



Gem State Challenge Rules and Procedures

Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Name

The Gem State Challenge is a tournament designed to provide a fun and competitive environment for all players, coaches, referees, and spectators.

1.2 Philosophy

We strongly believe that soccer should be enjoyable for everyone involved. Sportsmanship is expected at all times from players, coaches, and spectators. We encourage a relaxed atmosphere where respect for opponents and officials is paramount.

Section 2: Governance

2.1 Authority

The Gem State Challenge is sanctioned by Idaho Youth Soccer Association (IYSA) and follows all policies, rules, and guidelines approved by IYSA, FIFA, US Soccer, and US Youth Soccer.

2.2 Appeals and Discipline Committee (Tournament Committee)

Members of the Appeals and Discipline Committee include:

- IYSA Staff Member
- Idaho State Referee Committee (ISRC) Member
- IYSA Board Member

Section 3: Team Application and Admission

3.1 Registration

Any team registered with IYSA or USYS and in good standing may apply for entry into the Gem State Challenge.

3.2 Registration Deadlines

All applications must be received by the deadline established by IYSA for the tournament.

3.3 Fees

All team fees are due at the time of registration.

3.4 Team Eligibility

- **Roster Size:** A team will consist of a maximum of 22 players with a maximum of 18 players dressing, including guest players.
- **Player Participation:** Each player can only play on one team for the duration of the tournament.
- **Credentials:** Each team must have its team roster, medical releases, and travel papers for teams from outside of Idaho.
- **Player Passes:** Player passes will not be checked during the game but must be available upon request.

Section 4: Tournament Structure

4.1 Format

Teams will compete in bracket play, leading to semi-finals and finals where applicable. Points accumulated during bracket play will determine advancement when applicable. IYSA will use Round Robin play if numbers require that.

4.2 Scheduling

- **Game Locations:** Games will be played at the Simplot Sports Complex in Boise.
- **Game Times:** Teams must be ready to begin at the scheduled time. A forfeit will be declared if a team cannot field the minimum number of players at the start time.
 - **Minimum Players:**
 - U10-U12: 5 players
 - U13 and up: 7 players

4.3 Game Lengths

Age Group Half Length Ball Size

U10-U12 2 x 25 min Size 4

U13-U14 2 x 30 min Size 5

U15-U16 2 x 30 min Size 5

- **Halftime:** Five minutes between halves for all games.
- **Running Clock:** No added time unless for serious injury, at the discretion of the tournament committee.

Section 5: Rules of Play

5.1 Laws of the Game

All games shall be played in accordance with FIFA/ IFAB Laws of the Game, except as modified by these rules.

5.2 Heading Policy

- **No Heading:** Heading is not permitted in U9, U10, and U11 age groups.

5.3 Punting Policy

- **No Punting:** Punting is not permitted in the U10 age group.

5.4 Substitutions

- **Unlimited Substitutions:** Allowed at any stoppage of play with the referee's discretion.

5.5 Field Equipment

- **Game Balls:** Provided by the teams. Size 4 for U10-U12; Size 5 for all other divisions.
- **Nets and Flags:** Provided by the tournament organizers.
- **Jersey Colors:**
 - Home Team: Light-colored Kit.
 - Away Team: Dark-colored Kit.
 - In case of color conflict, the home team must change Kit.

Section 6: Match Procedures

6.1 Check-In

Teams must have their team roster, medical releases, and travel papers (if applicable) available at all times.

6.2 Field Marshals

The home team is responsible for providing a field marshal for each game.

6.3 Coaching from the Technical Area

- **Coaching Limit:** A maximum of four team officials (coach, assistant coach, manager, etc.) are allowed in the technical area. Team officials must be listed on the roster.
- **Behavior:** Coaching must be conducted in a positive manner and comply with all IYSA policies.

Section 7: Scoring and Advancement

7.1 Point System

- **Win:** 6 points
- **Tie:** 3 points
- **Loss:** 0 points
- **Shutout:** 1 point (including 0-0 ties)
- **Goals:** 1 point per goal up to 3 per game

- **Forfeit:** 7 points or the average of points earned in games played, whichever is greater

7.2 Tiebreakers

If teams are tied on points, the following criteria will be applied in order:

1. Head-to-head result (if applicable)
2. Goal difference (maximum of 4 per game)
3. Most goals scored (maximum of 4 per game)
4. Fewest goals against
5. FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark"

7.3 Semi-Final and Final Matches

- **Tie Games:** If tied at the end of regulation, the winner will be decided by FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark."
- **No Overtime:** There will be no overtime periods.

Section 8: Discipline and Conduct

8.1 Player and Coach Ejections

- **Player Red Card:** Automatic suspension for the remainder of that game and the next game. Serious offenses may be subject to further sanctions by IYSA.
- **Coach Ejection:** Suspended from coaching for the remainder of that game and the next scheduled game for that team and subject to further sanctions by IYSA.
- **Application:** Red cards only apply to the team they were received on unless further actions are deemed necessary by tournament director, and committee.
- **Review:** The Tournament Director will review all red cards and will have the ability to recommend further sanctions on any disciplinary action, to the Appeals and Discipline Committee.

8.2 Protests

- **Procedure:**
 - Must be verbally lodged with the referee and opposing coach before leaving the game site.
 - Submit in writing to Tournament Headquarters within one hour of game conclusion.
 - Accompanied by a \$200 cash fee.
- **Permitted Protests:**
 - Misapplication of the law
 - Violation of Tournament Rules
- **Not Permitted Protest:**

- Judgment Calls: Protests relating to referee judgment calls are not permitted.

8.3 Code of Conduct

All participants must adhere to the IYSA Code of Conduct and US Youth Soccer Code of Conduct.

8.4 Zero Tolerance Policy

Unsportsmanlike behavior, by participants or spectators, including dissent towards referees or opponents, will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. Please refer to IYSA's Referee abuse policy and Zero Tolerance policy.

Section 9: Safety and Medical

9.1 Medical Assistance

- **On-Site Medical Personnel:** Available at tournament venues.
- **Contact:** Notify a Field Marshal or Tournament Administrator for assistance.

9.2 Concussion Policy

- **Evaluation:** An IYSA-appointed medical evaluator will assess any suspected concussion.
- **Return to Play:** Players cannot return until evaluated and cleared by the IYSA-appointed evaluator.
- **Formal Release:** If diagnosed with a concussion, a formal medical release is required before returning.

9.3 Lightning Policy

- **30-30 Rule:**
 - Games stopped if lightning is detected; a minimum 30-minute delay.
 - The 30-minute count restarts with each lightning occurrence.
 - Tournament will adhere to IYSA Environmental conditions policy
 - Games stopped for over 45 minutes will be Abandoned.

9.4 Abandonment of game

- If a game is abandoned for any reason
 - If at least the first half is completed, the game stands.
 - If less than a half and one team leads by 3 or more goals, the game stands.
 - If less than a half and the goal difference is less than 3, the result is determined by penalty kicks.
- The Appeals and Discipline Committee has the right to review abandoned games and overturn 9.4 if 10.4 matters not provided for is in effect.

Section 10: Administrative Matters

10.1 Awards

- **Champions and Finalists:** Trophies and medals awarded to both first and second-place teams.

10.2 Game Rescheduling

- **Authority:** The tournament director has full discretion over rescheduling due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

10.3 Matters Not Provided For

- **Authority:** The tournament committee reserves the right to decide on matters not explicitly covered in these rules.
- **Committee Must:** operate in the best interest of all parties to find solutions to any issue that falls in line with IYSA and USYS policies.

10.4 Use of the Court System

- US Youth Soccer Bylaw 704, Section 1 states that, “No member of US Youth Soccer, official, league, club, team, player, coach, administrator, or referee may invoke the aid of the courts of the United States or of a state without first exhausting all available remedies within the appropriate soccer organizations, and as provided within US Youth Soccer.”

Section 11: Contact Information

For any questions or clarifications, please contact the Tournament Director or visit the IYSA website at www.idahoyouthsoccer.org.