

Rules & Regulations of the Annual Polish Soccer Tournament of North America:



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By the Polish Soccer Tournament Association

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1. OVERVIEW:

1.1 PURPOSE:

The purpose for this Rules & Regulation Manual is designed to document the methods, procedures and guidelines for the Annual Polish Soccer Tournament of North America.

1.2 AGE GROUPS:

The Age groups at which the Polish Tournament is played in are: Men's Open Division, Men's Over 30 Division and Men's Over 40 Division.

Each Over 30 player must turn 30 years of age on the day of the tournament to be eligible.

Each Over 40 player must turn 40 years of age on the day of the tournament.

1.3 PARTICIPATION:

Only Clubs Affiliated with the United States Adult Soccer Association, the United States Soccer Federation or the Canadian Soccer Association thru their State Associations or League Affiliations are eligible to participate in the Annual Polish Soccer Tournament of North America.

1.4 MEMBERSHIP:

Tournament is divided between three Regions: Midwest Region, Eastern Region and Canadian Region.

Tournament hosting is held in different Region each year.

1.5 AUTHORITY:

The Annual Polish Soccer Tournament of North America is played under the FIFA Rules and Regulations and in the property of the Polish Soccer Tournament Association. All tournament games played at the Regional are conducted under the authority of the United States Adult Soccer Association. All games are played and administrated in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Polish Soccer Tournament Rules & Regulations.

1.6 AWARDS:

The Polish Soccer Tournament Association provides each top four teams from each category with Prize Money collected as part of an entry fee paid to the Hosting Club/Organization.

- Teams finishing in First Place are entitled to 60% of the collected Fee.
- Teams finishing in Second Place are entitled to 40% of the collected Fee.

The Hosting Club/ Organization is responsible for providing each participating Club with a “Memorable Plaque” honoring the Annual Polish Soccer Tournament of North America.

Also, Team Trophies for each finishing teams 1st , 2nd , 3rd and 4th Place Trophies for Individual recognitions from each Category to players who are finish as the Top Scorers of the Tournament, MVP of the Tournament and the Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament.

1.7 FINAL AUTHORITY:

The Final Authority for all rule interpretations is with the Polish Soccer Tournament Association Committee.

2. ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES:

2.1 HOSTING CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A) All Hosting and Participating Clubs under the jurisdiction of the Polish Soccer Tournament Association shall play under the Rules & Regulations set forth and approved by the Polish Soccer Tournament Committee.
- B) Hosting Club shall provide each Club wishing to participate in the Tournament with a copy of the Rules & Regulations no later than three (3) Months prior to the date of the Tournament.
- C) With Proper Registration and paid Entry Fee, the Hosting Club/Organization shall provide for the participating teams up to twenty-two (22) players and two (2) technical directors a hot meal each day of their participation in the tournament, also the same amount of entry passes to the grounds of the tournaments to each team.
- D) The Hosting Club/ Organization shall inform all participants and the Polish Soccer Tournament Association of the Group Drawing for the Tournament.

- E) The Hosting Club /Organization shall provide each field of play with a drinkable Water and Ice during the duration of the tournament.
- F) The Hosting Club /Organization shall assign Field Marshals to each field of play at the tournament.
- G) Personal contact must be made with major airlines to insure adequate flights are available to handle arrival and departure of teams. The Hosting Club/ Organization shall provide transportation to “Out-of-State” Teams from airport to the their hotel and to the grounds of the Tournament.
- H) The Hosting Club /Organization shall present their plan of the tournament to the Polish Soccer Tournament Association Committee two (2) months prior to the date of the tournament.
- I) Game Scheduling must be announced and publicly conducted no later than seven (7) days prior to the date of the tournament. Schedule of the games must have an approval of the Polish Soccer Tournament Association.

2.2 ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A) Under the directions of the Polish Soccer Tournament Rules & Regulations the Association Committee shall govern and apply the rules & regulations set forth pertaining to the tournament.
- B) Adjust proposed changes to the Rules & Regulations of the Polish Tournament brought forth to the board at an Annual Club Managers Pre-Tournament Meeting.
- C) Assure that the tournament is run in a manner consistent with the high standards befitting this competition.
- D) Shall conduct a follow up inspection to ensure the hosting Club /organization preparing to the tournament according to the rules and regulations set forth.

2.3 TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A) Seven (7) Member Tournament Committee is selected at the Club Managers Pre-Tournament Meeting. Two (2) members shall be representatives of the hosting Club /Organization, three (2) members shall be representatives of the Polish Soccer Association, and two (3) members shall be voluntary members of the participating clubs.
- B) The Tournament Committee reviews all game ejections and applies suspensions in accordance with published guidelines.
- C) Shall hear any formal protest submitted and rule on a decision.

2.4 REFEREE ASSIGNOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A) Is responsible for the work and performance of the Referees' officiating the matches.
- B) The referee assignor's responsibilities are to make sure each referee hold a valid and approved Referee's License.
- C) Assigns appropriate Referee to officiate games.
- D) Oversees referee's game report that they are filled in proper manner and that they are turned in to the Officiating Table in time.

2.5 FIELD MARSHALS RESPONSIBILITIES:

Field Marshals responsibilities are to make sure each player on the roster is properly registered and listed on the game lineup sheet. Checks player eligibility according to all player passes during each game. Inspect the safety of the field prior to the start of each game to ensure that the field is free of objects or conditions that may cause injury. Shall have a good knowledge of the Rules & Regulations of the Polish Soccer Tournament of North America.

3. **RULES:**

3.1 **GENERAL RULES:**

- A) Only Clubs in good standings with the State Association, with their Leagues and the Polish Soccer Association are eligible to participate. The Polish Soccer Tournament Association has the right to disqualify or suspend any club from participating in the Annual Tournaments.
- B) Each Club can list up to twenty-two (22) players who must be listed on the Player Poll Form and turned in to the Tournament Committee one day prior to the start of the tournament.
- C) Four (4) Guest Players are allowed on a team. Each Guest player must be listed as a “Guest Player” must have a written permission letter and a valid player pass from his parent club.
- D) Each Player must have a valid Player Pass and hold a legible proof of Identity such as Drivers License, Passport or other form of picture ID. (No Photo Copies are considered as a legible form, only Original documents are acceptable).
- E) Only eighteen (18) players can be listed on a game lineup form and used in a single game. Teams, who are found guilty of using more than eighteen (18) players or non listed players shall forfeit the game.
- F) Official Entry Form must be submitted with appropriate Entry Fee paid to the Hosting Club prior to the deadline set forth by the hosing Club.
- G) The Entry Fee for each participating team shall be **\$600.00**. Which include a \$100.00 refundable Bond and \$100.00 which is set towards the Money Prize Awards for the top four teams.
- H) **\$100.00 Refundable Bond** which helps maintain the integrity of the Tournament, will be refunded after your team has participated in all of its scheduled games. Failed to comply to this rule will forfeit the bond and the Team will be suspended and may even be reported to their State Associations for further action.
- I) No player shall be allowed to switch teams during the duration of the tournament which also includes switching within their own club in age group categories.

3.2 COMPETITION FORMAT:

- a) Group Matches: Round-Robin
- All Group Games are played a round-robin format
 - No Offside Rule is in effect.
 - Group stage matches are set to be played 2x25minutes halves with a 5 minute halftime break.
 - Teams are placed in a group by random draw, conducted publicly
 - Each age group will be divided into groups according to the number of participants.
 - Group placement will be set according to number of participants.
 - Tie Breakers are determined by:
 - A. Points earned
 - B. Head to head between the two teams
 - C. Goal differential
 - D. Most goals scored
 - E. Coin toss

b) QUARTER-Finals

- Quarter Finals will be played in a division of 8 teams
- Quarter Finals are a single elimination format. Winners of the quarter-final matches will advance to the semi-finals.
- If the score is tied at the end of regulation play, NO overtime is added, the teams go directly into penalty kicks.
- Penalty kicks continue to be taken until the winner is determined.
- Penalty can be taken by any player listed on that particular game lineup sheet.
- Offside rule is in effect starting the Quarter-Finals matches.
- All Quarterfinal matches are to be played 2x30 minutes with a 10 minute break.

c) SEMI-FINALS and FINALS:

- Games are single elimination format. Winners of these rounds advance to the next Round.
- If the score is tied at the end of regulation play, NO overtime is added, the teams go directly into penalty kicks.
- Penalty kicks continue to be taken until the winner is determined.
- Penalty can be taken by any player listed on that particular game lineup sheet.
- Offside rule is in effect.
- All Semifinal and the Final match is to be played 2x30 minutes with a 10 minute break.
- There will be no Third Place games played.

d) GROUPS and TEAM SEATING:

Groups and Team Seating will be conducted between the Tournament Association and the Hosting Organization after all entry are closed to determine the amount of participants.

Group Formations and advances to the next rounds will be set according to the Attached Sub- Rules and Regulations Manual.

3.3 *EJECTIONS:*

A) **Player Ejection:**

- i. A player who is sent off must be escorted from the field of play by a person with a bench pass to the designated area.
- ii. The Player's Pass, together with the referee report, shall be turned over to the Tournament Committee.
- iii. The Minimum penalty for an ejection is that the player shall not be permitted to play in the immediate next competition match of his team. This penalty may be increased at the determination of the Tournament Committee.
- iv. All decisions of the Tournament Committee are Final.
- v. If the team of an ejected player allows the player to participate in the game he is to be sitting out, that team will automatically forfeit the game and shall be fined.
- vi. A red carded player shall not be allowed to be sitting on a teams bench during his suspension.
- vii. The Tournament Committee shall notify the player's State Representative of the send-off. The player's pass shall be returned to the State Representative following the disciplinary period.

B) Coach or Bench Personal Ejection:

- i. If a coach or bench pass person is ejected from any game, they will be escorted by the Field Marshal out of sight and sound of the field. He or She must then leave the Tournament Site.
- ii. The Coach's pass together with the referee's report of the incident shall be turned over to the Tournament Committee.
- iii. The Minimum penalty for the ejection is one game suspension to be served in their next immediately following championship game played by the team where the ejection was received.
- iv. The penalty may be increased at the determination of the Tournament Committee.
- v. All decisions of the Tournament Committee are final.
- vi. Any other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team, such as relatives and spectators, are also subject to the jurisdiction and authority of the Polish Soccer Tournament Association.

C) Player and Coach Suspension:

Any player, coach or bench personal who has been suspended for the Tournament may not appeal the decision to the Tournament Committee. All decisions by the Tournament Committee are Final.

D) Cautions:

- i. Single Yellow Card in a match is a caution.
- ii. Second Yellow Card in a single match is equivalent to a red card and the player must be sent off. Player may play in the next game unless otherwise ruled by the Tournament Committee.
- iii. Straight Red Card – means the player is sent off and will have to miss the next game. Further suspension action may be taken by the Tournament Committee.

E) FEES and Penalties:

- i. Any misconduct or un-sportsmanship conduct by any member of the Club such as verbal abuse or Referee attack, attempt or intent to treat someone is not TOLORATED at the Tournament. Such person will be suspended from the Tournament immediately. Tournament Association, the Hosting Organization shall also submit a written incident report to the State Federation at which the Club belongs to for further action by the USASA.
- ii. Any misconduct or un-sportsmanship conduct involving multiple members of a club will result in immediate suspension of the entire team from the Tournament. The Tournament Committee may enforce the Suspension from future Tournaments as well.
- iii. Any misconduct or un-sportsmanship conduct by any member of the club reported by an official during a game will result in a \$50.00 fine. Tournament Committee may impose a fine and raise it to \$100.00 per incident, or enforce a suspension fine of the member or the entire team from the Tournament.
- iv. Fines and penalties enforced on a member are also enforced on a team and have to be cleared before their next scheduled game.
- v. Team found guilty and Fined by the Committee have to clear their fines before the start of their next scheduled game. Failure to clear their debts on time will result in team suspension and may also be reported to their State Federation for further action.

3.4 PROTESTS:

All questions relating to the qualifications of the competitors or interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest shall be referred to the Tournament Committee.

- i. All protest must be received by the Tournament Committee or his/her or designee within thirty (30) minutes of the completion of the game being protested, and include a \$50.00 protest fee, and a written copy of the protest on an approved protest form.
- ii. If the Protest is not filed during the 30minute period, it shall be ruled out of order.
- iii. The \$50.00 fee is refunded if the protest has been won by the team.
- iv. All protest, appeals or disputes must be rules and resolved prior to the next game of the two competing teams.
- v. Game protest may only be submitted and shall only pertained to the two competing teams for that given match.

3.5 APEALS:

The Decisions of the Tournament Committee are final..

A plea of ignorance to the rules of the competition is not sufficient grounds for appeal or protests.

Judgment decisions of the referees are not subject to appeal or protest.

3.6 RULES OF THE COMPETITION:

Except as otherwise provided herein, the Rules of FIFA “Laws of the Game” shall govern the conduct of all games, exception that the “off-side” rule shall not apply and the number of Substitutions used.

A) Substitutions:

The Number of substitutions shall be unlimited. Substitutions may be made with the consent of the referee, at the following times:

1. Prior to a throw-in in your favor.
2. Prior to a goal kick by either team.
3. After a goal by either team.
4. After an injury by either team when the referee stops the play.
5. At a half time.
6. When the referee stops play to caution a player, only the cautioned player may be substituted prior to the restart of the game.

B) Uniforms:

Each Player must wear an official team uniform with a jersey number on the back of the Shirt. Duplicate numbers are not permitted.

The Home Team (which is listed first on the schedule) retains its colors in the event of a conflict with their opponent. Exception: If both teams wear white, the home team must change.

C) Equipment:

The Referee is the sole judge of allowed player equipment as prescribed the FIFA Laws of the Game.

The wearing of shin guards is mandatory for all players. A player will not be allowed to play without wearing them at all times during the game.

Player not wearing shin guards during a game, will receive a yellow card and will be forced to leave the field.

D) Scoring Method in the Round-Robin

In a preliminary round-robin games, team standings shall be determined by accumulation of points awarded as follows:

Win (including forfeit)	3 points
Tie	1 point
Loss	0 points

There will be no overtime played during the round-robin portion of the tournament.

E) Tiebreakers:

In case two or more teams accumulate an equal number of points within any group, the following tiebreakers will be considered in order until the tie is broken:

- Points
- Head to head between these two teams
- Goal Differential
- Most goals scored
- Coin Toss

F) Forfeit Rule:

In the event a team in round-robin competition forfeits any match, the official game scores for all of that team's game will be recorded as a 1:0 losses. A team that forfeits a match will be considered to have withdrawn from the tournament and will be suspended.

G) Unfinished Games:

Unfinished games due to any cause shall be replayed providing neither team is at fault and play has not begun in the second half. If play is stopped after completion of the first half, and cannot be resumed as determined by the Hosting Organization, and provided neither team is at fault, the Tournament Committee may deem the game complete. Should play be stopped at any time due to one of the team's being adjudged at fault, it shall be at the direction of the Tournament Committee as to whether the game is to be replayed, stand as is, or declared a forfeit.

H) Termination of Games:

Once play has begun, games may only be terminated by the Tournament Committee or his/her representative.

I) Player Poll Form:

Each Team must submit a player poll form a day prior to the start of the Tournament. Limit of twenty two (22) Player can be listed on the player poll form which shall include:

- First and Last Name of the Player
- Player Pass Type
- Player Date of Birth
- Signature of the Team Manager

J) Player Roster:

Each team can list only eighteen (18) player on an official game lineup sheet in a single game. The Lineup shall include:

- Player Jersey Number
- Player First and Last Name
- Signature of team Manager

K) Scheduling of the Games:

The Hosting Organization is responsible for conducting the schedule of the games. The Hosting Organization will be asked to provide a copy of the Schedule seven (7) days prior to the start of the Tournament for approval by the Polish Tournament Association.

Within the limits imposed by these rules and guidelines, the schedule is created in an objective manner with no favoritism shown to specific teams or organizations.

4. TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS:

4.1 Annual Pre-Tournament Club Managers Meeting

- a) There will be a mandatory Pre-Tournament Club Managers meeting on a day prior to the start of the beginning of competition.
- b) Any Team can be represented only by one (1) member of that team listed as an official.
- c) Hosting Organization is responsible for providing a location, time and date to all participating teams seven (7) days prior to the start of the tournament.
- d) At the Annual Pre-Tournament Club Managers Meeting, a Polish Tournament Association shall present an annual report from previous tournament and receive a quorum of trust. In case the quorum of trust is not received, a new Board shall be elected.
- e) If any member of the Association Committee is absent without a legible or approved excuse, his spot becomes vacant and a new members shall be appointed to replace the vacancy.
- f) A New Tournament Committee Board is elected at the Pre-Tournament Club Managers Meeting. Selection shall be conducted by an open floor voluntary basis and majority of votes rule. Seven (7) Member technical committee shall be conducted as follows:
 - Two (2) Members from the Hosting Organization
 - Two (2) Members from the Tournament Association
 - And Three (3) Members form remaining clubs participating in that years tournament. If for any reason there will be no candidates to fill the spots, the Association Committee shall reduce the Technical Committee to five (5) members. The duties of the Technical “Tournament Committee” shall be to dispute any forms of appeals, protests or misconducts during the tournament and shall be present and available throughout the entire tournament. Their official role responsibilities are terminated at the end of the official tournament.

4.2 Proposed Changes to Rules & Regulations:

All proposed changes to the Rules & Regulations of the Tournament must be presented in writing and announced at the Pre-Tournament Club Managers Meeting.

To pass the change, a majority of votes has to be received and the Polish Tournament Association then will rule and make the change for next years tournament.

NO Changes are allowed to be made prior or during the Tournament by the Hosting Organization or the Tournament Committee.

4.3 Tournament Biding procedure:

Bids for hosting the next Tournament shall be presented at the Pre-Tournament Club Managers Meeting in writing by interested organizations. After receiving a bid by the Polish Tournament Association a decision will be made at the Presidents meeting held at a later date. The goal is to award bids at least 8 months in advance. All bids include:

- a) Complete description of the City and surrounding areas.
- b) Detailed description of events planned, such as opening event, social events, hospitality for participants.
- c) Type of Fields to be used.
- d) Plans for medical on site.
- e) Plans for the official web page

Organizations competing for a bid may choose to make a formal presentation.

The Polish Tournament Association selects the venues between Eastern and Midwest Regions in a respectful manner. Tournament can not be awarded to the same region back to back. If no Organization shows interest in bidding to host a tournament from particular region, a vote is conducted to determine the next hosting location.

4.4 Referees:

- a) All games are under the jurisdiction of this Tournament shall be officiated by referees duly accredited by the USSF and or by the State Association.
- b) Hosting Organization shall provide and assign appropriate referee to each game.
- c) All games are played according to FIFA rule with exceptions to the offside rule, and amount of substitutes used.
- d) All Round-Robin matches are officiated with a single certified referee system. Beginning at Quarterfinal matches a three (3) Referee System is used.
- e) In the Over 30 and Over 40 Division a three (3) Referee System is used at the start of Semi-final games.
- f) Each Referee must be certified and hold a valid referee license.

The referee shall provide the Tournament Committee with a full match report, score and goals scorers at the end of each game. Red Cards must be put in writing report describing the entire detailed purpose of such disciplinary action and signed by the official.