaining to the tournament and its interpretation of the rules and all other tournament documentation is final.

16. FIELDS CONVENERS AND FOOTNOTE

Field conveners are appointed by the Tournament Committee and are on duty at each game location. They are responsible for checking players' cards and team rosters prior to each game. Teams must check in with the convener at least 30 minutes prior to the start of each game.

17. Refund Policy

Where an age group is cancelled, a full refund will be given to each team that has entered the tournament and for which we have received payment.

Where an age group has not been cancelled, a refund may be given to the team based on the following conditions:

- If the age group has been placed in jeopardy (not enough teams for the age group) then there is no refund for the team that has placed the age group in jeopardy;
- If the request was made prior to 14 days before the tournament, then there will be a pro-rated refund given; the tournament committee will decide on the amount;

- If the request was made prior to 21 days before the tournament, then there will be a full refund given;
- If a team does not show for the tournament, no refund will be given;
- If a team in an age group does not show for the tournament and the remaining teams do not play the guaranteed 3 games in the tournament, then a pro-rated refund will be given to the remaining teams; the tournament committee will decide on the amount;
- In each case, each team requesting or qualifying for a refund will be reviewed by the tournament committee who will decide on the amount of the refund.

18. Referee Fees

Age Group	Referee Fee	Asst. Ref Fee
U09	\$30	N/A
U10	\$30	N/A
U11	\$40	N/A
U12	\$40	N/A
U13	\$40	\$30
U14	\$40	\$30
U15	\$40	\$30
U16	\$40	\$30
U17	\$40	\$30
U18	\$40	\$30