



**WEATHERFORD SOCCER
ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL DAY
4V4 CLASSIC RULES**

Spring 2026 – Recreational 4v4 Soccer Tournament Rules

SANCTIONING & GOVERNING AUTHORITY

This tournament is sanctioned by the **North Texas Soccer Association (NTSSA)**. All matches are played in accordance with **US Youth Soccer (USYS) and NTSSA recreational rules**, except as modified by the tournament rules herein. Participation in the tournament constitutes agreement to all tournament policies and procedures.

RECREATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

- This tournament is open to **recreational teams only**.
 - Competitive, academy, select, or elite teams are **not permitted**.
 - Teams must be registered with an **NTSSA-affiliated recreational league**.
 - The Tournament Director reserves the right to reclassify or remove any team that does not meet recreational criteria.
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PLAYER & TEAM REGISTRATION (RECREATIONAL)

- All players must be registered with an **NTSSA-affiliated recreational league** for the current soccer year.
- Players must be listed on their team's official tournament registration form prior to the tournament.
- Recreational player passes are **not required**.
- Acceptable proof of age and registration includes:
 - Recreational league roster

- Birth certificate
 - Valid government-issued ID
 - Any team or player found falsifying age, eligibility, or registration information will be dismissed from the tournament.
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ROSTERS

- Maximum roster size: **7 players per team**
 - Rosters are final upon arrival for the team's first scheduled game.
 - Players may participate on **only one team per division**.
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NUMBER OF PLAYERS & SUBSTITUTIONS

- **4 players on the field** at one time
 - Substitutions are allowed at **any dead ball**
 - Substitutions must be acknowledged by the referee
 - Players must enter and exit at the **midfield line**
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GENDER ELIGIBILITY

- No male players are permitted in female-only divisions.
 - Female players may participate in female-only or coed divisions.
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EQUIPMENT

- Players must wear:
 - Matching team jerseys
 - Socks
 - Shin guards
 - Soccer cleats
 - Players without proper equipment will not be permitted to play.
 - Home teams provide the game ball.
 - Ball sizes:
 - U8: Size 3
 - U9–U12: Size 4
 - U14 and older: Size 5
 - In the event of a uniform color conflict, the **home team must wear pinnies**.
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GOAL BOX RULES

- Players may **not touch the ball** while inside the goal box.
- Players may pass through the goal box provided they do not play the ball.
- Any part of the ball or player touching the line is considered **inside the goal box**.

Infractions:

- Defender touches the ball in the goal box → **Penalty kick** awarded to the attacking team

- Attacking player touches the ball in the goal box → **Goal kick** awarded to the defending team
 - Repeated infractions may result in a **Yellow Card**
 - If the ball comes to rest in the goal box → **Goal kick** for the defending team
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GAME DURATION

- U8–U19: **Two 15-minute halves**
 - Halftime: **5 minutes**
 - Pool play matches may end in a tie
 - Semifinal and Final matches follow overtime procedures
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SCORING & POINTS (POOL PLAY)

- Goals must be scored from the **offensive half of the field**

Points System:

- Win: 6 points
 - Tie: 3 points
 - Loss: 0 points
 - Goal bonus: 1 point per goal (maximum of 3 per game)
 - Shutout: 1 point
 - Forfeit score: **3–0**
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TIEBREAKERS (POOL PLAY)

1. Head-to-head result
 2. Fewest goals allowed
 3. Most goals scored
 4. Coin toss
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SEMIFINAL & FINAL OVERTIME

- Applies to all divisions **except U8**
 - One 5-minute overtime period, divided into two 2.5-minute halves
 - No halftime break; possession changes as if starting a new half
 - If still tied:
 - Shootout with **3 players per team**
 - Players must be on the field at the conclusion of overtime
 - If still tied after the initial shootout:
 - Sudden-death shootout continues until one team scores and the other does not
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OTHER GAME RULES

- No offsides
- No cherry-picking (enforced at referee discretion)
- Five-yard rule enforced on all dead-ball restarts

- Kick-ins replace throw-ins
 - All dead-ball kicks are indirect **except corner kicks and penalty kicks**
 - Goal kicks may be taken from anywhere along the end line
 - Kickoffs may be taken in any direction
 - Penalty kicks:
 - Taken from **half-field**
 - All other players must be behind the midfield line
 - Penalty kicks are **not live balls**
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ANTI-STACKING & GUEST PLAYER POLICY (RECREATIONAL)

- This tournament is restricted to **recreational players only**.
- Competitive, select, or elite players are **not permitted**, including any player who has been rostered on a competitive team **at any point during the current soccer year**.

Guest Player Limits

- Teams may roster **up to two (2) guest players**.
- Guest players **count toward the maximum roster size (7 players)**.

Guest Player Eligibility

All guest players must meet **ALL** of the following:

- Be registered with an **NTSSA-affiliated recreational league**

- Have **NOT** been rostered to a competitive, select, or elite team during the current soccer year
- Have **NOT** played for another team in this tournament
- Age movement between divisions is permitted at **coach discretion** (e.g., a U16 player may play with a U19 team)

Prohibited Guest Players

The following are **NOT permitted**:

- Players currently or previously rostered to competitive/select teams during the current soccer year
- Dual-rostered competitive players
- Players added after the team's first game
- Players determined to be added for competitive advantage ("stacking") at the discretion of the Tournament Director

Verification & Enforcement

- Guest players must be declared on the team's registration form **prior to the tournament**.
- Proof of recreational registration must be available upon request.
- The Tournament Director may deny guest eligibility, remove ineligible players, or disqualify teams found intentionally stacking rosters.

Penalties for Violation

- Use of an ineligible guest player will result in:
 - **Immediate forfeiture** of all matches in which the player participated
 - Possible removal from the tournament without refund

- Violations may be reported to the team's home recreational league.
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PLAYER EJECTIONS (CARDS) – RECREATIONAL

- **Yellow Card:**
 - Player must leave the field and may be replaced at the next legal substitution opportunity
 - **Red Card or second Yellow Card:**
 - Player is ejected and may not return
 - Team may replace the player after **2 minutes** or at the next dead ball (Tournament Director discretion)
 - The Tournament Director may suspend a player for the remainder of the tournament for serious misconduct.
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REFEREES

- Matches will be officiated by **NTSSA-certified referees when available**.
 - Referee decisions are final and not subject to protest.
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PROTESTS

- No protests of referee judgment calls will be accepted.
- Administrative protests must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director within **30 minutes** of match completion.
- All Tournament Director decisions are final.

FORFEITS

- All forfeits will be recorded as a **3–0 score**.
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SPORTSMANSHIP

- Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
 - Abuse of referees, players, coaches, or WSA officials will not be tolerated and may result in warnings, ejections, or removal from the venue.
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INSURANCE & LIABILITY

- All participants are covered under their respective **NTSSA-affiliated recreational league insurance**.
 - Weatherford Soccer Association, NTSSA, tournament staff, referees, and host facilities assume no responsibility for injuries beyond provided coverage.
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WEATHER POLICY

- If the tournament is canceled prior to the first scheduled match due to weather, up to **50% of registration fees** may be retained to cover administrative and startup costs.
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FIELD POLICY

- No smoking, vaping, alcohol, propane, or barbecues are permitted on or around tournament fields.
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COACH CREDENTIALS (RECREATIONAL)

- Each team must have a coach or team administrator registered with their recreational league.
 - League-issued credentials or verification must be available upon request.
 - Coaches are responsible for team conduct at all times.
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TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR DISCRETION

- Any situation not explicitly addressed in these rules will be resolved at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director.
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