

FC Stars Showcase 2025 – Rules

Tournament Rules

Tournament Name: FC Stars Showcase

Tournament Dates: December 5th-7th, 2025

Tournament Contacts

Tournament Director: Tom Phillips

Tournament Address: 30 Great Road, Acton, MA 01720

Email: tphillips@starsofma.org

Referee Assignor: Paul Athanasiadis

Email: Paul2319@gmail.com

Registration and Team Eligibility

Team Check In & Waivers

Once a roster has been verified, no changes will be allowed. Check in consists of US Club/USYSA/USSSA approved roster, pass cards and waiver forms.

Eligible Players

Only those players appearing on the Team's Travel Roster will be eligible to play. Players may only be rostered on one team participating in the tournament. Each team must submit a copy of its roster at registration

Roster Sizes

- 11v11 teams are limited to 22 players identified at Registration (22 can dress per game).

Guest Players

Three guest players will be permitted per team with properly completed guest player forms.

Laws of the Game

FIFA Laws of the game shall apply to all matches with the following modifications:

Format

All teams are **guaranteed 3 games** over three days.

Game Length

All age groups Two 40 minute halves (5 minute halftime break)

Injury Time

The game clock will not be stopped because of an injury to any player unless, at the discretion of the referee, and if the injured player is removed from the field by medical personnel

Substitutions

Unlimited substitutions are allowed, with the referee's consent, at the following times:

- Prior to your throw in (both teams can sub if the team in possession is subbing - possession plus)
- Prior to a goal kick by either team;
- After a goal by either team;
- At half time;
- After a caution (cautioned player) with the referee's acknowledgement. The opposing team will be able to make a like number of substitutions.
- Red carded players may not be substituted. (Team must play short the rest of the Game.)
- After an injury (injured player) with the referee's acknowledgement. The opposing team will be allowed to make a like number of substitutions.
- Before beginning an overtime period.

Player Equipment

- a. Shoes must meet FIFA specifications. NO STEEL SPIKES
- b. All players must wear shin guards, during warm up and during games.
- c. No jewelry is to be worn.
- d. Players may play with a cast with padding approved by the head referee.
- e. If there is a jersey conflict, the home team shall change. The home team is shown first on the schedule. f. The keeper shall wear a different colored shirt from his teammates, and his opponents. g. The keeper does not require a number.
- h. All equipment is subject to referee approval.
- i. All ages: Size 5 Ball

Game Balls & Uniforms

- Teams listed as the home team should provide two game balls for each game
- To allow teams to plan/prepare before the weekend, please plan on the following uniforms:
 - Game #1 -Home Team: light shirt, light socks, any short| Away Team: dark shirt, dark socks, any shorts
 - Game #2 -Home Team: dark shirt, dark socks, any short | Away Team: light shirt, light socks, any shorts
 - Game #3 -Home Team: light shirt, light socks, any short| Away Team: dark shirt, dark socks, any shorts

Tournament Format

U13-U14 – There will be playoffs/finals

U15 and older - There are **no finals or playoffs**

Start of Play

Both teams will be benched on the same side of the field, with all spectators on the other side. Each field will have an assigned Field Marshal. Teams must check-in with the Field Marshall at least 15 minutes prior to their scheduled kickoff time.

Field Marshals and Referees will complete game cards, inspect player passes, and player equipment. Field Marshals will hold the player passes for the duration of the game.

Game Points

1. Games will be scored as follows:
 - a. 3 points for a win
 - b. 1 points for a tie
 - c. 0 point for a loss
2. In the event a team forfeits a game, the opponent will be credited with a 4-0 win and awarded 3 points. The forfeit team will take a 0-4 loss. Teams are allowed a maximum of 10 minutes from game time to forfeit time. A team will be allowed to play with a minimum of 8 players (5 players for 8-a-side matches). No points will be awarded if neither team shows up.
3. The Tournament Director will decide if the team that has forfeited a game will be allowed to continue to play in the tournament.

Tie Breaking Within a Bracket/Division

In the event two or more teams are tied in preliminary round standings based on final point total, the following procedure shall be used in priority order to determine group winners or wild cards teams:

- a. Winner of head to head competition
- b. Most Wins
- c. Goal difference (max of 4 goals per game)
- d. Goals for (max of 4 goals per game)
- e. Goals against (max of 4 goals per game)
- f. Penalty Kicks using FIFA rule

Playoff Rounds U13/U14 Only

In the event of tied games in the final round, the teams will be given a 3 minute rest. The following will decide the match:

- a. Overtime will be 2 periods (5 minutes each with 1 minute rest in between). Substitutions are allowed. **Golden Goal** will be in effect during overtime.
- b. If still tied, best of 5 penalty kicks by 5 players from each team that finished the game on the field (alternating kicks). The team to kick first shall be determined by coin toss between the captains prior to the first kick.
- c. If still tied, alternating penalty kicks will be taken by the balance of the remaining players on the field at the end of the game (substitutes may not participate in the penalty kicks) until a team has a one goal advantage at the end of a round. A round is defined as each team having taken an equal number of penalty kicks. If still tied, the group of original 5 penalty kick takers and the balance of the team will take a second penalty kick in the same order as originally taken and under the same (sudden death) rules of this paragraph.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Committee reserves the right to modify all tournament rules in order to safely and fairly end the tournament successfully. The Committee will do whatever is necessary to play all games. However, the safety of the players is paramount. Along with safety, damage to the fields will be considered in making the decision to cancel games.

No games will be played if lightning is in the area. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. If any coach, Field Marshal or referee sights lightning they will immediately notify the field referee who will suspend play or delay the start of the game. If an automated lightning warning equipment is present, any warning signal shall be treated the same as if lightning had been sighted. Such delay or suspension shall remain until the "all clear" announcement is made from the field marshal or for a minimum of 15 minutes past the last sighting of lightning, or longer, at the discretion of the Field Marshal or the referee.

If a game is canceled prior to starting or during the first half due to weather, best efforts will be made to reschedule. The rescheduled game will be restarted with the same score and time remaining as at the time that play was suspended. If the game cannot be rescheduled at an alternate field and the game's results are important to advancement within the tournament, scores will be reset to 0-0 and the game shall be decided through penalty kicks at a time and location to be determined by the Tournament Director/Committee.

If a game is canceled after half time, the score will stand as is at the time of stoppage.

Updates will be tweeted live throughout the weekend - @starsofma

Refund Policy

There will be no refunds for teams withdrawing after the acceptance date. In the event that the entire tournament is canceled due to inclement weather, teams will receive a refund after incidental costs incurred to that point have been deducted.

Referees/Linesman

1. Referees are authorized to take appropriate action to maintain proper control of matches.
2. Abuse from players, coaches and spectators will not be tolerated.
3. All decisions by referees are final and binding.
4. Referees must report all yellow and red cards to the Field Marshals in the game report.
5. In the event the appointed linesmen are not present for the match, each team will appoint a club linesman for its side.

Protests

The Referee's judgment pursuant to the application of the Laws of the game is final! NO PROTESTS WILL BE ALLOWED.

Score Reporting

The **WINNING** team (or if the game is tied, then the team listed as the home team on the schedule) MUST report the score within 15 minutes of the end of each game via the instructions below:

- [CLICK HERE](#)
- Enter PIN – 2025
- Enter the match number (can be found on the website next to the game information) •
- Enter the home and away team scores
- Hit 'Save'

Conduct and Discipline

No Alcoholic Beverages at or near the Tournament Fields. There will be no smoking allowed at the soccer complex. No animals are allowed at the tournament site. Verbal abuse of any kind by spectators or participants will not be

allowed at the tournament site. Violators will be reported to authorities and escorted off the field. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of the spectators, team staff, and players with their team. If the Referee terminates play due to unruly behavior then Tournament Director/Committee will determine if the game is to be replayed, continued, or forfeited by the offending team.

No spectators will be allowed on the team's side of the field.

Players and Coaches ejected from the game are automatically banned from their Team's next tournament game.

Violations that are deemed of a serious nature (i.e. fighting) might require further disciplinary action such as banning further tournament play.

General

a. Under no circumstances whatsoever will the Tournament Committee, FC Stars of Massachusetts, USYS, MYSA, or US Club Soccer be held responsible for any expenses incurred by a team.

b. The Tournament Committee's interpretation of the rules shall be final.

c. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decide on all matters pertaining to the Tournament. d. No items of any kind may be sold at the Tournament Headquarters, the playing fields, or surrounding the event areas for the duration of the event without the expressed, written approval of the Tournament Committee. A team found in violation of this rule will not be declared a division winner.

e. You must have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License to operate a golf cart.