

2026 Thornhill Festival

Festival Rules

The objective of the Thornhill Festival is to promote the game of soccer through sportsmanship, fair play and quality competition. The rules are intended to support this objective. However, all rules have their limitations and every participant, whether player, spectator 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 Festival Committee will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team if the festival is cancelled in whole or in part.

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

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

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1. Laws of the Game

All Games will be played in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game and the Development Matrix as observed by Ontario Soccer and the Canadian Soccer Association, except “under the referee’s jurisdiction: cautions and ejections shall be extended to cover all team officials and spectators.” Games will be played in accordance with the YRSA guides and rules.

2. Team and Player Eligibility

a. Teams must be registered with their Provincial, State or National Association. All players must have a player identification card/book with photograph, duly authorized by the district, state, or national registrar.

b. All Teams from outside the York Region Soccer Association (YRSA) must show proof of permission to travel (**ATF**), duly authorized by their governing association. The ATF must accompany the application for the application to be considered.

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

d. All players must be on a registered team roster stamped by their governing district.

e. Once a team is registered and the Team Roster is completed and approved by the Festival Committee, no additions will be allowed to the Team Roster.

f. Teams are accepted into festival at the discretion of the tournament committee. The Tournament committee has the right to deny any application.

g. Players are not allowed to register with more than one team or switch from one team to another during the festival.

h. All ATFs must be received by August 16th, 2026.

3. Age Group Eligibility

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

Age Group	Year of Birth
U8	2018
U9	2017
U10	2016
U11	2015

4. Proof of Age

Canada: Player registration cards, approved ID cards or rosters with imbedded photographs duly authorized by the District Registrar shall be required as proof of age and eligibility.

USA & 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.

5. Roster Size

- a. Teams U8-U9 (playing 5v5) may register and dress a maximum of 12 players per team.
- b. Teams playing U10-U11 (playing 7v7) may register and dress a maximum of 14 players per team.

6. Registration Requirements

Teams must register with the Tournament Committee on Friday, August 14th, 2026 between noon and 10pm or, in special circumstances, by arrangement with the Festival Committee.

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7. Game Management & Referee Reports

- a. Game sheet: Each team must complete a game sheet and have it signed by one team official and presented to the field convenor with a copy of the roster no later than 30 minutes before each game.
- b. The referee will complete the game sheet and turn in all game sheets and misconduct reports to the convenor at the end of each game.
- c. Home Team: The first team listed on the schedule is the home team. The home team will supply the game ball.
- 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 centre 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 is 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 or in an otherwise designated space.
- f. Team officials will be held responsible for the behavior of their respective spectators.
- 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.

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8. Discipline & 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 who is ejected (red) from a game will be subject to discipline under the DBR/DBH (Discipline by Review/Discipline by Hearing) system.
- c. Any player who receives a second caution in the tournament will be subject to a one (1) game suspension. Refer to DBR.
- d. Any team official ordered from the field by the referee will also be subject to discipline under the DBR/DBH system.
- e. Players or team officials who receive a red card are not allowed to dress or sit on the team bench in the next game.
- f. The Festival committee reserves the right to hold disciplinary hearings for players and team officials who have committed serious offences the result of which may be further suspension or disqualification from the Festival or Festival play. The committee will advise the time and location of any disciplinary hearings.
- g. All discipline reports are forwarded to the appropriate governing association.
- h. 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 Festival Committee, be disqualified for the rest of the Festival.
- i. 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 Festival Committee. If

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the protest is upheld, the fee shall be returned. **No protest of a referee's decision will be entertained.**

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

9. 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 Festival 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 Festival Committee.

10. Refund Policy

When an age group is cancelled, a full refund will be given to each team that has entered the festival 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

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- b. If the request was made prior to 14 days before the festival, then there will be a pro-rated refund given; festival 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 festival, no refund will be given
- e. If a team in an age group does not show for the festival and the remaining teams do not play the guaranteed 2 games in the festival, then a pro-rated refund will be given to the remaining teams; the festival committee will decide on the amount
- f. In each case, each team requesting or qualifying for a refund will be reviewed by the festival committee who will decide on the amount of the refund.

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11. 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