RULES OF COMPETITION
CECIL FALL BLAST SOCCER TOURNAMENT

LAWS OF THE GAME:

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

ELIGIBILTY:

Participation in the tournament is open to accepted teams consisting of eighteen (18) or fewer players in age groups U-13 through U-16, and fourteen (14) players in age groups U-9 thru U-12. **(please note U-9 and U-10 is 7v7 & U-11 and U-12 is 8v8).** Guest players are allowed to a maximum of 5 guest players per team. However, your guest players cannot bring your game day roster size over the maximum allowed for your age group. All players must meet the age limit requirements of the specified division. Players must have been born during, or subsequent to, the divisional year, as defined by US Soccer Guidelines. Each team must be registered with a national affiliate of the USSF, typically either US Club Soccer, or with their respective state or national association and must present a valid state or provincial roster. If you are registered with US Club Soccer you must provide a stamped US Club Soccer Roster. The only acceptable proof of age will be valid USSF, State, National, or Provincial registration card that includes a signature and a photograph of the player. US Club Soccer must provide US Club Soccer Player I.D. cards with photographs. **Players who do not present a valid player pass and medical release form will not play.** **Photocopies of player cards are not acceptable and player cards on electronic devices are not acceptable**. **No player is permitted to play for more than one team during the tournament, regardless of divisions or age groups**. Any team fielding an ineligible player will forfeit the game(s) in which the ineligible player participated. All player passes will be proofed upon registration and must be available at all scheduled game sites.

SUBSTITUTIONS:

A. Substitutions without limit may be made at the following times with the permission of the referee:

- either teams goal kick
- your possession throw in
- please note that a team may substitute on the opposing team's throw in only if the opposing team makes a substitution
- after a goal is scored
- half-time or start and half of overtime periods

B. Limited substitutions may be made for an injury with the referee's permission. In case of stoppage of play for an injury, teams may substitute on a one-for-one basis for the injured players(s) only. If an injured player is replaced, the opposing team may also substitute one player.

C. Substitutions will take place at midfield. The substitute cannot enter the field until the replaced player has left the field.

GAMES AND PROCEDURES:

A. All players are expected to have two uniform jerseys. When uniform colors are similar, the home team will change their jersey. Players must wear numbers on their uniforms and the numbers must coincide with the team's roster.

B. Each coach will provide a lines-person as requested by the referee, if not provided by the tournament.

C. All players, coaches, and spectators will remain two (2) yards behind the touch line at all times.

D. Teams and spectators must be on opposite sides of the field.

E. The Tournament Committee will determine the games schedule prior to the tournament.

F. All games are scheduled for 25-minute halves. There will be no overtime or penalty kicks to decide games.

G. Unless your scheduled field in not in use, warm ups are not permitted on the field prior to the start of the game. Please use adjacent field space. Teams must be prepared to play immediately following the previous game that has ended.

H. All teams must report to the field marshal 30 minutes before the start of their game. This will allow the field marshal time to conduct pregame preparations like, collecting player passes, team rosters, and inspecting equipment. All games will start on time!

I. A team that cannot field the minimum number of players as noted below, at game time must forfeit that game. No grace period is allowed.

U-9 thru U-12	5 players
U-13 thru U-16	7 players

J. All U-9 and U-10 games will play 7 per side on a modified field per the Maryland State Youth Soccer Association.

PLACEMENT OF DIVISIONS:

A. Division of 4: Each team will play a 3 game round robin schedule. The champion and runner-up finalist will be the top 2 finishing teams.

B. Division of 6: Each team will play 2 games within a 3-team group. The 2 group winners will play a championship game to determine 1st and 2nd place. Other teams in the groups will play a consolation game.

C. In the event the championship game ends in a tie after regulation time. The teams will immediately proceed to penalty kicks to decide the outcome.

SCORING:

A. Field marshals are responsible to see that game report forms are properly completed and submitted to Tournament Headquarters.

B. Each team will be awarded 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss. In addition, the winning team will earn 1 point for each goal differential, to a maximum of 3. One point will be awarded to the winning team who shuts out its opponent. In case of a 0-0 tie, each team is awarded one shutout point. The maximum points that can be earned by a winning team is therefore 7.

C. Tie breakers:
1st – Head to Head Competition (In the event of a 3 way tie, head-to-head will be thrown out and options 2-4 will be used in order)
2nd – Least goals conceded
3rd – Most goals scored
4th – Penalty Kicks

CONDUCT:

A. Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves with in the spirit of the law.

B. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their spectators and players.

C. Severe misconduct will result in players or whole teams being asked to leave without refund

D. Any player who accumulates two yellow cards during the tournament will sit out the very next game the team is to play. For example, if a player receives a yellow card in game #1 and then another yellow card in game #2, the player will have to "sit out" the remainder of game #2 and game #3. This rule applies to any player who receives a red card, either directly or as the result of two yellow cards.

PROTESTS AND FORFEITS:

All games will be played without protest. A forfeited game will be declared with a (3-0) score. The Tournament Director has the authority to reschedule any game to ensure equal play.

INCLEMENT WEATHER:

A. If inclement weather occurs, all field marshals, referees and coaches must report to the Tournament Headquarters. The Tournament Committee will advise on what action to be taken. **It is our intention to play all tournament games as scheduled**.

B. The tournament Committee holds the authority to rule as follows:

- relocate/reschedule any game
- stop/change duration of play
- cancel future games

C. After a stoppage due to inclement weather, the decision to continue the tournament will be made at the tournament headquarters after receiving a report on all field conditions. A new schedule and field assignments will be communicated to all coaches/managers for resumption in play.

D. Any match terminated after one half of play is considered official.

PLAYER INJURIES:

Any serious player injury must be handled by the coach/manager. The field marshal will notify Tournament Headquarters and/or First Aid as appropriate.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT:

A. Every player must have the basic compulsory equipment, two jerseys, shorts, stockings, shin guards and cleats. Cleats will not have any sharp edges that may injure another player. Metal cleats are not permitted.

B. Any appliances such as knee braces must be worn in such a way that they do not pose a threat of injury to other players. All casts and splints must be padded to protect other players from injury.

C. The decision of the Referee Assignor with regard to equipment will be final.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE:

A. The Tournament Committee will be responsible for team acceptances, tournament format, game scheduling, and assignment of referees.

B. The Tournament Committee will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team if the tournament is canceled in whole or in part.

C. The Tournament Committee will assign field marshals and trainers at the field sites.

D. The Tournament Committee will keep scores at the tournament headquarters or any field sites they designate with updated standings as available.

E. The tournament Committee reserves the right to decide on all matters pertaining to the tournament.

TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION POLICY:

In the event inclement weather forces total cancellation of the tournament, teams will be refunded fee minus tournament expenses.

GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE!!!

Revised 11/04/2013