

2017 Plantation Thanksgiving Classic | November 24 – November 26, 2017

1. TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS

Plantation FC
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2. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Participation in the Plantation Thanksgiving Classic is open to accepted teams consisting of players meeting the age limit and roster size of the specified division. Players must have been born during or subsequent to, the divisional year, as defined by US Soccer guidelines. A team using guest players may have no more than four (4) to six (6) loan/guest players depending on age group.

Competitive teams, except for foreign/international teams, must be registered with a National Soccer Association affiliated with US Soccer/US Youth Soccer and must present a valid State roster. For these teams, the only acceptable proof of age will be a valid US Soccer/US Youth Soccer, State, or National registration card that includes a signature and a photograph of the player. Players on these competitive teams who do not present valid player passes will not play.

Recreational team must produce, at registration, a roster signed by an official of the club (which club must be affiliated with US Youth Soccer or some other national soccer organization) of which they are affiliated and played for, listing each player, including their date of birth, and must provide, at registration, a birth certificate or state or national certified player pass, for each such player evidencing that player's eligibility to play on that team based on birth date.

Teams participating in the tournament must provide medical releases for each player in a format as required by the Tournament Committee and as posted on the tournament web-site. These authorizations shall be presented at registration and a copy kept by the team at the field, available for presentation in the event of an emergency.

Where required by the State or National Association for which a team/player is registered, all competitive teams/players traveling from within the United States but outside the State of Florida must have a copy of their Permission to Travel Forms, approved and signed by a USSF or duly authorized State or National Association representative.

Foreign Teams must have written permission and verification from their Federation, indicating authorization to participate in the Tournament. Players must present passports at registration (including Canadian citizens). These teams must present a certified roster signed by an official of the Club with which they are affiliated and play for, listing each player and including their date of birth.

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Format of Play and Roster Sizes

- U9 - U10 age group teams will play 7v7. Roster cannot exceed 12 players. Maximum 4 guest players.
- U11 - U12 age group teams will play 9v9. Roster cannot exceed 16 players. Maximum 5 guest players.
- U13 - U19 age group teams will play 11v11. Roster cannot exceed 22 players. The roster for a match may not exceed 18 players. Maximum 6 guest players.
- Once a team begins play in the tournament, their roster is frozen for the duration of the event. The above roster sizes are for the entirety of the tournament in that the same players must be on the maximum tournament roster for the entirety of the tournament. For U13 and older, the match day rosters of 18 players may change from match to match, but the players on the overall tournament roster of 22 players may not change.

A player may compete for only one team participating in the tournament. In the event a player is found to have been rostered to more than one team in the tournament, the second team on which the player is rostered in the tournament shall be deemed as the team that fielded an ineligible player. Any team fielding an ineligible player will be disqualified from the tournament and their tournament fee will be forfeited.

3. AGE GROUPS

| | | | |
|-----|----------|-----|----------|
| U9 | 1/1/2009 | U15 | 1/1/2003 |
| U10 | 1/1/2008 | U16 | 1/1/2002 |
| U11 | 1/1/2007 | U17 | 1/1/2001 |
| U12 | 1/1/2006 | U18 | 1/1/2000 |
| U13 | 1/1/2005 | U19 | 1/1/1999 |
| U14 | 1/1/2004 | | |

Teams applying to “play up” an age group must be approved by the tournament committee.

HEADING BAN & GUIDELINES (2017-2018)

In conjunction with US Soccer, US Youth Soccer, and Florida Youth Soccer Association since 2016 has instituted a heading ban for players in the U11 (2006) and younger (U11, U10, U9). In accordance with the recent US Soccer recommendations on concussion risk management: FYSA has eliminated heading in matches for player’s age U11 and younger, per the calendar year registration guidelines. For the Plantation Thanksgiving Classic since some U12 (2005) teams may have U11 (2006) players on the roster all U12 divisions will also be non-heading. Sanctions will be made against teams that do not follow this guideline.

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4. LAWS OF THE MATCH

- All matches shall be played in accordance with FIFA Laws, except as specifically modified by these rules.
- Law 11 - Offside, will be enforced in all age divisions, including U9-U12.

5. CONCUSSIONS

- Pursuant to Florida Statutes (FS943.0438) Florida in 2012 enacted a very stringent Head Injury and Concussion Law. If the referee (or assistant referee) believes that, in his/her opinion, a player has suffered a head injury or possible concussion, the match must be stopped IMMEDIATELY. The injured player if able to leave the field on their own must be escorted to their coach and the coach must be told that the player cannot return for the duration of the match. If a trainer is brought onto the field because the player is incapacitated, the referee must still notify the coach that the player cannot return to the game. It is the responsibility of the coach and the player's parent(s) or legal guardians to seek medical attention. The player may not resume participation until he/she has been cleared by a medical doctor. The Referee HAS NO FURTHER responsibility beyond removing the player from the match in which the player was injured. The referee crew must ensure, that UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES or due to the appeal from any coaching staff that the player is not allowed to return to the game.

6. SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions will be made with the referee's permission.

7. FIELD AND MATCH EQUIPMENT

- It is the policy of FYSA that no player be allowed to wear **ANY** jewelry while participating in any FYSA sanctioned match. The only exception that may be allowed is a medical alert bracelet or necklace when taped to the body. The referee shall make the decision as to the safety of the player and the referee's decision is final.
- **Orthopedic casts are not permitted. However, soft braces can be worn with written approval from a doctor, and judgment as to safety is at the discretion of the referee.**
- Players are required to wear shin guards in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Match.
- Players must wear numbers on the back of their uniforms and these numbers shall coincide with those listed on the team's roster.
- Where uniform colors are similar, the designated home team will change colors. Home team is listed first on the schedule.
- Both teams will take the same side of the field. All other supporters will take the opposite side. Only three (3) carded team officials are permitted on the sidelines with their players.
- No one is permitted behind either goal line.
- Spectators must remain behind the spectator line and coaches must remain in the coaches' area.

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- Each team shall be in the immediate vicinity of their assigned playing field 30 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time.
- The home team will provide the match ball(s).
- In the event the assigned assistant referees fail to appear; the referee must find suitable assistant referees.

8. COMPLETING GAME SUSPENSIONS (504.1)

Red card suspension or send off suspensions can only be served with the team with which the suspension was earned in games played by their team. Until the suspension is served the player/coach is suspended from any other team(s) to which the player/coach may be registered. Games may not be scheduled to “work off” suspension. Players may not serve suspensions as “guest players” nor may they “guest play” with any other team(s) until such time as the original suspension is served.

1. Issued during league game must be worked off during next scheduled league, Cup or tournament game(s).
2. Issued during President's Cup or Commissioner's Cup, they must be worked off during remainder of the competition. If no competition remains, suspension must be worked off in next scheduled league and/or tournament game(s).
3. Issued during Tournament Play: Tournament Red Card Report filed along with game reports as required by Post-Tournament rules. FYSA office to send copy of Red Card Report and appropriate game reports to the appropriate RC in the next immediate mail out. RC will notify club of a discipline/sanctions remaining.
4. Issued during "friendly games" must be worked off during the next scheduled league, Cup or tournament game(s). "Friendly games" may not be scheduled to work off game suspensions nor if previously scheduled, used to work off suspension given during league, cup or tournament games.
5. Issued during the US Youth National Championship (State Cup), at any level, shall not be allowed to participate in the next immediately following National Championship (State Cup) game played by the player's team. A player may receive more than one (1) game suspension. Local club/league may issue additional discipline to be served in other than National Championship (State Cup) games.
6. A red card suspension issued during a small sided tournament which can not be served during the event shall be served during the player/coach's next scheduled club, league or cup game(s). For a suspension issued during a normal league/cup game, the player must sit out the first game of any small sided tournament previously entered. The player shall then be able to compete in the remainder of the tournament. The player shall not receive credit for the small sided game(s) against the original

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9. DURATION OF MATCHES

| Age Group | Ball | Preliminary Matches | Playoffs |
|-------------|------|---------------------|---|
| U9/U10 | 4 | 25 min | 25 min halves/ No OT Direct to PK's |
| U11/U12 | 4 | 25 min | 25 min halves / Semi No OT / Finals 2x5 min then PK's |
| U13/U14 | 5 | 35 min | 35 min halves/ Semi No OT / Finals 2x5 min then PK's |
| U15/U16 | 5 | 35 min | 35 min halves/ Semi No OT / Finals 2x5 min then PK's |
| U17/U18/U19 | 5 | 35 min | 35 min halves/ Semi No OT / Finals 2x5 min then PK's |

Over-Time (OT) in Finals: U9/10 – No OT in Finals – Direct to PK. All other Finals two (2) full 5 minute OT halves. No golden goal.

Mercy Rule: All matches will be subject to a mercy rule of an eight (8) goal differential at any time after the completion of the first half.

10. MATCH AND SCORE REPORTING

The Head Referee will ensure that the match report forms are properly completed and presented to the Site Director at the completion of each match in a timely manner. Uniform numbers must be accompanied by the player's name(s) if a card is issued.

11. FAILURE TO SHOW AND FORFEITS

A team shall be allowed a ten (10) minute grace period after the scheduled kick-off time before the match is awarded to their opponent. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team for ages U13 and older and if seven (7) players are present, the match will not be delayed.

For ages U9 and U10 the number of players required to start a match is five (5).

For ages U11 and U12, the number of players required to start a match is six (6).

In no case shall a team that forfeits or does not show-up for a match be declared a division winner. If an apparent division winner forfeits a match, or does not show up for play, the division team with the next best record shall be named the division winner.

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A forfeit in the preliminary round will be awarded as three (3) points for the win and the score will stand at the time of the forfeit unless the score is 0-0 at the time of the forfeit, in which event, the score will be recorded as 2-0.

Forfeits in the play-off rounds shall be recorded as 1-0 matches.

12. NO PROTESTS SHALL BE ENTERTAINED

13. CONDUCT

There will be a Tournament Discipline Committee comprised of three members. The Tournament Discipline Committee will review and rule on all reports of unacceptable conduct by players, managers, spectators and coaches, using the FYSA standards as set forth under FYSA Rule Section 502– Discipline and Sanctions.

Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves within the spirit of the Law as well as the letter of the Law. Displays of temper or dissent are cause for ejection from the match and surrounding field area and/or the Tournament. Repeated violations may result in the suspension of the team from the Tournament as decided by the Tournament Discipline Committee.

A player, coach, or team official ejected from a match shall receive an automatic minimum one (1) match suspension regardless of the cause of the ejection. The Tournament Discipline Committee shall determine the appropriate sanction for the action resulting in the ejection, said sanction will be determined and communicated to the affected parties as soon as practical, but no later than prior to the next scheduled match in which the offending party would have an opportunity to participate, which is no sooner than two matches after the match in which the offending party was ejected, since there is at least a one match automatic suspension.

At the conclusion of the Tournament, it is the responsibility of the team's coach or manager to pick up the passes from the tournament headquarters, even if suspension has not been completed. A complete report will be sent to the Florida Youth Soccer Association Review & Discipline Committee within 72 hours for forwarding to the appropriate State and National Association.

Any player, coach, team official or parent exhibiting or threatening violence to anyone (player, coach, referee, spectator, or Tournament official) will be grounds for immediate expulsion from the Tournament, such determination to be made by the appropriate referees and tournament officials. When serving a suspension, the suspended party must check in and remain at the site tent through the duration of the match, or alternatively may be asked to leave the park.

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In accordance with US Youth Soccer Tournament Hosting Agreement, all red and yellow cards and other matters involving team conduct will be reported to the home club and State Association of the team involved as well as US Youth Soccer National Office within seventy-two (72) hours of the conclusion of the tournament for possible further discipline.

Alcoholic beverages, smoking, use of profanity and animals are not permitted at the fields or parks.

Mechanical and artificial noise makers are prohibited.

14. DETERMINATION OF PLAYOFF FINALISTS

Finalists will be determined through a seeding format or by a division winner's format. The Tournament Committee will decide which format each age group and bracket will follow. This will be announced prior to the commencement of competition. The rules to determine tie breakers will be the same for either format. Each team will be awarded three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie and zero (0) points for a loss. At the end of the preliminary rounds, if the finalists for a particular age group and bracket are determined by the division winner, the division winner will be the team with the most points in their division. In the event of a tie within a division, the following criteria will be used to determine who moves forward:

- 1) Head to head competition (this criterion will not be considered in the case of a tie among more than two (2) teams.) ****
- 2) Goal differential to a maximum of four (4) per match.
- 3) Most goals scored to a maximum of four (4) per match.
- 4) Least goals allowed to a maximum of four (4) per match.
- 5) FIFA penalty kicks.

**** In the event of a tie among more than two teams, once a tie is broken by the above system, and if ties among remaining teams still must be decided, those ties would be broken by starting again from the top of the tie breaking procedure. In the event that a wild card team must be selected for the playoff rounds, the above procedure will be used across the entire age group and bracket involved.

If a division winner does not show up for play, the division team with the next best record shall be named the division winner.

In the event the finalists for a particular age group and bracket are determined by seeding, the finalists (or semi-finalists if applicable) shall be determined based upon the two teams (or more if

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semi-finals are applicable) with the most points in the overall age group and bracket involved. In the event of a tie, the same criteria as utilized for division winners shall be used to determine the finalists.

15. INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Committee will have the authority (in its sole discretion) to change matches as follows:

- Relocate or reschedule any match/matches.
- Change the duration of any match/matches.
- Cancel the match/matches.
- Kicks from the spot

Matches that have been started and subsequently suspended due to inclement weather or other external conditions, will be deemed complete if one half of play has been completed or the first half cannot be completed prior to the start time of the next scheduled match on that field.

For any such match that is not completed, the score at the time of the suspension will be the final score. Any match that is not started and is canceled (as opposed to postponed) due to weather or other external conditions, will be recorded as a 0-0 tie. Cancelled matches will not be rescheduled.

16. REFUND POLICY

- Within five (5) days after notification that the team is not accepted by their application.
- Within five (5) days upon cancellation of the tournament.
- Within ten (10) days of withdrawal request of the application by a team prior to acceptance of that application by the tournament
- Any team that will not be permitted to play in the contracted age group shall have the option to withdraw and receive a full refund of all entry fees. All tournaments shall notify any participant not less than fifteen days prior to the beginning of the tournament if any age group advertised will not be offered.

17. CHAMPIONSHIP / FINAL CEREMONY

Following the completion of each championship match, the two teams will present themselves to the awards area where each runner up and champion will receive an award.

18. GENERAL

- Teams that cancel or pullout of the tournament after the registration deadline of October 23,

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2017, are not entitled to a refund of their registration fee.

- Teams that register and/or pay after the registration deadline of October 23, 2017 will incur a \$50.00 late fee.
- Under no circumstances whatsoever, will the Tournament Committee, Plantation FC, or FYSA be responsible for any expenses (including tournament entry fee) incurred by any team. This includes a situation where the tournament or any match(es) is cancelled in whole or part, due to any factor including inclement weather.
- The Tournament Committee's interpretation of these rules shall be FINAL.
- The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decide on all matters pertaining to this tournament.
- The Tournament Committee, based on its interpretation of these rules, will determine the teams which advance into the final rounds.
- Out of area teams are required to stay at tournament approved host hotels.
- NO SALES OF ANY KIND ARE PERMITTED WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE CITY OF PLANTATION AND PLANTATION FC.