

Special Olympics 5v5 – Tournament Rules

- 1. Player Eligibility:** Each participating player must provide confirmation of their date of birth via a birth certificate or player card; FYSA, US Club Soccer and AYSO player cards are acceptable. Additionally, each player must have a completed “Special Olympics 5v5” Medical Release. FYSA and all other medical releases are *not* acceptable. A player may only participate on one team during the tournament.
- 2. Field of Play:**
 - The field of play is 40 yards in length, by 25 yards in width.
 - Penalty Box: 8 yard arc.
- 3. Players/Substitutes:** Roster size of 10 players maximum. There will be five players on the field at all times. Substitutes are allowed on the fly. The player leaving the field must be off before the player entering the game steps onto the field. Violation of this rule results in an indirect free kick where the ball is at the time of the illegal substitution.
- 4. Player’s Equipment:** Each player must be in team uniform. Cleats and shin guards are required at all times.
- 5. Ball Size:** The ball size will be a size 3, 4, 5 dependent on the age bracket and will be provided by the team who is scheduled to be the home side.
- 6. Officials:** Volunteer staff will act as officials for all games.
- 7. Duration of the game:** The games are 30 minutes in length with 15 minute halves and 2 minutes for half time. The time is kept by one administrator who will blow the horn to start and end the game. The clock is continuous.
- 8. Start/End of play:** The horn indicates the beginning/end of the game.
- 9. Ball in and out of play:** There are no throw-ins but kick-ins. The opposing player must be at least 5 yards from the player taking the kick.
- 10. Scoring:** The officials keep score and report the score to the schedule tent at the culmination of each game.
- 11. Offside:** There are no offsides.

12. **Violations and Misconduct:** The referee has the right to remove any player from the field of play for foul/violent play/conduct. No slide tackles allowed
13. **Free kicks:** All free kicks are indirect. Opposing player must stand at least 5 yards from the ball.
14. **Penalty Kicks:** Taken from the penalty spot; 6 yards from the goal.
15. **Corner Kicks:** Taken from the corner of the field of play. Corner Kicks are indirect.
16. **Goal kick:** The ball cannot pass the half way line without either first bouncing or before touching a player on the field. The ball must be kicked into play; it cannot be dribbled into play. An indirect free kick on the halfway line will occur if this infringement happens.
17. **Goalkeeper Punts & Throws:** The ball cannot pass the half way line without either first bouncing or before touching a player on the field. An indirect free kick on the halfway line will occur if this infringement happens.
18. **Preliminary/Group play:** Each team will play three preliminary/group games.
 - 3 points for a win (a maximum goal differential of 5 goals per win)
 - 1 point for a tie
 - 0 points for a loss
 - In the event of a tie at the end of the preliminary/group games the following criteria will determine who advances to the next round:
 1. Head to head result of the teams in question.
 2. Goal Difference.
 3. Goals For.
 4. Goals Against.
 5. ***Penalty Kicks; best of 3, followed by sudden death. All players on the roster must take a penalty kick before a player takes their second penalty kick attempt.***

19. **Semi final/final:** Played by the two teams who won their preliminary/group play.

In the result of a tie, one 5-minute golden goal period will be played followed by penalty kicks. (*See above for rules on penalty kicks*).