

2026 Halloween Spootacular Rules

All games must be played in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game, except as specifically modified by

the Illinois Youth Soccer Association and as follows in the tournament rules:

REGISTRATION

All teams must apply using the online registration form located at www.gotsport.com. The tournament

application deadline is October 17, 2026.

All tournament fees must be mailed and postmarked no later than Oct 18, 2026. Make your check

or money order payable to "Illinois Premier Alliance," and mail it to Illinois Premier, 1116 Buttonwood Dr,
Crystal Lake, IL 60014.

All teams need to submit the following forms:

1. **Official Team Roster** – All teams will be required to submit a copy of their approved US Club Rosters or

their USYSA roster with state add/drop forms (as needed)

2. **Official Tournament Roster** - All teams will be required to submit a copy of their signed IYSA Sanctioned

Tournament Roster Form. Only the players participating in the event should be listed. Your tournament

roster may be changed up to final check-in. At this point, it is final and cannot be altered for the tournament.

3. **Guest Player Forms** -

- Up to five guest players may be added to a team roster. A guest player is defined as anyone who is not listed on your IYSA/USYSA team roster. USYSA teams with guest players must

submit an IYSA/USYSA tournament guest player permit form. If the player is from the same club, no

guest form is needed, but you will need to provide a copy of that player's team roster indicating he/she is

from the same club. The player must only be added to your Tournament Roster. US Club players must be

on your official US Club Roster.

4. **IYSA Medical Release Forms** – IYSA registered teams shall have an IYSA Emergency Medical Release and

Liability Waiver for each participant and therefore do not need to produce a copy at registration but shall

submit a copy to the Tournament Host if there is a Medical and/or Incident Report filed. **All non-IYSA** teams shall present a completed IYSA Emergency Medical Release and Liability Waiver for each

participant to the Tournament Host along with all other necessary documents.

5. **Permission to Travel Form** (All non-Illinois teams) USYSA teams from outside Illinois must submit an

approved "Permission to Travel" form from their home state's USYSA affiliate. US Club teams are not required to have a travel permit.

6. IYSA Tournament Team Agreement-Form NT (non-US Youth Soccer and foreign teams) All non-IYSA

(including U.S. Club teams) and foreign teams must submit a completed IYSA Tournament Team

Agreement (Form NT) (available on website). All foreign teams must also provide a completed form from

their Provincial or National Association approving the team's participation in the tournament and permission to travel.

ELIGIBILITY

Born between Aug 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019 U8

Born between Aug 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018 U9

Born between Aug 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017 U10

Born between Aug 1, 2015 – July 31, 2016 U11

Born between Aug 1, 2014 – July 31, 2015 U12

Born between Aug 1, 2013 – July 31, 2014 U13

Born between Aug 1, 2012 – July 31, 2013 U14

Each player must possess a valid USYSA player pass and a current medical release form. Each team is allowed three (5) guest players, and each team using a guest player must have an IYSA/USYSA tournament guest player roster form.

No roster changes will be approved during the course of the tournament.

If a team is using guest players, the guest players must be from a lower level or younger team. If a club

has multiple teams at a certain age level, players can only play up on the higher-level team.

Players from

the higher-level team cannot guest play for the lower-level team.

No player shall be allowed to register for more than one team or switch from one team to another during

the course of the tournament unless approved by the Tournament Director.

No player will be permitted to play on more than one team during the tournament unless approved by the

Tournament Director.

Maximum roster size is 12 players for U8, 14 players for U9-U10, 16 players for U11-U12, 18 players for U13-U18.

The minimum number of players required to constitute a team is 3 for U8, 4 for U9-U10, 6 for U11-U12

and 7 for U13-U18.

LENGTH OF GAMES

Game duration: U8-U12 – 2 x 25 min, U13-U14 – 2 x 30 min

Halftimes will be five minutes in length.

All games will be played with a running clock. The referee may stop the clock for serious injuries or other incidents.

If half of a game is played before weather forces the suspension of play, the game will stand as is and be scored accordingly.

The referee is the official timekeeper, and therefore all decisions of this nature made by the referee are final.

The Tournament Committee may: relocate, reschedule, cancel, or shorten any game. Changes to game

locations and schedules will be posted at the scoring tent.

GAME PROCEDURES

All parents and spectators must sit on the side of the field opposite the players' Technical Area.

No spectators or coaches are allowed behind the goals.

Player passes are to be present and available at all games.

Teams must be present 15 minutes before the start of the game for Game check-in. At that time, the

field marshal assigned to the game will check all player passes and player equipment, as well as passes of

every coach who will be in the Technical area (3 maximum). Following game check-in, the player

identification cards and the passes of each coach will be held by the Field Marshal assigned to the field

until the end of the game.

Home teams will be listed first on the schedule.

In the event of a uniform color conflict, the home team changes jerseys.

Home team sits on north/west bench, defends north/west goal and has kickoff in the first half; teams

switch at half-time.

Teams must have an alternative set of jerseys to use in case of color conflicts. The Build Out Line rule will be enforced for all U8, U9, and U10 games.

The Home team is responsible for providing a game ball if the tournament staff does not provide one.

U8 - U12 divisions shall use a #4 ball. U13 – U14 divisions shall use a #5 ball.

U8 Boys and Girls 4v4 will be played on small fields; U8 Boys and Girls 7v7 games and all U9-U10 games

will be played 7v7 on medium fields; U11-U12 games will be played 9v9 on intermediate fields; U13-U18

games will be played 11v11 on full-size fields. U12 teams wishing to play 11 v 11 must register as U13

teams.

All games will be officiated by a referee certified by IYSA/USSF.

TOURNAMENT GAME SCHEDULING

All teams will play a minimum of three games in a round robin format. The top two teams from each division will play in a championship game. The winner of the championship game will receive a Champions award, and the loser of the championship game will receive a Finalist award. No team will play more than three games or 180 minutes per day. If a round robin game is cancelled, a championship game will still be played. If a championship game is cancelled, first and second place winners will be determined based upon the results of the round robin competition. The Tournament Committee may award co-championship winners if there is no way to determine the champion based upon the Tournament Scoring/Tie Breaking rules set forth below. Game cancellations and rescheduling will be determined by the Tournament Committee.

TOURNAMENT SCORING/TIE BREAKING

Games in the round robin rounds will be scored as follows:

Win - 3 points, Tie - 1 point, Loss - 0 points, Forfeit - 3 points to the winning team, 1 point for shutout

A forfeited game will be scored as a 2-0 win against the forfeiting team. A forfeited game will count as one of the minimum number of games guaranteed to each team. A forfeit will be recorded as 3 points to the winning team.

In each division, the two teams with the most points will play in the championship game. The team with the most points will be the home team.

In the event of a tie in deciding group positions, the following criteria will be used to break the tie:

1. Head-to-head competition
2. Most Wins
3. Fewest goals allowed
4. Goal Differential (max 4 per game)
5. Penalty kicks (see penalty kick rules below)

In the event 3 teams are tied, the tie-breakers will be applied until one team is eliminated. We will then go back to the first tie-breaker and apply the rules again with the two remaining teams in sequence until a winner can be determined.

At the conclusion of each game, the referee shall complete a score card, including the match results, cautions, and ejections. The Field Marshal shall be responsible for reporting the match results, cautions, and ejections to the tournament scoring tent immediately.

A team will forfeit a game if a team fails to arrive at a game 15 minutes before the scheduled start or if a team fails to have the minimum number of players as required above. A team that forfeits a game will not be allowed to participate in any championship match.

OVERTIME PERIODS

During round robin competition, no overtime will be played.

In the event of a tie in a playoff or championship game, the following will occur: Teams will play two 5-minute sudden death overtime periods (YES to golden goal).

If a goal was not scored in the overtime periods, teams will designate five players to take alternate

penalty kicks: the best of five is the winner. Only those players on the field of play at the end of the

second overtime period are eligible to take penalty kicks.

If teams are still tied after 5 kicks, the remaining players will take alternate penalty kicks in sudden death

fashion to determine a winner.

EQUIPMENT

In accordance with the IYSA, Rule 007, which endorses FIFA Law 4, "A player must not use equipment or

wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player." Therefore, no prescription glasses are

permitted, only sports goggles.

Hard casts are not permitted, even if padded. NO EXCEPTIONS. Soft casts are permitted with the

permission of the referee.

No metal cleats.

No jewelry may be worn by any player (earrings, watches, necklaces, etc.).

Shin guards must be worn by all players at all times.

All players must have an individual number on their jersey; no duplicate numbers.

In case of a jersey color conflict, the designated home team will change.

All players' equipment is subject to referee approval.

SUBSTITUTIONS

There is no limit to the number of substitutions that can be made during a game. Substitutions must be

made only at times allowable under USYSA/FIFA rules with the following exceptions:

U8-U12 – On the fly. Players should meet in front of the technical area and high-five or shake hands.

U13 – U17

1. After a goal by either team
2. At half-time, or before the start of any overtime period
3. Prior to a goal kick for either team
4. Prior to a throw-in by the team with the throw-in

5. In case of injury, with referee's permission. If a team representative enters the field of play to check an injured player, the injured player must leave the field of play.

GENERAL RULES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Artificial noise-making devices are strictly prohibited.

No animals are allowed.

No alcoholic beverages or smoking is permitted.

No verbal abuse of anyone is allowed, including but not limited to, tournament officials, referees, and players.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

All yellow and red cards issued during the Tournament will be reported to the Tournament Committee.

Any player or coach receiving a red card will be banned from, at the least, the next scheduled game for

that particular team. No substitutions will be permitted for an ejected player during that game.

Any player or coach receiving two yellow cards during the tournament will be banned from, at a minimum, the next scheduled game for that particular team. The tournament committee is responsible for

disciplinary action.

Coaches and players may sit on the spectator's side of the field during their suspension, but they may not

coach or communicate with the team in any manner.

Any team or club receiving a disproportionate number of yellow and/or red cards may be banned from the

Tournament for a minimum of three years.

Anyone fighting or verbally abusing anyone can be subjected to ejection from further tournament

participation. Passes will be retained by the tournament director and returned to the coach of the team

after the player has sat out their suspension.

Coaches will be held responsible for the behavior of their team and supporters.

In accordance with the USYSA regulations, the issuance of all yellow cards and red cards and other

matters involving the conduct of a team, its players, coaches, and supporters will be recorded by our

organization and this information will be reported to the IYSA (or the USYSA state organization for teams

from outside of Illinois) and the home club/league or the player, coach, team or supporters involved. All

matters involving a referee assault shall, in accordance with the USSF Rule 3042, be referred immediately

to the Illinois Youth Soccer Association.

With regard to foreign teams, the issuance of all yellow and red cards and other matters involving the conduct of a team, its players, coaches, and supporters will be recorded by our organization and this information will be reported to the US Soccer Federation of the disciplinary action taken, and that the Federation will transmit the disciplinary action taken or required to that team's provincial or national association.

The home state association and home club/league of the player, coach, team, or supporters (except in the case of referee assault) will have the responsibility for imposing, should the circumstances warrant, additional sanctions, within their respective jurisdictions, with regard to any matters arising from the tournament.

The tournament director reserves the right to eject anyone (including players, coaches, and supporters) from further tournament participation and/or from the tournament grounds if they fail to abide by the tournament's Code of Conduct.

PROTESTS

Protests must be made in writing by the team's coach and submitted to the Tournament Committee within 1 hour after completion of game. Protests may only involve non-referee decisions regarding player eligibility and tournament rules.

A \$100 fee must accompany any protest. The fee will be returned only if the protest is allowed. After a protest is made, the tournament committee will meet within two hours of the protest being made and the committee will review the written protest. The tournament committee must provide quick due process. The tournament committee, at its discretion, may ask that evidence be presented by the parties involved in the protest. Based upon the written protest and the evidence presented by the parties involved, the tournament committee will then make its decision as to whether or not to uphold the protest. A minimum of three tournament committee members must review each written protest. The tournament committee's interpretation of tournament rules and protests shall be final and may not be appealed.

All decisions by referees may not be appealed.

REFUND POLICY

Once a team has been accepted into the tournament, there will be no refunds given to that team. We agree to provide the guaranteed number of games or refund a percentage of the application fee equal to the percentage of guaranteed games not played. For example, if a team was guaranteed three (3) games and was only allowed to play two (2) out of the three (3) games then the Tournament will refund 1/3 of the fee.

Note that the tournament committee has the right to relocate, reschedule, cancel or shorten any game.

Shortened games, relocated and rescheduled games will constitute a played game, and the Tournament will not refund any money for forfeited games.

DISCLAIMER

Neither the Tournament Committee, the Illinois Premier are responsible for any expenses incurred by any team in the event games are discontinued or cancelled due to inclement

weather or adverse field conditions. No refunds will be made unless the tournament is cancelled, in which

case refunds will be disbursed on a pro-rata basis with a full refund if the event is cancelled before it

starts. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decide all matters pertaining to the tournament.

The judgment of the Tournament Committee is final.

Please remember that the Illinois Premier Alliance is dedicated to the development of all the young men and

women participating in the tournament, good sportsmanship and for the 'good of soccer'. The tournament

director may suspend, without recourse or appeal, any player, coach or spectator who demonstrates anything less.