

# Region 7 Divisional Playoff Rules

## Schedule:

- ⚽ Teams will be seeded in the first round based on their final standings in regular season.
- ⚽ First place team will play last place team; second place will play second-to-last place, etc.
- ⚽ Playoffs are a single elimination format (once a team has lost, they're eliminated).

## General Rules:

- ⚽ Home team will be listed first in the schedule and must provide proper game balls.
- ⚽ Home team will occupy the north or west side of field; visiting team, the south or east side.
- ⚽ Coaches will stay along the touchline within 10 yards either side of the halfway line and one yard back from the touchline. Coaches are responsible to keep the touchline clear so that the Assistant Referee may move along (or see) the entire touchline without interference.
- ⚽ Spectators will stay along the touchline, behind the coaches, no closer to the goal line than the penalty area line. No one is allowed behind the goal line without the Referee's permission.
- ⚽ Referees will enforce the Laws of the Game, and Region 7 guidelines, from the time they arrive at the field for the match until they leave following the match and any tie-breakers.

## Match Rules:

- ⚽ Visiting team will call the coin toss. The winner will choose which goal to attack to start.
- ⚽ Duration of matches: Two halves of **25 min.** each (**U10**), **30 min.** each (**U12**), or **35 min.** each (**U14**).
- ⚽ Half-time will be at least **5** minutes, but not longer than **10** minutes.
- ⚽ Substitutions will be approximately midway during each half, and at half-time.
- ⚽ All players must play a minimum of **3/4** of regulation time in each match. At U10, a player may not be goalkeeper for more than 1/2 of the match. No player will be substituted again in regulation time until every teammate has been substituted.
- ⚽ Rotation of substitutions carries over into subsequent regional playoff matches for all players present.
- ⚽ Players sent off at any time do not participate any further in the match or tie-breakers.

## Tie Breakers

- 1) If at end of regulation play score is tied, a winner will be decided according to the following:
  - ⚽ Teams will play two complete overtime periods, which are part of the match. There's no "Golden Goal."—both overtime periods must be played in their entirety.

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### Tie Breakers (cont'd)

- ⚽ Visiting team will call the coin toss. The winner will choose which goal to attack to start.
  - ⚽ Duration of overtime periods: **5 min. (U10)**, **7 min. (U12)**, and **9 min. (U14)**.
  - ⚽ Half-time will only be long enough for substitutions and teams to switch sides on the field. At U10, a player may not be goalkeeper for more than one overtime period.
  - ⚽ Substitutions will be done only before the start of each overtime period, except for injury. Rotation of substitutions in regulation time does not carry over into any overtime periods.
  - ⚽ Players who do not play in the first overtime period **must** play in the second overtime period.
- 2) If at the end of the two complete overtime periods the tie has not been broken, a winner will be decided by taking kicks from the penalty mark.
- ⚽ Only the players on the field at the end of the second overtime period are eligible to kick. If one team has more players on the field, it must “reduce to equate” until kicks begin.
  - ⚽ Visiting team will call the coin toss. The winner will decide whether to kick first or second. The Referee will determine which goal will be used.
  - ⚽ Eligible players assemble inside the center circle with the Goalkeepers at the corner of the penalty area line and the goal line. All others remain outside the field of play, except U10 head coaches who may accompany their players.
  - ⚽ Any eligible player may be designated as the Goalkeeper, and the Goalkeeper may be switched during the taking of kicks with any eligible teammate.
  - ⚽ After kicks begin, no player injured (and unable to play) or sent off will be replaced, except an injured Goalkeeper. The opposing team does not “reduce to equate” for these players. An injured Goalkeeper may be replaced, with the Referee’s permission, by any teammate.
  - ⚽ Kicks will continue as long as each team has at least one eligible player still taking kicks.
  - ⚽ Coaches will submit to the referee what order the players will kick. The Goalkeeper may kick anywhere in the team order. After all players have kicked, the order may be changed.
  - ⚽ The first five players on each will team kick--with teams alternating each kick--until one team has more goals or is ahead by more goals than the other team has attempts remaining.
  - ⚽ If the tie hasn’t been broken after the first five players on each team have kicked, the remaining players will kick—with teams alternating each kick—until the tie is broken and each team has had an equal number of kicks.
  - ⚽ If the tie hasn’t been broken after all eligible players have kicked, teams will continue taking alternating kicks until the tie is broken, and each team has had an equal number of kicks.