

Harvest Cup Classic

Tournament Rules & Policies

Established 2026

Tournament Dates: October 10–12, 2026

Tournament Hours: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM Daily

Location: Gavin Park, 10 Lewis Rd, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Registration

Registration will be completed through GotSport. All teams must complete online check-in and submit required documents before the published deadline (October 1st). There will be no in-person check-in.

Roster and Player passes for all players must be available when requested by the referee, Field Marshal, tournament committee, and/or Tournament Director. **Teams should be prepared to present player passes/official roster at any time during the tournament.**

While playing for more than one team is strongly discouraged, a player may appear on the rosters of two teams in the same age group as long as they are not in the same division (Premier/Club), subject to the approval of the coaches.

Any violations of the following roster rules and guest play will be reviewed by the Tournament Director and/or Committee members. Decision of the Harvest Cup Committee is final.

- A valid roster (from US Youth Soccer or other Soccer Organizational Member).
- Teams must have completed the required Harvest Cup Medical release forms for all players.
- Maximum Roster number may be waived by the tournament director in advance.
- All players must be registered youth soccer players in good standing with an appropriate youth soccer governing body. Players must either be on a team's official roster or be an approved loan player or a guest player duly registered with a separate team.
- Each team is allowed three (3) guest players. The total number of guest players may be waived by the tournament director in advance of Harvest Cup.
- Guest players guidelines include:
 - Guest players may only appear on **ONE** guest roster.
 - All Guest players must be registered/passed as travel players.
 - For safety reasons, we want to limit how many age groups up a guest player could go (i.e., we don't want a 8 year old playing on a U12 team).

To avoid “stacking” a team, we want to prevent players rostered with a higher age group or division from guesting on a lower level, either age group or division. For example, a U10 player rostered on a U12 team can’t guest play on U10 team. A player on a higher Division team (Division A) can’t guest play on a lower (Division B) team

Rosters

Official roster and player passes must be available upon request. Maximum of three guest players per team unless otherwise approved by the Tournament Director.

Rules

FIFA Laws of the Game apply except where modified below. US Soccer small-sided standards and the current US Soccer age group matrix will govern all competition.

Age Groups / Roster Size / Format / Game Length

Age Group	Birth Dates	Roster Max	Format	Game Length
U8	Aug. 1, 2018 – Jul. 31, 2019	10	5v5 (With Goalkeeper)	20-minute running clock
U10	Aug. 1, 2016 – Jul. 31, 2017	14	7v7	25-minute running clock
U12	Aug. 1, 2014 – Jul. 31, 2015	18	9v9	25-minute running clock

Tournament Format

Every team is guaranteed four (4) games. The Harvest Cup Classic is a developmental jamboree-style tournament. Based on the size of your group bracket there is a chance to play a championship matches or consolation game.

There may be multiple divisions at each age level. This is dependent on the number of teams who have registered. As a result teams may be waitlisted.

Game Schedules

Games will be played October 10–12, 2026 between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM. The U8s are playing on the 10th, U10 on 11th and U12 on the 12th. Once published, schedules are final except for changes required by weather or tournament operations.

Officials

Qualified US Soccer referees will officiate all matches from U10 to U12. All matches will utilize one referee.

ZERO TOLERANCE

The Harvest Cup Tournament adheres to the Eastern NY Youth Soccer Association and CDYSL League Zero Tolerance Policy.

It is the responsibility of ALL coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players, and spectators/supporters in all matches. Abusive and obscene language, disputing referee calls, yelling, criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, violent play, violent conduct, fighting and other behavior detrimental to the game, will not be tolerated.

Coaches are responsible for referee support and spectator control immediately before, during, and after the game, at the field and surrounding areas. Coaches, players, and spectators may not say or do anything that in any way conveys any criticism of the referee. Failure to do so sets a bad example, will undermine the referee's authority, and may potentially create a hostile environment for the players, the referee, other participants, and the spectators.

Information regarding the Zero Tolerance Policy can be found here: [ENYYSA Zero Tolerance Policy](#)

Persons Responsible for a Team (Coach and Assistant Coaches)

Coaches and assistant coaches may not speak to the referee during the game except in these instances:

1. Responding to a referee-initiated communication
2. Making substitutions
3. Asking for how much time
4. Pointing out emergency or safety issues

Coaches /Spectators may ask questions before the start of the game. Coaches/Spectators may not approach the referee at half time or at the end of the game. Coaches/Spectators who have concerns about a referee's officiating may express those concerns in writing to the Harvest Cup Tournament Director at (maydayclassic@saratogawiltonsoccerclub.com) who will alert the Referee Committee. They may not express those concerns directly to the referee.

Violators may be ejected and subject to disciplinary action by the Saratoga Wilton Soccer Club and Tournament Review Committee.

Coaching

All Coaches have total responsibility for the conduct of their players, substitutes, and spectators at all times. Coaching from the sidelines (giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy and position) is permitted, provided: No mechanical devices are used; The tone of the voice is instructive and not derogatory; Each coach or substitute remains within 10 yards on either side of the halfway line; No coach, substitute, or spectator makes derogatory remarks or gestures to the referees, other coaches, players, substitutes, or spectators; No coach, substitute, or spectator uses profanity or incites, in any manner, disruptive behavior.

Cautions and Ejections

- A player receiving two cautions (yellow cards) in a single game is considered to have been given an ejection (red card).
- A player who has been ejected (sent off), will not be replaced.
- A player who has been ejected will not return for that game and will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game.
- A player who is ejected for violent conduct or serious foul play may be expelled from the tournament, at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- Any player or coach who assaults a referee will be expelled from the Tournament.
- Any player or coach whose conduct is unsportsmanlike, regardless of referee penalty may be removed from the game or the tournament at the discretion of the tournament director or committee.
- A coach who has been ejected (sent off) will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game, and may be expelled from the tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

During game suspension(s) for coaches, there can be NO contact between the team and the coach during the game and the coach must be out of sight and sound of the field.

Additionally, the coach must not be involved in unacceptable conduct (defined as coaching his/her players by any means or method, or harassment of opponents/players/referees/staff). Failure to adhere to this rule will result in an immediate ejection from the tournament for the coach. The tournament director will notify the appropriate federation regarding disciplinary actions taken.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Uniforms

A player's uniform will consist of shirt, shorts, socks, shin guards, and footwear. Team uniform shirts must have a number on the back. Each player shall have a different number and this number must be the same as listed on the official tournament roster. In the event of a color conflict, the home team will change color. The home team is the first team listed on the schedule. Goalkeepers shall wear colors that distinguish them from the other players on both teams and from the referee.

Game Ball

The tournament will supply one game ball at each field.

FIELD MARSHALS

Field Marshals will be present at all fields. All participants should be aware that the Marshals have the authority and right to remove any unruly or uncivil spectators from the game field perimeter and/or the field complex area. All Coaches have total responsibility for the conduct of their players, substitutes, friends and spectators at all times.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AND COMMITTEE

In the event of conditions beyond the Tournament Committee's control, final decisions with respect to game cancellations, shortenings or terminations shall lie solely with the

Tournament Director and Committee. The Tournament Director and Committee, in conjunction with the Referees' Committee, reserves the right to change field assignments. In addition, the Tournament Director and Committee reserves the right to change sectional and divisional assignments in the interest of fair and balanced competition.

PROTESTS

No protests will be considered.

REFUND POLICY

- Harvest Cup Classic charges a \$50 administrative fee on any refund.
- If a team withdraws after registration/applying for the Harvest Cup Classic:
 - Prior to or on September 27th, = The team will receive 50% amount refunded minus the \$50 administrative fee.
 - After September 27th = The team is not eligible for a refund.
- If the entire tournament is canceled due to weather prior to the first scheduled match, Harvest Cup Classic will partially refund your team once all tournament expenses have been fully covered.

Player Wellness Tents

Saratoga Wilton Soccer Club will staff their Wellness Tent with Certified Athletic Trainer(s). They are available for pregame treatment, assessments, and post-game treatments. Any player who requires taping, is asked to bring the needed material with them. Our trainers will only be beckoned to field locations on request of the Harvest Cup Classic field marshal and in medical emergency situations.

Player Concussion Policy and Procedure

A player who might have endured a concussion will be required to report to the Player Wellness Tent for an assessment from a trainer. Players can be requested to report to the Wellness Tent by their coach, field marshal, or referees. The player/s is required to bring their player card and is to be accompanied by an adult: parent, team manager, coach, or assistant coach. If the player is assessed to be concussed, the trainer will keep the player card until the team manager or the head coach of that team can pick it up. The trainer will give the player card to the team manager or head coach with instruction that player will not be eligible until further notice and has completed the return to play protocol. The trainer will notify the tournament director of the concussed player. The tournament director will notify the site coordinator to ensure that the concussed player does not participate. Any coach who intentionally allows an identified concussed player to participate without prior proper medical clearance may be sanctioned by Tournament Director.

WEATHER GUIDELINES

Inclement Weather

In all cases, the Tournament reserves the right to abbreviate or shorten all games in order to adjust to weather or other complications that may occur. In the case of inclement weather every attempt will be made to play all scheduled games in the tournament.

The referee, Tournament Director, or field marshal may postpone or cancel any game. Once the decision has been made to cancel a game, that decision is final. Teams that continue to

play may be suspended from the tournament.

If any game is terminated after one half of play, the score at the time will stand and the game will be considered official. If a game must be stopped before halftime, the Tournament Director and Committee will rule on its rescheduling or other resolution. At the sole discretion of the Tournament Director and Committee, some games may be declared a 0 - 0 tie and not be made up.

If play is halted, play is resumed with the game scheduled closest to the time play is to resume. For example, if play is stopped at 2:50 pm and restarted at 5:20 pm the teams scheduled to play closest to 5:20 pm will play, NOT the teams scheduled to play at 2:50 pm. Every attempt will be made to make up the 2:50 pm game at a later date and or time. All decisions made by the Tournament Director and the Committee will be final.

If inclement weather affects a game and it is rescheduled by the tournament, the time and field location then becomes final. Failure to play the game will result in a forfeit.

Regardless of weather conditions, it is the responsibility of all affected teams to monitor the status of their games (via the tournament website) and to appear with their team ready to play as scheduled by the Tournament Director if games are recommenced.

Lightning Policy and Procedure

When a decision has been made to “clear the fields,” all players, parents, spectators, team managers, and coaches must vacate the fields and return to the parking lot to their vehicles. The Tournament Director and Site Coordinators will make every attempt to keep our tournament clientele updated verbally, and through email. Teams refusing to “clear the fields” and following instruction may be sanctioned by the Tournament Director.

Heat Guidelines

Parents and players are required to follow these guidelines. The Athletic Trainer at each site shall monitor the heat index. The ATC will collaborate with the Tournament Director, Site Coordinators, Fields Marshals, and Referees. The Tournament Director may impose a mandatory water break half way through each half. This is a two-minute water break and the game clock will be running (time not to be added on). If a decision has been made to “clear the fields” because of excessive heat, all players, parents, spectators, team managers, and coaches must vacate the fields and return to the parking lot to their vehicles. The Tournament Director and Site Coordinators will make every attempt to keep our tournament clientele updated verbally, and through email. Teams refusing to “clear the fields” and following instruction may be sanctioned by the Tournament Director.

Substitutions

Unlimited substitutions are permitted with the referee's permission.

SCORING

Determining Winners

Teams will be awarded points on the following basis:

- Three (3) points for each Win
- One (1) points for each Tie
- Zero (0) points for each Loss
- One (1) point for each Shutout (including 0-0 games)

At the end of preliminary placements, the group placements shall be determined by the number of points earned in preliminary matches. In the event of a tie within a group, the following criteria shall be used to determine final group placements, used in order until the tie is broken:

1. Head to Head Competition
2. Most Wins
3. Goal Differential (maximum (3) per game),
4. Goals For (maximum (3) per game),
5. Goals Against (maximum (3) per game)
6. Most Shutouts
7. Penalty Kicks

Placement of Group Winners

Where teams are in different brackets, or did not play each other, #1 above will obviously not apply. In the event of a tie between three (3) or more teams, #1 above will only be considered if all three teams played each other. The Tournament Director, acting within the parameters of these rules, will determine the teams to advance to the final rounds or determine the champion of that group.

U11-U12 Age Groups

Team who finishes group play with the most points will be determined the Champion for that age group and division.

If a Division is Comprised of Multiple Groups:

Winners of each group advance into a championship match. Groups with one division will select the top two teams with the most points to advance to the finals. Groups with two divisions will select the team with the most points for each group to advance to the finals.

Final Game/Playoff/Tie Breaker:

Should a playoff game remain a draw after the end of regular play, FIFA penalty kicks will be taken to determine the winner. There will be NO OVERTIME play!

- 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 the 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.

U8 and U10 Age Groups

This age group will be a jamboree format. Each team is guaranteed 4 matches. There will not be playoffs or a group winner. Participation awards can be picked up at the headquarters tent.

Field Marshals

Field Marshals have authority to assist referees and remove unruly spectators.

General Prohibitions

Alcohol, smoking/vaping, air horns, and fireworks are prohibited.

DISCLAIMER

The Tournament Director, members of the Tournament Committee, Saratoga Wilton Soccer Club, its members and board of directors, any participating associations, colleges, advertisers, school districts and recreation departments, and related municipalities will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team, player, or spectator nor will they be held liable for any injury of any player, coach, or spectator that may result from the participation in, or travel to and from the tournament. Each team will be responsible for its own medical and liability insurance. The tournament director and committee reserve the right to decide on all matters pertaining to the conduct and administration of the tournament and their judgment shall be deemed as final.