

2026 Thornhill Challenge Cup Tournament Rules

The objective of the tournament is to support 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 for everyone.

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

The Thornhill Soccer Club and/or the Tournament Committee 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.

1. Laws of the Game

All games will be played in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game as observed by Ontario Soccer, except as modified herein to support tournament specific requirements.

a. Substitutions: Unlimited substitutions are permitted during a game but may only be made at the following stoppages in play and approved by the referee:

- I. When a goal is scored
- II. Goal Kick
- III. Half-Time
- IV. At the beginning of the first or second half of extra time
- V. A team's own throw in (opposing team may piggyback)
- VI. Injury (for injured player only)

Note: No substitution will be allowed for a player ejected from the game.

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2. Team and Player Eligibility

- a. Teams must be registered with their provincial, state, or national association.
- b. All teams from outside York Region Soccer Association (YRSA) must show proof of permission to travel, duly authorized by their governing association i.e. Application to Travel (ATF).
- c. Teams from outside the province of Ontario must provide proof of medical and liability insurance.
- d. All players must have a player identification card/book with photograph, duly authorized by the district, state, or national registrar. Also, authorized rosters with embedded player photographs are permitted.
- e. A player may register and play on only one team in the tournament.
- f. Teams are accepted into the tournament at the discretion of the tournament committee.
- g. Once a team is registered and the Team Roster is completed and approved by the Tournament Committee, no additions are allowed to the roster.
- h. A maximum of three (3) guest players are permitted per team. Guest players must be registered with their provincial, state, or national association. Any team using guest players from another club must have a Temporary Registration Permit (TRP) as per OSA Rules and Regulations (or equivalent as per their governing body). Players from within the same club are not considered guest players. Guest players can only apply to teams U14 and over.

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3. Age Group Eligibility

a. This tournament is open to teams composed of players born in the defined calendar year (January – December) or younger.

Age Group Year of Birth

U12 2014

U13 2013

U14 2012

U15 2011

U16 2010

U17 2009

U18 2008

4. Roster Size

a. Teams U12-U13 (playing 9v9) may have a maximum roster size of 18.

b. Teams U14-U21 (playing 11v11) may have a maximum roster size of 20.

c. Teams can dress as many players as allowed by their age group max roster size.

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5. Registration Requirements

- a. Teams must register with the Tournament Committee on Friday, August 21th, 2026 between noon and 10pm or, in special circumstances, by arrangement with the Tournament Committee.
- b. Player and Coach Identification must be presented at the Tournament Registration.
- c. Player identification cards and proof-of-age, where necessary, must be presented to the Field Convener before the first game, and may also be inspected at any time during the tournament by a tournament official. Identification must always be present with the team at the field.

6. Game Management and Referee Reports

- a. Game sheets will be completed, printed and signed by each team ahead of all scheduled games and handed to the referee.
- b. The referee will turn in all game sheets and misconduct reports to the convener at the end of each game. These will be handed to the Tournament Committee.
- c. Home Team: The first team listed on the schedule is the home team. The home team will supply the game ball if requested by the field convenor.
- d. Where playing colours clash the home team will change to alternate distinct colours.
- e. Coaching: Teams will be on the side of the field designated by the tournament officials and must remain on their side of the center line. Coaching outside of this area will not be permitted. Only team officials listed on the game sheet (to a maximum of 4) are permitted in this area. Club Technical staff are allowed on the bench so long as they are listed on the game sheet as one of the four team officials. Team officials are not allowed on the field of play without the referee's permission. All spectators must be on the opposite side of the playing field from the teams.
- f. Team officials will be held responsible for the behavior of their respective spectators.

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- g. Teams should be at the field and ready at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off
- h. Forfeit: Teams will be allowed a 15 minute grace period from the scheduled kick-off time before forfeiting the game. Teams that forfeit games will be reported to their governing body and will not advance to the next round of the tournament.
- i. Any team leaving the field before a game is completed, without the referee's permission, is deemed to have forfeited the game and will be subject to discipline.
- j. All forfeits will be counted as a 3-0 loss.
- k. Abandoned Game: The tournament Discipline Committee will review the circumstances of any team that causes a game to be abandoned and determine further action. Either or both teams may be expelled from the tournament.

7. Discipline and Protests

- a. All misconduct shall fall under the jurisdiction of Ontario Soccer. The tournament discipline committee shall adhere to the policies outlined in "Section 12 - Discipline" of Ontario Soccer's governing documents.
- b. A player accumulating a second caution (yellow) or a player who is ejected (red) in a game will be subject to discipline under the DBR/DBH (Discipline by Review/Discipline by Hearing) system.
- c. Any player who accumulates 2 individual cautions (yellow) over the entire event will be subject to a one (1) game suspension. Players may neither play, dress nor sit on the bench during the game. Suspended team officials may not coach or be in the vicinity of the team bench.
- d. Any team official ordered from the field by the referee will also be subject to discipline under the DBR/DBH system.
- e. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to hold discipline hearings for players and/or team officials who have committed serious offences the result of which may be

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further suspension or disqualification from the Tournament or Tournament play. The Committee will advise on the time and location of any hearings.

e. Appeals & Protests: Protests must be made in writing by a team official 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 handed to a member of the Tournament Committee. If the protest is upheld, the fee shall be returned.

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

f. All discipline reports are forwarded to the appropriate governing association.

g. In the case of a referee assault the accused is immediately suspended from all soccer, until the district association from which the accused is registered adjudicates the case.

h. Protests will not be allowed on the referee's interpretation of FIFA law.

i. All Tournament Discipline Committee decisions are final and binding, as they pertain to the tournament

j. In the event of misbehavior by either team or spectators (except for referee assaults) the game may be suspended by up to 15 minutes by the referee before abandoning the game. The referee will immediately inform the convenor, and the game may be restarted at any time within the 15 minute suspension. In the event of the game being abandoned, the team 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.

8. Game Duration and Overtime/Penalty Kicks

a. All teams will be guaranteed a minimum of 3 games.

b. Duration of Play: Length of halves will be determined pursuant to OSA policies regarding maximum allowable minutes played per day. The tournament committee reserves the right to shorten the duration of games. Game times will be highlighted on the schedule.

c. There must be a minimum of one hour between each game played by any team.

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d. Overtime & Penalty Kicks: If a game is tied in the knock-out round the game will go straight to penalty-kicks – no overtime will be played.

e. ball sizes are in accordance with OS/CSA rules.

f) Penalty Kicks

- i. Best of 5 by five players on each team (alternating)
- ii. If still tied, alternating kicks by the balance of the team until an outcome is decided.
- iii. Only the players at the end of regulation time can participate the in penalty kick shoot-out.

9. Determination of Standings

1) Point System: Three (3) points awarded for a win, one (1) point awarded for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss.

2) Division Standings: Division standings will be determined by the following criteria:

- a) Most Points
- b) Head-to-Head
- c) Team with the most wins
- d) Best Goal Difference (goals-for minus goals-against)
- e) Most goals for
- f). Least goals-against.
- g) Penalty kicks – see 8f above.

3) Note: for 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 quarter-final or semi0final games, a wild card team may be selected. Such team(s) shall be those with the best qualifying record in the age division and

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determined by the number of points accumulated. In the event of a tie, criteria 9 2) a) to g) shall apply.

10. Extraordinary Weather

- a. Games may be shortened or relocated due to severe weather conditions.
- b. A game will be considered complete if the first half of the game has been completed before the referee terminates the game.
- c. Unless otherwise advised by the Field Convenor or Tournament Committee, teams must appear at the scheduled location and time, regardless of weather conditions.
- d. Every effort will be made to complete games. Teams should not leave the general area of the game unless advised by the Field Convenor or Tournament Committee.

11. Refund Policy

When 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:

- a. 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
- b. If the request was made prior to 14 days before the festival, then there will be a pro-rated refund given; Tournament Committee will decide on the amount
- c. If the request was made prior to 21 days before the festival, then there will be a full refund given
- d. If a team does not show for the Tournament, no refund will be given

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e. 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

f. 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.

12. Referee Fees

Age Group	Referee Fee	Asst. Ref Fee
U08	\$30	N/A
U09	\$30	N/A
U10	\$30	N/A
U11	\$40	N/A
U12	\$40	N/A
U13	\$40	N/A
U14	\$40	\$30
U15	\$40	\$30
U16	\$40	\$30
U17	\$40	\$30
U18	\$40	\$30