

Presidents' Day Tournament 2026

General Information and Rules

GENERAL INFORMATION

Showcase format, one game per day.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All participating teams must be properly registered and in good standing with their sanctioning national organization and their State Association (as appropriate). Only Club Teams with a maximum of five (5) guest players are accepted. Each team must submit an approved Team Roster at the time of check-in registration composed of no more than a maximum of 22 players for U15, U16, U17, U19. All USYS teams outside of the East Region are required to present an approved permission-to-travel form as filed with their state association, if required. Teams within the East Region are not required to present the form. US Club Soccer teams are not required to present a travel form. All teams must also have a medical release form for each player on the roster or guest player, at registration. NO EXCEPTIONS TO THESE REQUIREMENTS MAY BE MADE.

All players must be born in the year of their age classification or later. Player registration cards duly authorized by a team's sanctioning organization shall be required as proof of age and eligibility. Player passes are verified against the roster at Registration and before each match if requested by a coach or tournament official. No player is allowed to be registered with more than one team or to transfer from one team to another once the tournament has begun. A player must play for the team to which they are primarily rostered if that team is in the tournament.

- Guests must have a 2025-2026 seasonal year valid, original player pass.
- A guest must have a player pass issued from the same organization as the roster. This means that should a team's roster be a US Youth Soccer roster issued by their State Association than the player's card must also be from US Youth as well. If the roster is issued from US Club Soccer than the player's card must be from US Club Soccer.
- All guest players must have valid 2025-2026 seasonal year player passes from the same sanctioning organization as the roster used by the team on which they will participate, per the terms of the sanctioning agreement.

TOURNAMENT AGE GROUPS

Boys U15 through U19 for the seasonal year 2025-2026

REGISTRATION AGES

- Under 15: after January 1, 2011
- Under 16: after January 1, 2010
- Under 17: after January 1, 2009
- Under 19: after January 1, 2007

TOURNAMENT RULES

The Tournament is played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game Guide for Referees: United States Soccer Federation, except as modified in this document. Potomac Soccer Association intends to apply the rules as presented in this document, but reserves the right to rule as it deems necessary on any situation. Potomac Soccer Association is not responsible for any expenses incurred by any Team or Club if the Tournament is canceled in whole or part.

THE BALL

Under 15 through Under 19: Size 5 Match ball

Presidents' Day Tournament 2026

General Information and Rules

NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Unlimited numbers of substitutions are allowed at the discretion of the referee. Substitutions are allowed, at the discretion of the referee, after any goal, at any kickoff or goal kick, by the team in possession of a throw-in, and at the time of an injury. In addition, teams may substitute at time of an opponent's possession of a throw-in, presuming that the team in possession of the throw-in also is substituting, at the referee's discretion.

U15, U16, U17, U19 Rule Modification: U15, U16, U17, U19 teams may have up to a maximum of 22 players on their tournament approved roster, which may include up to a maximum of 3 guest players. Prior to each match the team must attach their chosen 18 man roster for that particular match to the match report that the home team will have. Only these 18 players may remain in uniform in the bench area during the match.

PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

Each player must have a different number, which must coincide with the number on the team's tournament roster. All teams must have two jerseys of different colors. In case of color conflicts, the first team listed in the schedule must change.

Referees and Assistant Referee's

All referees are certified by the USSF. All games use a 3-referee system.

At the conclusion of each game, the referee submits an official game report to the headquarters tent including the final score, the name and number of all players cautioned and/or sent off and the reason why. The signature of each teams, coach or manager is requested on each game report.

DURATION OF THE GAME

35 minutes halves: U15 – 19

The interval between halves is 5 minutes

CONDUCT

A player or coach (whether he is actually shown a card or not) who receives an ejection from a game or is shown a red card (straight red or 2 yellows in one game) is required to sit out of the next game in which his team actively participates (forfeited games do not qualify), without regard to the importance of the game to player, coach or team.

Potomac Soccer Association does not tolerate disruptive behavior on or off the field or at area hotels, by players, coaches, parents or other spectators. No alcoholic beverages may be present or consumed at the field sites. Players, coaches, managers, parents and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner at all times. No team official or spectator may enter the field of play regardless of the circumstances unless the person has been given permission to do so by the referee.

Team officials are responsible for the behavior of the spectators. Team officials can be disciplined by the referee for failure to control their spectators. The competition authority has the ability to ban a spectator, forfeit a match, or expel a team from the competition for violations or abuse of a referee or the referee crew.

Note: NO SMOKING, NO ALCOHOL, NO GRILLING, AND NO PETS ARE ALLOWED.

POSITION OF PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS ON THE FIELD

Players and coaches for both teams shall occupy one side of the field, while spectators affiliated with those teams shall occupy the side of the field opposite that of the teams. All persons affiliated with a team are permitted on the sidelines only, not behind the goal line, and must remain at least 3 yards from the field of play at all times. No individual may stand closer to the end line than the 18-yard line. The team listed first in the Schedule has choice of sides.

Presidents' Day Tournament 2026
General Information and Rules

FORFEITS

A team shall forfeit if it is not prepared to play with seven players within 10 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time. In no case shall a team which forfeits a game be declared a Round Robin Division Winner or Runner-Up or Wildcard Team. If a team forfeits one Round Robin Game, it forfeits all its games in the Round Robin, even if one or more games have already been played. The winning teams will be awarded a 3-0 win. The forfeiting team may play all remaining Round Robin Games with referees as official exhibitions. Teams are requested to be present at least 30 minutes prior to scheduled kick-off time.

TOURNAMENT PROTESTS

No protests are accepted.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event inclement weather forces cancellation of a game after at least one half of regulation time (or at the discretion of the tournament director) has been played, the game shall be considered official and the score at the point of cancellation shall be the final score. The decision on whether a game has been canceled or will be recommenced if weather improves (and if the referee agrees to resume play) is made by tournament officials, and communicated via the Field Marshal. If a game must be stopped before one half has been completed, tournament officials will rule on its potential rescheduling. Such a game may be temporarily halted and recommenced, picking up where play stopped. Regardless of weather conditions, coaches and their teams **MUST** appear on the field of play ready to play as scheduled unless officially notified not to appear by the Tournament Director. Failure to appear (unless notified) results in forfeiture of the game. In case of inclement weather, the Tournament Director or the Field Marshal may reduce the length of the game (no halftime break except to switch ends of the field). The Tournament Director or the Field Marshall or the referee may postpone or cancel any game. If the decision is made to postpone or cancel, that decision is final. Teams that continue to play shall be suspended from the Tournament.

TOURNAMENT STANDINGS AND TIE BREAKERS

1 . Teams receive a maximum of three (3) standings points per game, as follows:

- three (3) points for a win
- one (1) point for a tie
- zero (0) points for a loss

2. If at the end of round robin play two teams are tied in standings points, the following will be used to determine the group winner:

- Head-to-head result
- Most wins
- Goal Differential
- Most shutouts
- Goals Against
- Penalty Kicks (in accordance with FIFA penalty kick tie break procedure)

3. If at the end of round robin play three or more teams are tied in standings points, the following will be used to determine the group winner:

- Total goal differential (goals for minus goals against, up to +/- 5 per game)

Presidents' Day Tournament 2026
General Information and Rules

- Fewest goals allowed
- Penalty Kicks (in accordance with FIFA penalty kick tie break procedure)

If one team has an advantage over all other "tied teams" after application of the first tiebreaking criterion, that team is declared the winner. If no advantage exists, the second criterion is applied, and so on until at least one team "falls out" of the tie. If at least one team "falls out" of the tie, without a winner yet being declared, the remaining "tied teams" shall return to have the first tiebreaking criterion applied (either for a 2-team tie or multi-team tie, as appropriate). If ultimately a tie between a number of teams greater than 2 still exists after all criterion have been applied, we will draw lots to determine team A, team B, etc. Team A v Team B will do FIFA kicks and the winner will play Team C, etc. to determine the winner.

Players, coaches or spectators receiving a red card (or ejected for the match for any reason) or two yellow cards in a match will be sent off for the rest of that match and must sit out the next match that their team plays (this is a minimum sanction, as additional sanctions may be imposed by the tournament, as deemed appropriate). In addition, suspended players or coaches may not be present at the vicinity of the field before, during, or after any game. NO EXCEPTIONS, NO PROTESTS AND NO APPEALS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES REGARDLESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MATCH TO ANY INDIVIDUAL OR TEAM.

CANCELLATION/REFUND

If the event is cancelled in part or entirely due to weather, teams will be issued refunds of the application fee after all costs for the tournament have been paid. Please note that refunds may be issued in the form of direct payment, credits for future events, or a combination thereof.

Potomac Soccer will not deposit the tournament application fee check or charge the credit card in the application if the team withdraws prior to acceptances being sent out. Any team withdrawing after the acceptance date will forfeit their full application fee, regardless of the reason for withdrawing.