Date: Friday August 14th, Saturday August 15th and Sunday August 16th, 2026.
Competition: U13, U14, U15, U16, U19 girls and boys 11v11 tournament.

Officiating:
Qualified officials will officiate each game.
All 11v11 matches will be officiated by a central referee and 2 assistant referees. Matches will be officiated using the 2025/26 FIFA Laws of the game including the following new laws:

• **Goalkeeper eight-second rule:**
Goalkeepers now have a maximum of eight seconds to release the ball after gaining control. If they exceed this, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team. The referee will signal the final five seconds of the count.
• **Dropped ball restarts:**
When play is stopped inside the penalty area, the restart is a dropped ball to the goalkeeper. If stopped outside the area, it goes to the team that had possession, according to the Bundesliga.
• **Captain's role:**
Only the on-field captain (or a designated player if the captain is a goalkeeper) is allowed to speak to the referee.
• **Inadvertent interference:**
If a non-player (e.g., a substitute) interferes with play, the game restarts with an indirect free kick, and no sanction is applied.

Match Length:
25 or 30 minute halves, with 5 minute half time.
Clock is a running clock. Injury time will only be added in the event of a major/serious injury stoppage of more than 5 minutes. Otherwise, no injury time will be added. In semi-final and championship matches, if the result is a tie, there will be no extra time. The game will be decided by FIFA penalty kicks.

Kit Color Clash:
If teams have the same color uniforms and the referees deems it to be a clash, the team listed as the home team will change into the alternate jersey color.

Substitutions:
This event will follow FIFA rules where substitutions can be made at any stoppage with the consent of the official. Unlimited re-entries are allowed.

Reporting Scores:
Pitch marshals and referees will report scores.

Weather:
In the case of inclement weather every attempt will be made to play all scheduled games in the tournament. At the sole discretion of the tournament director/committee, some games may be declared a 0 – 0 draw and not made up. The following priority will be given to making up games:

1. Teams that have not yet played a game in the tournament.
2. Teams that have only played one game in the tournament.
3. Games that will have a material impact on the final standings.
4. All other games.

The lightning policy for the tournament is as follows: At the first visible sign of lightning (regardless of the estimated distance from the field) all play will be stopped, and players and spectators will be asked to move to a safe location. For all games that were in progress the game clock will continue to run. If time runs out and the game was at or past half time when play was stopped, the result at the time of play being stopped will stand.
When play is stopped, or resumed, due to lightning, it is at the sole discretion of the referees and the tournament director/committee. Both referees and tournament officials will enforce strict adherence to the above policy. No appeals will be allowed. Personal safety is the number one concern of the tournament, and it will supersede any game situation.
The Tournament Director/Committee will have the ultimate decision in any weather-related delay, make- up time/game, and game result.

Team withdrawals:
If a team is fully responsible for the termination of a game due in part to poor sportsmanship towards a referee, opposing team/fans will result in a forfeit. The team responsible for the forfeit will incur a 0-3 loss.
No shows/forfeits: If a team does not show with the minimum number of players or fails to show – this will result in a forfeit of a 0-3 loss that will be recorded.

Advancement to Semi-Final and Championship Final Play (if applicable):
Group/Bracket winners are determined by the total points earned within their bracket (Win = 3 points, Draw = 1 point, Loss = 0 points). In the event of teams being equal in points within their group/bracket after the qualifying games, advancement to semi-final and championship play or the championship/bracket winning will be determined according to the following:

1. Head-to-Head
2. Goal Difference (total of number of goals your team has scored, minus number of goals allowed)
3. Goals For (number of goals your team has scored).
4. Goals Against (number of goals allowed).
5. Most clean sheets.
6. Penalty Kicks

In the case of a two-way tie the above rules will be applied until one team is eliminated. However, in a Three-way tie, the Head-to-Head criteria becomes moot, and advancement rules will start at criteria 2.

Semi-Final and Championship Final:
Championship matches will be regular in duration with a five-minute interval between halves - unless the tournament committee determines that championship matches need to be shortened due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

In the event the match is a draw, there will not be extra time, it will go straight to FIFA rules for the "Taking of kicks from the penalty mark" shall apply. Teams will alternate kicks at the same goal, with the goal selected by the referee. Best of five, (or more, if necessary), kicks shall prevail. All eligible players, including the goalkeepers, must kick before any player may repeat. Only players on the field at the end of extra time will be eligible to take kicks, these players must remain within the field of play after the conclusion of extra time.

If one of the two teams qualifying for the championship game declines to appear, at the discretion of the Tournament Committee, the next highest ranked team in that division, based upon tournament record may be substituted for the team declining to appear.

Player Safety:

The following shall be permitted for player safety:

- A soft splint or cast shall be allowed per the referee has determined that the cast is not a danger to themselves or other players.
- A brace, joint, or prosthetic is allowed per the referee has determined that is not a danger to themselves or other players.
- Sport Spectacles/plastic prescription frames are allowed, however eyewear with glass, metal, or sharp edges are barred.
- Soft foam headgear is allowed per the referee has determined it is not a danger to themselves or other players. If a referee has determined a player is wearing articles that are not allowed – the referee shall order the said player to remove them. If the player fails to remove the article – they will not be allowed to return to the match.

Player Deportment:
Shirt must be tucked inside shorts. Shin guards must be firmly in place and covered by socks. Nonstandard attire, accouterments, and apparel must be cleared prior to the Tournament with written approval, otherwise, Rule 4 of the FIFA rules applies. The Referees' Committee will continue to be the sole arbiter as to what is legal and what is not legal.

Red & Yellow Cards:
A player who is dismissed from the field of play for any reason apart from violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, abusive, indecent, or insulting words or behavior shall be suspended automatically for one match in the Tournament immediately following the match in which he was sent off. This includes two yellow cards received within the same match or a straight red card.
A player who is dismissed from the field of play for violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, abusive, indecent, or insulting words or behavior whether he has previously been cautioned in the match or not, shall be suspended automatically for two matches. This commences immediately following the match in which he was sent off. Save for spitting at another person who will be suspended from the tournament and reported to The Football Association.
All extraordinary incidents should be reported to The Football Association. In exceptional circumstances the Football Association may deem it necessary to impose a greater sanction. The above rules also apply to coaches/managers.

Coach/Manager Presence:
The team must have a coach or manager from within the same club at all scheduled matches in which their teams participate. There must be a coach present throughout the entire match or match will be forfeited by the team without a coach present to a score of 3 – 0. A maximum of 3 coaches are allowed on the team's sideline.
If a coach is sent off – the team must replace the coach with another coach/manager.

Pitch Marshals:
Pitch Marshals will be present at all pitches. All participants should be aware that the Marshals have the authority and right to remove any unruly or uncivil spectators or coaches from the pitch and surrounding perimeter and/or the tournament area.

Protests/Appeals:
Any protests or appeals should be made in writing to the Tournament Committee/Director. The Tournament Committee/Director shall make all final decisions with respect to protests or appeals.

Tournament Committee:
In the event of conditions beyond the Tournament Committee's control, final decisions with respect to match cancellations, shortenings or terminations shall lie solely with the Tournament Committee and director. The Tournament Committee/Director, in conjunction with the Referees' Committee/Coordinator, reserves the right to change match assignments.