



The Miami Classic Tournament Rules 2026

December 4-6, 2026 (7v7 & 9v9) | December 11-13, 2026 (11v11) Miami, Florida

REGISTRATION & TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- The Miami Classic is an unrestricted tournament, open to properly registered youth teams from all U.S. Soccer-affiliated organizations (USYS, US Club, FYSA, etc.) in the age groups listed on the FYSA approval form.
- Each team must be in good standing with its State Association or other Federation affiliate and present an official, stamped roster, permission-to-travel (if required), and proof of medical insurance.
- Multiple competitive divisions may be offered within an age group when numbers permit. Final divisional placement is at the sole discretion of the Tournament Committee.
- Players may compete for one (1) team only during the tournament. Any player who appears for a second team causes that team to forfeit the match 4-0.
- All coaches, players, and team officials must present current, laminated player/coach passes bearing a photo, verified team code, and date of birth.

FYSA JEWELRY POLICY

No player may wear jewelry in any sanctioned match. The sole exception is a medical-alert bracelet/necklace, which must be securely taped to the body. The referee's decision on safety is final.

FYSA CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE POLICY - RULES 502 & 504.1

- It shall be solely the team's responsibility to determine the status of its players and coaches. Any suspension from a tournament, local league, etc., is the responsibility of the team to notify the Tournament Director of this suspension at the time of the player's check-in.
- Per FYSA Rule 504.1, red card suspension or send-off suspensions can only be served with the team with which the suspension was earned in games played by their team. Players may not serve suspensions as "guest players."
- The Tournament Committee shall have a Discipline Committee of three (3) members. This committee will review and rule on all reports of unacceptable conduct by players, managers, coaches, referees, spectators, etc., using the FYSA standards as set by Rules Section 502.
- Any player or manager/coach ejected (red carded) will not complete the game in which the ejection occurred. The ejected player or manager/coach will not participate in the next scheduled tournament game regardless of the cause.
- Depending on the severity of the unacceptable conduct, the Discipline Committee may recommend the suspension of up to the duration of the tournament in accordance with FYSA requirements. The committee's recommendations must be available to the affected parties no later than following the next scheduled match.
- At the conclusion of the tournament, passes will be returned to the coach, even if the suspension has not been completed. A complete discipline report will be sent to the FYSA office within 72 hours of the tournament's conclusion for possible further discipline.

FYSA FORFEIT POLICY

- Teams failing to appear at the scheduled kick-off with the minimum number of eligible players (per Law 3) forfeit the match 4-0
- Unfinished matches will be reviewed by the Tournament Committee to determine the result.
- FYSA financial penalties may apply to forfeiting teams.

PRE-GAME PROCEDURES

- Teams must report to the field 30 minutes before kick-off for player-pass verification.
- Late-arriving players may enter only after verification by the match officials.
- A registered coach with a valid pass must be present in the technical area for the duration of the match.

TECHNICAL AREA / BOX - LAWS OF THE GAME / FIFA RULES

The technical area relates to matches played in game fields with a designated seated area for team officials, substitutes and substituted players as outlined below:

- The technical area shall only extend 1m (1yd) on either side of the designated seated area and up to a distance of 1m (1yd) from the touchline.
- Markings shall be used to define the area, temporary or permanent.

- The number of persons permitted to occupy the technical area is defined by the competition rules.
- The occupants of the technical area:
- Are identified before the start of the match in accordance with the competition rules.
- Must behave in a responsible manner.
- Must remain within its confines except in special circumstances, e.g., a physiotherapist/doctor entering the field of play, with the referee's permission, to assess an injured player.
- Only one person at a time is authorized to convey tactical instructions from the technical area.

PLAYER& AGE ELIGIBILITY(2026/2027 SEASON)

Age Group	Birth Year
U-09 (FS)	2019
U-09	2018
U-10	2017
U-11	2016
U-12	2015
U-13	2014
U-14	2013
U-15	2012
U-16	2011
U-17	2010
U-18	2009
U-19	2008

- A maximum of five (5) guest/loan players is permitted (club-pass players are not counted as guests). All guests must hold passes from the same membership platform (USYS or US Club) as the team.

CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

Florida Statute 943.0438 applies. Match officials will immediately remove any player suspected of head injury; the player may not return until cleared in writing by a physician.

HEADING RESTRICTIONS

Deliberate heading is prohibited in age groups U12 and younger. Infractions result in an indirect free kick at the spot of the offense (or on the goal line if inside the goal area).

LAWS OF THE GAME & ROSTER LIMITS

FIELD OF PLAY - LAW 1

- U13-U19: No change per FIFA "Laws of the Game."
- U11 & U12 (9v9) and U9/U10 (7v7): Must play in accordance with the USSF Player Development Initiatives.

Format	Age Groups	Players on Field	Game-Roster Max	Ball Size	Half Length
7 v 7	U-09, U-10	7 (min 5)	12	4	25 min
9 v 9	U-11, U-12	9 (min 6)	16	4	30 min
11 v 11	U-13 - U-19	11 (min 7)	18	5	35 min

Substitutions are unlimited at any stoppage with referee permission.

EQUIPMENT

- Screw-in studs are allowed at referee discretion.
- Orthopedic casts are prohibited; soft braces require a doctor's note and referee approval.
- All field players must wear matching numbered jerseys; the home team (listed first) changes in case of color conflict.
- No jewelry per FYSA policy.

MATCH OFFICIALS

- U11+ matches use a three-referee system; U9-U10 use a single center referee.
- If an assigned official is absent, the Site Director will appoint a replacement and the match is considered official.

MATCH DURATION & TIE-BREAKING

- No overtime in group, semi-final, or final matches. If tied after regulation in elimination rounds, FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark decide the winner.
- A hydration break will be taken at the midpoint of each half when the ambient temperature ≥ 85 F; the clock continues to run.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- World Cup-style pool play with a minimum of three (3) games per team.

- Points: Win = 3, Tie = 1, Loss = 0.
- Tie-breakers: 1) Head-to-head; 2) Net goal differential (+/-4 per game cap); 3) Fewest goals allowed; 4) Most goals scored (max 4/game); 5) Penalty kicks.

SIDELINE CONDUCT

Teams and supporters must occupy opposite sidelines. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their spectators; misconduct may result in coach dismissal.

AWARDS CEREMONY

- Champions and Finalists receive team trophies and individual medals immediately following the final.

REFUND POLICY

No refunds after acceptance except for tournament cancellation or failure to bracket a team.

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