

## **Akron Soccer League, Inc. 2026 Kick It First Tournament Rules**

**Rules:** FIFA and NYSW rules will apply, except as amended below.

**Eligibility:** All teams must be registered with their State or National organization. Players must possess a current USYSA player pass or approved national pass. NO Olympic Development, Premier or All-Star teams or players will be permitted. Teams participating in the Thruway League are classified as premier teams and are therefore not eligible to register for the Kick It First Tournament.

**U10 and below:** 7 vs 7 (including goalkeeper) for game play. A 14 player roster limit, including a maximum of 3 guest players, where all 14 players can dress. Ball size #4 will be used. No heading allowed.

**U11 – U12:** 9 vs 9 (including goalkeeper) for game play. An 18 player roster limit, including a maximum of 3 guest players, where all 18 can dress. Ball size #4 will be used. No heading allowed.

**U13 – U17:** 11 vs 11 (including goalkeeper) for game play. A 22 player roster limit, including a maximum of 3 guest players, where only 18 can dress. Ball size #5 will be used. Heading allowed.

**New York State West Youth Soccer Association:** NYSWYSA rules will govern play unless specifically noted in the tournament rules. All referee's decisions are **FINAL!** Protests will be accepted on player eligibility ONLY. A written protest must be submitted within 30 minutes of the completion of the match accompanied by a \$50 cash fee, refundable if the protest is upheld.

**Registration:** The registration booth will open 1 hour before Saturday games and Sunday games. All teams **must** be registered online before their team's first game. Rosters and Emergency health form verification must be uploaded in order to be considered registered. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture.

**Division Alignment** All efforts will be made to create competitive divisions. It is up to the individual coaches, managers, and coordinators to determine your team's skill level and ability. The tournament committee will not be held responsible for mis-represented player abilities.

**Games and Times:** All games will begin as close to scheduled time as possible. U10 division (and below) will play 2, 25 minute halves. All divisions U11 and up will play 2, 30 minute halves. Game times and game lengths may be changed by the sole discretion of the tournament committee, in coordination with the Head Referee, due to the weather or other unforeseen circumstances. There will be no refunds of fees in cases of schedule adjustments due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

**Qualifying Rounds:** Standings will be determined by points. Three points will be awarded for a win and one point for a tie. Tie-breakers are as follows:

- (1) Most head to head points
- (2) Most wins
- (3) Largest goal-differential – max of 3 goals per game
- (4) Fewest goals allowed
- (5) Most goals scored
- (6) Penalty kick or coin toss (At the discretion of the ASL Tournament Committee)

**Finals and Playoffs:** All regular matches will end when the official match length is over, with the exception of playoffs and finals. If the match is tied at the end of regulation time in a playoff or final game, the teams will proceed directly to penalty kicks. No additional time will be added to the clock.

**Substitutions:** FIFA's rules specify the following substitution rules: a player may be substituted at a stoppage of play with the permission of the referee. All substitutions must be made at mid-field when the referee signals.

**Schedule Changes:** At times it is necessary to reschedule or cancel games based on teams dropping out, weather, unavailability of fields or many other unforeseen reasons. It is the responsibility of the coach or team manager to become aware of any schedule changes and communicate them to the rest of their players. Any schedule changes will be posted on [www.akronsoccerleague.com](http://www.akronsoccerleague.com) website. The coach should check periodically for any changes. Once the schedule has been posted, there will be **NO REFUNDS OF FUNDS** given for teams that request to withdraw from the tournament due to schedule adjustments, weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

**Scores:** The referees are responsible for reporting the score of all games to the Referee Assignor at each location. The scores will then be reported to the main tent and be posted on the website. Red cards and sideline ejections will also be recorded. Note: In case of a "BYE" because of a no-show or cancellation, a score of 1-0 (3 points) will be awarded to the winning team. The Tournament Committee will make every effort to try to find a replacement team when a cancellation occurs, and reschedule the game if possible, however this cannot be guaranteed.

**Weather:** If a match is suspended due to weather or any other situation not in the tournament committees' control, after completion of the first half, that match shall be considered complete and official. All matches halted in the first half, when restarted, will resume at the start of the second half. The Tournament Director in conjunction with the Head Referee will determine when play is halted and restarted. Coaches should report to the Registration Table for instructions regarding the restart of play. **In the case of thunder or lightning, everyone is required to leave the fields immediately and return to their vehicles.** There will be no refunds of fees in cases of schedule adjustments due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

**Home Team:** The home team is listed first and will be responsible for uniform color change in the event of a conflict. The home team is responsible for providing the game ball. Players from both teams will be placed on the same side of the field. All spectators will be placed on the opposite side of the field from all players.

**Conduct:** All coaches have responsibility for the conduct of their players, coaching staff, and team spectators. At no time shall foul or abusive language or misconduct be permitted at any field. Coaches or spectators being sent off will be treated the same as if a player is red carded. If the referee decides to ABANDON a match, the team that precipitated the call will forfeit the match. The other team will be declared the winner, the match will be recorded as 4-0 victory and 3 points will be awarded for the win.

**Red Cards:** The player or coach will be suspended for the current match in which the card was issued plus the next match. After the suspension is served, passes are to be picked up from the referee's tent before the next match. Any player given a red card for VIOLENT behavior will be suspended for the remainder of the tournament. Any penalty that cannot be fully served during the tournament must be completed during the next regularly scheduled league or tournament match (not including State Cup or President's Cup). All red cards will be reported to the appropriate governing agencies.

**Awards:** All U11 thru U17 first place teams will receive a team championship trophy per division. After the conclusion of the championship game, winners may proceed to the registration area for trophy presentation (please allow time for the referees to submit scores and for the tournament director to enter scores).

**Modified Rules:** All U10 & below divisions will participate in the tournament as exhibition matches. No scores or standings will be posted.

**General:** The ASL Tournament Committee's interpretation of the foregoing rules and regulations shall be final. The ASL Tournament Committee reserves the right to decide on all matters pertaining to the tournament. Headquarters for the event will be 5929 Buell St., Akron, NY 14001.