



IRON ROAD CUP – OFFICIAL RULEBOOK Fall 2025

Central Texas • Youth Soccer Tournament

WELCOME TO THE IRON ROAD CUP

Thank you for joining us for a weekend of competitive soccer, sportsmanship, and community. The Iron Road Cup exists to create a safe, positive, and family-friendly environment for all players, coaches, and supporters.

This rulebook outlines the standards every team must follow to participate.

COACH CHECKLIST

Before your first match:

- Submit **final roster**
- Bring **player cards or proof of age** (digital or printed)
- Check in at **Field HQ 30 minutes before kickoff**
- Ensure **sideline respect & sportsmanship**
- Keep team area **clean after every match**
 - **Failure = 1-point deduction in standings**
- Respect referees, opponents, staff, and facilities

1. TOURNAMENT GOVERNANCE

1.1 Rules

Tournament follows:

- Texas association standards
- US Club Soccer
- FIFA Laws (youth modifications apply)

Iron Road Cup rules **supersede all others** where conflicts exist.

1.2 Referee Authority

Referee decisions are **final** and not subject to appeal.

2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY & REGISTRATION

2.1 Roster Requirements

- All players must be on the official roster before Match 1
- No player may appear on multiple rosters

2.2 Proof of Age

Upload ONE of the following during registration:

- Official ID with photo, OR
- Birth certificate + recent photo
- Players Cards from GotSports from valid Association US CLUB, USYS, or USSSA

2.3 Deadlines

- Players must be registered **by Friday 11:59 PM**
- Full payment due Friday — no wristbands = no participation

2.4 Wristbands

- Distributed **Saturday**, 1 hour before team's first match
- Must be worn for the entire event
- Replacement: **\$5 fee**

3. PROTESTS

A protest is valid only if:

1. Submitted **before end of first half**
2. Filed by the **affected team**
3. Submitted at registration desk
4. Includes **\$100 deposit**
 - Returned if upheld
 - Forfeited if denied

Ineligible player protest: coach must provide proof immediately.

4. CONDUCT, SAFETY & ZERO TOLERANCE

4.1 Zero Tolerance – Referee Abuse

Applies to **players, coaches, parents, and spectators.**

Consequences:

- Parent abuse → **Yellow card to coach**
- Repeat → **Red card + match abandonment**
- Severe → **Removal from facility + future ban**
- Physical threats → **Immediate expulsion**

4.2 Facility Expectations

- No alcohol, smoking, vaping, or pets (unless venue allows)
- Keep sideline area clean
 - **Violation = 1-point deduction**
- Respect all city property and staff

4.3 Player Safety

- Hydration breaks at **85°F+**
- Concussion = **immediate removal**
- Mercy rule: 8+ goal lead → match may be shortened

4.4 Security

Local police will be onsite.

Tournament is **not liable for individual misconduct.**

5. MATCH RULES

5.1 Player Equipment

- Matching uniforms
- Numbers minimum 6 inches
- No duplicate jersey numbers
- Shin guards required
- No jewelry, metal hair accessories, or hard casts

5.2 Points & Tie Breakers

Points:

- Win = **3 points**
- Tie = **1 point**
- Loss = **0 points**

Tie Breakers:

1. Head-to-head
2. Goal differential (max +5 per match)
3. Goals scored (max 5 per match)
4. Fewest goals against
5. Penalty kicks

5.3 Referees

- 5v5 / 7v7 / 9v9 → **Single referee**
- 11v11 → **Three officials**
All decisions are **final**.

5.4 Discipline

- Two yellows = **red card**
- Violent red = **1-game suspension or expulsion**
- Leaving field prematurely = **automatic forfeit**

5.5 Forfeits & Reporting

- Late 15 minutes → **forfeit (1–0)**
- Walking off early → **automatic forfeit**
- Scores posted on **LeagueApps**

6. MATCH FORMATS



5v5 (U6–U7)

- Ball size: 3 (2019) / 4 (2018)
- Two 20-minute halves
- GK allowed

- No headers
- No offsides
- Slide tackles allowed with caution

7v7 (U8–U10)

- Ball size: 4
- Two 25-minute halves
- Build-out line in effect
- Keeper may NOT punt/drop-kick
- Offside only between build-out line and goal
- No deliberate headers
- Slide tackles with caution

9v9 (U11–U12)

- Ball size: 4
- Two 25-minute halves
- Offsides: Yes
- 2015: No headers
- 2014: Headers allowed
- PKs allowed
- Slide tackles with caution

11v11 (U13+)

- Ball size: 5
- Two 30-minute halves
- Offsides: Yes
- Headers allowed
- PKs allowed
- Slide tackles with caution

SPIRIT OF THE IRON ROAD

This tournament exists to bring families together, celebrate competition, and develop players on and off the field. Every coach, parent, and athlete represents their club and our Central Texas community.

Respect the game. Respect the referees. Respect each other.

 **PLAY HARD. PLAY FAIR. RESPECT
THE ROAD.** 