

Copa South Florida | Rules

October 8-10, 2021



Florida's newest adult tournament hosted by Davie United Adult Soccer over Columbus Day weekend, October 8-10, 2021. All games played in Davie, Florida at Bamford Sports Complex.

1) TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Participation in the 2021 Copa South Florida is open to accepted teams consisting of players meeting the age limit and roster size of the following divisions: Women's Open (age 18+), Men's Open (age 18+), Men's Over 30, Men's Over 40, Men's Over 50, & Men's Over 60. Age is determined by birth year, meaning a player must be or turn the minimum age of the Division by December 31, 2021.

The team manager/coordinator/owner will need to register the team(s) via SQWAD (SportsLogic) APP, under Tournament Success Group/Copa South Florida 2021. Once the team is registered and has an account, players may register and be added to the tournament roster. Roster sizes for all divisions are 20 players per team.

Teams participating in the tournament must have a completed roster in the SQWAD tournament APP, coaches and players must have completed the electronic waiver and release, which is accessible via the tournament APP. Players must provide government issued age verification (driver's license, passport, etc.) as part of pre-tournament check-in.

A player may be rostered to more than one team participating in the tournament as long as the team is not in the same Division. Any team fielding an ineligible player will be disqualified from the tournament and their tournament fee will be forfeited.

2) LAWS OF THE GAME

All games shall be played in accordance with FIFA Laws, except as specifically modified by these rules.

3) SUBSTITUTIONS

Unlimited substitutions. Teams may substitute only with the referee's permission. Substitutes must wait on the sideline (off of the field of play) until the field player has left the field of play and/or the referee has indicated the substitute may enter the field of play. Substitutions by either Team are allowed at any stoppage of play with the permission of the referee

4) FIELD AND GAME EQUIPMENT

- A. It is the policy of Copa South Florida that no player be allowed to wear ANY jewelry while participating in any 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.
- B. 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.
- C. Players are required to wear shin guards in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game.
- D. Players must wear numbers on the back of their uniforms and these numbers shall coincide with those listed on the team's roster.

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- E. Where uniform colors are similar, the designated home team will change colors. Home team is listed first on the schedule. Home teams should wear lighted uniforms and away teams should wear dark colored uniforms.
- F. Both teams will take the same side of the field. All other supporters will take the opposite side.
- G. No one is permitted behind either goal/end line.
- H. Spectators must remain behind the spectator line and coaches must remain in the coaches' area.
- I. Each team shall be in the immediate vicinity of their assigned playing field 30 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time.
- J. Game balls will be provided by the tournament.

5) DURATION OF GAMES

- A. All games will be played with 35-minute halves and with a 5-minute halftime (2x35) for both group play, playoffs and finals.
- B. Water Breaks: Will be mandatorily provided at the midpoint of each half of regulation play during a natural stoppage of play. Water breaks will be no shorter than 1 minute in duration and the game clock will continue to run.

6) GAME AND SCORE REPORTING

- A. The Head Referee will ensure that the game report forms are properly completed and presented to the Site Director at the completion of each game.

7) FAILURE TO SHOW AND FORFEITS

- A. 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.
- B. In no case shall a team that forfeits or does not show-up for a game be declared a division winner. If an apparent division winner forfeits a game, or does not show up for play, the division team with the next best record shall be named the division winner.
- C. A forfeit in the preliminary round will be awarded as three (3) points for the win. If the game has started the score will stand at the time of the forfeit unless the score is 0-0 at the time of the forfeit, in which even the score will be recorded as 4-0.
- D. Forfeits in the play-off rounds shall be recorded as 1-0 games.

8) ABANDONED GAME

If a game is abandoned, meaning the referees have to cancel the game while in progress due to actions or behavior of players, coaches, and spectators, the score will be recorded as follows:

- a. If either team is at fault for the abandonment of the game, that team at fault shall forfeit the match and the score will be recorded as a 4-0 win for the opposing team.
- b. If both teams are at fault the score will remain as is the time of the abandonment.

9) NO PROTESTS SHALL BE ENTERTAINED

10) CONDUCT

- A. The Copa South Florida will have a Discipline Committee of no less than three (3) members. The Discipline Committee will review and rule on all reports of unacceptable conduct by players, managers, coaches, referees, spectators.
- B. 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.
- C. 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 game and surrounding

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field area and/or the Tournament. Repeated violations may result in the suspension of the team from the Tournament as decided by the Tournament Director.

- D. A player, coach, or team official ejected from a game shall receive an automatic minimum one (1) game suspension regardless of the cause of the ejection. Duration of suspension is cumulative based on further misconduct after receiving the initial dismissal. The 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 practicable, but no later than prior to the next scheduled game in which the offending party would have an opportunity to participate, which is no sooner than two games after the game in which the offending party was ejected, since there is at least a one game automatic suspension.
- E. Depending on the severity of the unacceptable conduct, the Discipline Committee may recommend the suspension of up to the duration of the tournament with further disciplinary action by the appropriate National and State Association, Federation or any other USSF affiliated organization. The Discipline Committee recommendations will be available to the affected parties no later than before their next scheduled game.
- F. 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.
- G. Alcoholic beverages, smoking, use of profanity and animals are not permitted at the fields or parks.
- H. Mechanical and artificial noise makers are prohibited.

11) 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 game.
3. Most goals scored to a maximum of four (4) per game.
4. Least goals allowed to a maximum of four (4) per game.
5. Number of shutouts.
6. 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 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.

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- In the event that there is an age group(s) and bracket in which semi- finals are held, to be determined at the discretion of the Tournament Committee, the foregoing rules shall be applied to determine the teams that shall qualify for the semi-finals.

12) PLAYOFFS

- A. Depending on the number of teams in the division/ age group bracket, there may be a playoff.
- B. If there are playoffs and a wild card team must be selected for the playoff rounds, that team will not be assigned to play the winner of its own division in the first playoff round.
- C. In the case of a draw at the end of regulation time in the playoff rounds, the winner will be determined as follows: The best of five penalty kicks taken alternately by each team will determine the winner. Only those players on the field at the end of regulation time of the playoff game may compete. If the penalty kick score is tied at the end of the five kicks, the teams will continue to take penalty kicks alternately until there is a winner. All players on the field must kick before any player may kick a second time.

13) CONCUSSIONS

- A. Pursuant to Florida Statutes (FS 943.0438) 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.

14) INCLEMENT WEATHER

INCLEMENT WEATHER (GROUP PLAY). In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Committee will have the authority (in its sole discretion) to change games as follows:

- A. **Reschedule or Relocate match** (Time and location determined by Tournament Director).
- B. **Shortened match** - The Tournament Director may reduce the length of halves due to weather conditions before the restart of a match once delayed due to weather; all such matches will be considered official.
- C. **Go to "Penalty Kicks"** (Time and location determined by Tournament Director)
- D. **Be Cancelled** (The tournament committee has the right to cancel any match. Any game 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. Canceled games will not be rescheduled.)
- E. Games 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 game on that field. For any such game that is not completed, the score at the time of the suspension will be the final score. Any game 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. Canceled games will not be rescheduled.

If in the event the Tournament Director rules that during the preliminary round "Taking of Kicks from the Penalty Mark." will be done due to inclement weather or field conditions, the following rule will apply:

- Each team will take a maximum of five (5) penalty kicks.
- At the end of five (5) kicks the game will be scored as a 1-0 win for the team that has scored more penalty kicks, or a 0-0 tie if both teams are tied in penalty kicks at the end of five (5) kicks.

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- In the overall standings, 3 points will be given for the win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss.
- The 1-0 on penalty kicks will be counted for or against to determine the tiebreaker for advancement.
- If regular games have been played in the bracket and the Tournament Director has determined that other games go to penalty kicks due to inclement weather or field conditions, the regular games score will revert back to a 1-0 win or a 0-0 tie.

INCLEMENT WEATHER (FINALS). In the event of inclement weather affecting the Finals, the Tournament Committee will have the authority (in its sole discretion) to change games as follows:

- A. Relocate or reschedule any game(s)
- B. Change the duration of any game(s)
- C. FIFA penalty kicks
- D. Final Games 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 game on that field. For any such game that is not completed, the score at the time of the suspension will be the final score.
 - a. If the score at the time of the suspension is tied, or the game cannot be started due to inclement weather, Point E (below) will be taken into account
- E. If the score at the time of the suspension is tied, or any Final game that has not started, and a Champion and Finalist needs to be determined, the tournament will revert back to final group standings based on three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss. In the event of a tie on points between the two teams that are in the Finals, the following criteria will be used to determine the Champion and Finalist.
 - a. Head to Head competition
 - b. Goal differential to a maximum of four (4) per game
 - c. Most goals scored to a maximum of four (4) per game
 - d. Least goals allowed to a maximum of four (4) per game
 - e. Most Shutouts
 - f. FIFA Penalty kicks

15) REFUND POLICY

- A. Within five (5) days after notification that the team is not accepted by their application.
- B. Within five (5) days upon cancellation of the tournament.
- C. Teams that cancel or pull out of the tournament after the registration deadlines of September 12, 2021 are not entitled to a refund of their registration fee.
- D. Once the tournament starts no refunds due to weather, acts-of-god, or other cancelations.

16) GENERAL

- A. Teams that cancel or pull out of the tournament after the registration deadlines of September 12, 2021 are not entitled to a refund of their registration fee.
- B. Teams that register and/or pay after the registration deadline of September 12, 2021 will incur a \$50.00 late fee.
- C. Under no circumstances whatsoever, will the Tournament Committee, Tournament Success Group or Davie United will be responsible for any expenses (including tournament entry fee) incurred by any team. This includes a situation where the tournament or any game(s) is cancelled in whole or part, due to any factor including inclement weather.
- D. The Tournament Committee's interpretation of these rules shall be FINAL.
- E. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decide on all matters pertaining to this tournament.
- F. The Tournament Committee, based on its interpretation of these rules, will determine the teams which advance into the final rounds.

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- G. Out of area teams are required to stay at tournament approved host hotels.
- H. **NO SALES OF ANY KIND ARE PERMITTED WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION.**
- I. The use of Drones at facilities used by the Copa South Florida is not allowed.