



Kohl's American Cup Fall U07-U14 Team Competition RULES

1. The Kohl's American Cup event is for Iowa Soccer member Under 07-08 through Under 14 Level 3 teams and players (formerly known as "recreational" teams and players).

2. Regular Season Teams and the Guest Player Allowance

The Kohl's American Cup (KAC) is targeted to and intended for regular-season teams/rosters. However, we understand that not all players or parents can commit to an entire weekend of soccer even during the "regular" season. In the interest of participation, we do have a Guest Player Allowance of up to three. Allowing for guest players is, in some cases, the difference in whether or not a team can enter KAC. While allowing for guest players may create some competitive imbalances if coaches try to find "ringers", not allowing guest players may mean 10 players who could play won't because there aren't enough available on their team to enter the tournament. It is in this spirit -- INCLUSION -- that we expect coaches to use the Guest Player Allowance.

There are only two circumstances under which you may use the Allowance: One, AFTER asking all players on your team if they are available and would like to play in the tournament, but some cannot. Or, two, your regular season roster is just large enough to field a team, but for a tournament (multiple games in a weekend) you need additional players for substitutes.

If using the Allowance you need to try to find guest players who are of like skill rather than seeking out those who may be further ahead with their soccer development.

Players who have any Level designation other than Level 3 are not eligible. Translated: if they are dual rostered to a Level 2 or Level 1 team, that is their primary team and they are NOT eligible as a Level 3 player for the Kohl's American Cup.

- Regular-season maximum roster sizes apply.
- Up to three guest players are allowed and may only be current Iowa Soccer-registered players
- Guest players must be level 3 registered players only (a.k.a. "recreational") and cannot also be classified as Level 2 or Level 1 players.
- Guest players do not need to be from your club, but must be currently registered with Iowa Soccer. Currently registered means in the current seasonal year which is fall/spring (August 1-July 31).
- You must submit the Guest Player Form in advance of the event. Iowa Soccer officials will make the final determination of eligibility.
- You are not permitted to submit the form onsite, nor are you allowed to declare guest players once onsite. No exceptions.
- You must verify that you have asked all players on your team to play in this event and include in the form the names of those players who will not be playing at Kohl's American Cup.

Iowa Soccer officials will verify all guest players and make the final determination of their eligibility. The form coaches must use to submit guest players and to verify they are following the spirit and the letter of the Guest Player Allowance will be provided to them by Iowa Soccer.

3. Depending on the number of teams entered in an age group, some age groups may be combined so that teams still may play, rather than turning entries away. If combined, age group combinations would look only like: U07-08 Girls or U07-08 Co-ed; U09-10 Girls or U09-10 Co-ed; U11-12 Girls or U11-12 Co-ed; U13-14 Girls or U13-14 Co-ed. Girls would only be combined with girls and co-ed would only be combined with co-ed.

4. Players must be on the entered team's regular season roster in order to participate. Violation of this rule will result in the forfeiture of all games played by the offending team. The exception is if you are using the Guest Player Allowance, whereby you have submitted your guest players for verification of eligibility and they have been approved by Iowa Soccer.



5. A player can only play for one (1) team and if his/her regular season team has entered the Kohl's American Cup, that is the only team he/she may play for. Any ineligible player discovered shall cause the teams on which he/she played for to forfeit any game.
6. All players must have a US Youth Soccer/Iowa Soccer player pass. They are eligible for a US Youth Soccer/Iowa Soccer player pass if they have been properly registered to an Iowa Soccer member organization and rostered to a club's team in the current seasonal year. A coach must present player cards for all of his or her players pursuant to the rules of the competition. If you have been playing all season without using player passes, contact your club's registrar about obtaining them. There are no exceptions – no pass, no play!
7. Any adult who intends to be on the sideline with the team during the match in the role of coach, assistant coach, team manager or otherwise, must have visible their **plastic coach "hard pass"**, issued by Iowa Soccer. If the adult has properly registered with a club and gone through and passed Iowa Soccer's Risk Management procedure, the adult will (should) have a coach hard pass. If you have not been using your coach hard pass all season, you must contact your registrar immediately to verify if you should have received one. If you are not in the registration system, you will not receive a hard pass until you register with the club and subsequently pass the Risk Management background check. You will not be allowed on the team's sideline during the Kohl's American Cup event without your pass. This is an issue of risk-management and there are no exceptions!
8. All teams must have a coach that is 21 years of age or older.
9. Except as noted herein, all games will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.
10. Pregame Procedure: Prior to each of your matches, all player cards must be presented to the field marshal and/or referee. You must also have visible your coach hard pass.

We will have field marshals around the Spring Creek fields who will be in charge of pregame team check. Please make sure your team is at the field it will play on at least 1/2 hour prior to your game time with cleats/guards on. Field marshals will be instructed to do the pregame team check while the other game on your scheduled field is being played. That way we keep on time on our schedule and games don't fall behind (think keeping parents happy!). We appreciate your help ensuring the team is there and ready for pregame check early!

- Please locate a field marshal (look for orange vested-peeps) when your team is ready for pregame check.
 - Field marshals will check your player passes and coach hard passes against those in attendance at the match; so bring all passes to every game.
 - Field marshals will do a quick check of cleats and shin guards and also ask that all jewelry and earrings be removed -- players are not allowed to play with those items.
 - If both teams are wearing too similar a color jersey, the Field Marshal will ask one of the teams to wear an alternate-color jersey, so have players bring one!
 - You will not be required to present your medical release consent forms at any time other than when checking in your team.
11. Forms of the game & Game Length
 - Under 07 and U08 games will be played with a maximum of four (4) players per side, and a minimum of three (3) players per side. **4v4**
 - **2x20 minute halves (40 minutes)**
 - Under 09 and U10 games will be played with a maximum of six (6) players per side, and a minimum of four (4) players per side. **6v6**
 - **2x25 minute halves (50 minutes)**
 - Under 11 and U12 games will be played with a maximum of eight (8) players per side, and a minimum of six (6) players per side. **8v8**
 - **2x25 minute halves (50 minutes)**



- U14-above playing 8v8 will have a maximum of eight (8) players per side, and a minimum of six (6) players per side.
 - **2x30 minute halves (60 minutes)**
- If the minimum number cannot be fielded within five (5) minutes after scheduled game time, then the team that cannot field the minimum number of players shall forfeit the match.

12. Maximum roster size

- U07-08 is 8 players
- U09-10 is 10 players
- U11-12 is 14 players
- For U14-above teams playing 8v8, the maximum is 22 players, from which only 18 may be “active” for any one match.

13. Substitutions for all age groups will be unlimited. Teams, with the consent of the referee, may make substitutions at any of the following times:

- Prior to a throw-in; (only on your throw-in or both teams can sub if both teams have players at the half-way line)
- Prior to a goal kick
- After a goal
- After an injury by either team where the referee stops the play and can substitute one for one
- At half time.
- If a player is issued a yellow card, a coach may choose to substitute only that player during that stoppage in play.

14. Each team shall furnish a regulation game ball to the referee prior to each match. The referee's choice of the game ball is final. U07 and U08 games will use a size 3. U09-U12 games will use a size 4 ball. U13-above will use a size 5 ball.

15. Playing Conditions. Teams will be expected to play according to the schedule of games regardless of weather conditions. Only the Tournament Director and/or Tournament Committee may reschedule games or alter the competitive format because of inclement weather or other just cause. Games shall be considered complete if one half has been completed and play is stopped by the referee or tournament officials. When necessitated by playing conditions, the game format may be altered to include shortened games, kicks from the mark, or coin tosses. If a game is decided by kicks from the mark, the winning team's score for that game will be recorded as 1-0.

16. A coin toss will be done at the beginning of each game to determine who kicks off and/or choice of ends.

17. Each team should be prepared to provide another color uniform. It is the responsibility of the home team to change to a different color uniform or pinnies if necessary (the home team is always the first team listed on the schedule). The referee is the final authority on uniform colors. It is recommended to have, at the minimum, white T-shirts available. The primary uniform, at least, should have easily discernible numbers on the back. Secondary uniforms may be numberless, but should only be worn if there is a color conflict.

18. Standings/Point System (Used in U11-above games only):

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

19. Team Divisions/Advancement

- **All U10-below divisions** will play three matches. The emphasis is on participation and therefore scores and standings are not kept.
 - U07 and U08 Girls play only on Saturday
 - U07 and U08 Co-ed play only on Sunday
 - U09 and U10 Girls and Co-ed play both Saturday and Sunday



- **All U11-above divisions**

Group play games (a.k.a. round-robin) may end in a tie; no overtime will be played.

- In age divisions where there are four teams, all teams will play each other in round-robin play. The top-two point getters then advance to a Final match to determine the Champion.
- In age divisions where there are five teams, all teams will play each other in round-robin play. The two teams with the most points from round-robin play will be declared Champion (most points) and Finalist (second most points), respectively.
- In age divisions where there are six teams there will be two groups of three teams each. Teams within a group will play each other and one cross-group game. The team with highest points total in each group will advance to a Final game.
- In age divisions where there are eight teams, the teams will be divided into two groups with four teams each. Each team will play the other teams in their group. The team with the highest points total in each group will advance to play in the championship match.
- In age divisions where there are 12 teams, the teams will be divided into three groups with four teams each. Each team will play three round-robin games. The team with the highest points total in each group plus a "Wildcard" team (the next highest points total team of ALL remaining teams after the top three) will advance to play in the semifinals. The winners of the semifinals will advance to play in the championship match.
- Semifinal and/or Final matches must end with a winner. If matches are tied at the end of regulation, Kicks From the Mark (KFTM) will be used to determine a winner. The KFTM procedure is in Rule #21.

20. Tie Breakers. If any teams have the same point total, the following will be used as a tiebreaker, in order.

1. Head to head competition (not used if more than 2 teams are tied).
2. Goals scored minus goals allowed (maximum of 5 goal differential per game, example - a score of 9-1 would be calculated as 6-1).
3. Most shut outs.
4. Fewest goals allowed.
5. Kicks from the mark.

21. In the event that kicks from the mark must be used to determine a winner, the format will be as follows:

- Each team will select five (5) players to kick. Only players on the field at the conclusion of the game may be selected to kick;
- Teams will alternate (the first team to kick will be determined by the referee's coin toss)
- If the score remains tied after five (5) kicks, the teams will alternate kicks with the remaining players that were on the field at the end of play, one at a time, until a winner is determined;
- A team goalkeeper can be changed with the referee's permission after each shot.

22. Both teams will bench themselves on the same side of the field, and the spectators should be on the opposite side of the field. Spectators shall be on the outside area of each field. Spectators are not allowed to be located behind the goal.

23. Any team that withdraws from a match or fails to play a match will forfeit that game and the following game at a score of 3-0 for each game.



24. Following each match the score of the match will be reported to the Administration Tent. The referees' decisions are final. There will be no protests and results/games will stand as played.

25. Any player who receives a red card will be expelled for the rest of the game and will be suspended from playing in the next scheduled game. Any coach that receives an expulsion from a game shall be expelled for the remainder of that game and the next game. **Any spectator that is expelled from a game shall not be allowed to be on the premises of the Spring Creek Sports Complex, including the parking lot, for the remainder of the tournament.**

26. At a time designated by Tournament Officials, the team coach or coordinator will be required to check in. This will be communicated to coaches in advance of the event. ***Only you are required at check-in – don't bring players.***

At Check-in you will present:

- Player Passes
- Coach Hard Passes
- Completed Medical Releases

27. Any person involved in a fight will be immediately expelled from the tournament area for the remainder of the tournament. Any coach or player expelled in this manner will not be allowed to participate during the remainder of the tournament.

28. Every player and coach is participating at his or her own risk.

29. All coaches are responsible for the conduct of their fans throughout the tournament. Abusive language and actions by spectators will not be tolerated. The referee has the authority to verbally warn, caution, or send away the team coaches for the conduct of the spectators.

30. Every team is requested to help ensure that the field and the surroundings are left clean and litter-free.

31. Alcohol in any form will not be allowed on any playing field, adjacent to the playing field or parking lot areas.

32. Withdraw Policy. The tournament will refund all checks up to and including the entry deadline. After this period and up until team acceptance, refund will be left to the discretion of the Tournament Director. After schedules are finalized there will be no refund of the entry fee if a team withdraws.

33. Amendment to the Rules. The Tournament Director and/or Tournament Committee have the right to modify these Rules as they deem to be necessary throughout the tournament.

34. Decisions made by the Tournament Director are final.

35. The Tournament Director, Tournament Committee Members or Officials, field hosts and referees shall have the authority to remove any person from the tournament for unsporting conduct.

36. Cancellation/refund policy: The Tournament Director, Director of Referees and Tournament Committee shall have the full and final authority concerning the cancellation, delay, change of time, or any other alteration of games that may be required due to the weather or emergencies. If the tournament is cancelled due to inclement weather, any games played the following will apply:

- No games played = 80% of entry fee.
- 1 game played = 50% of entry fee.
- 2 games played = 25% of entry fee.
- 3 games played or failure to play semi-final and/or final games = no refund.
- If semi-final or final games are cancelled, Champion and runner-up will be determined on points standing after preliminary games.



37. Weather: The Tournament Director will make the decision to clear the field with the safety of all participants – players, fans, referees, tournament officials -- as the primary concern. It is not up to referees to make this decision.

- Multiple horn blasts, followed by referees blowing their whistles to stop play, will indicate play has been suspended.
- When the Tournament Director has indicated play has been stopped via the horn blasts, participants are expected to seek shelter immediately inside their vehicles.
- Do not leave the premises unless and/or until directed to do so by the Tournament Director or tournament officials. Communication will be between the Tournament Director and the contact listed on the team's entry, who is charged with relaying the information to his/her coach and team.
- Multiple horn blasts will indicate that play will resume and participants should return to the field they left when play was suspended.

If the delay is lengthy and significantly affects the remainder of the day's schedule, any decisions made regarding the schedule will be relayed by the Tournament Director to the contact person listed on the team's entry, who is then responsible for getting that information to his/her coach and team. Game lengths may be shortened. Tournament officials ask for and appreciate your patience and cooperation in weather situations.

38. Sportsmanship/For the Good of the Game: Iowa Soccer is an Alliance 4 All-Endorsed State Association and will conduct its programming in accordance with this status.

Iowa Soccer tournament officials reserve the right to make certain decisions regarding the competition, as he/she deems necessary, for the good of the game, in order to improve the game and/or to protect the participants. Such decisions shall include but are not limited to: postponement or cancellation of games; rescheduling of games; changing of fields; changing of sites; fair play; unsporting behavior.

In the interest of fair play and good sporting behavior, conduct by coaches, team officials and players that calls the game or competition into disrepute is prohibited. It is expected that all participants will participate in good faith and fairly. If it is determined that a particular action by a team or any of its players, coaches, team officials or spectators is deemed unacceptable for any reason, the team may be reprimanded, disqualified, sanctioned, and/or face forfeiture of one or more games. Examples of such action include, but are not limited to: knowingly violating the Guest Player Allowance, suspected forfeiture or otherwise determining the outcome of a game with the design or purpose of controlling the advancement of any team from its own group or any other group, intentionally losing a game, or unnecessarily running a score up. To be clear, this is not an all-inclusive list. Iowa Soccer tournament officials do not subscribe to the notion that that which is not expressly prohibited is, therefore, permitted.

