

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Regulations

The matches will be played in accordance with the regulations of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) of FIFA and the statutes of the German Football Association (DFB). The aforementioned tournament organizer has received the necessary authorization to hold the tournament from the DFB. In case of translation errors in the tournament rules, the German tournament rules shall prevail. The tournament language is German.

The tournament organizer will appoint a tournament committee, which will be responsible for the entire tournament organization. For the U9, U10, and U11 categories, additional "small-field tournament rules" apply.

2. Referees

The matches will be officiated by referees affiliated with the DFB (German Football Association) or one of its regional associations.

Teams

Teams that have received approval from their respective football associations are eligible to participate in this tournament.

Team Leaders

Each team must be accompanied by a team leader who is over 18 years of age. Their name, address, date of birth, and telephone number must be provided on the team roster. The team leader is responsible for the players' sportsmanship during the match and on the sports grounds. The team leader must be present at all times while the team is on the sports grounds.

A team leader can only be responsible for one team at a time.

Spectators and Entering the Field

Accompanying parents, family members, coaches, officials, and spectators of any kind must behave fairly and respectfully on and off the field. A participating team may be held liable for the misconduct of its spectators.

Entering the Field Access to the pitch is permitted only to eligible players and a maximum of three coaches (including team managers) of the team currently playing.

Spectators and teams not currently playing on the pitch are prohibited from entering the inner area.

This also applies to the grass strip between the small-sided pitches.

The organizer will define the inner area. If this has not been done, a minimum distance of 3 meters to the touchline must be maintained unless there is a physical barrier (boards, fences, etc.).

Age Groups (Categories) and Exceptions

- a. A player can play in an age group if they were born on or after January 1st of the year in which they reach that age.
- b. Exceptions must be registered with the tournament management before the tournament begins.
- c. If a player has a valid exception from their football association (e.g., deferral due to a disability, etc.), this exception is also valid for the tournament.
- d. A valid exception does not generally apply if only the Age groups vary depending on the football association. The following applies:

Check

For each tournament day, the team manager must submit a player list to the tournament management on-site before the team's first match. This list must include the players' names, dates of birth, and jersey numbers. All players must have a player's pass or personal/child's ID card, which can be presented immediately upon request by the tournament management. These documents may be requested by the tournament management at any time during the tournament day. A player is only eligible to participate if they possess a valid playing license for the participating club within their football association. Private playing rights are sufficient.

3. Group Stage Ranking

Group standings are determined by points. Points are awarded as follows:

- Win: 3 points
- Draw: 1 point
- Loss: 0 points

If multiple teams are tied on points, the ranking will be determined as follows:

- a. Goal difference,
- b. Goals scored,
- c. Result of the head-to-head match,
- d. Penalty shootout.

Intermediate Round

In the event of a draw, a penalty shootout will be held according to FIFA rules. Penalty shootouts may take place on a designated pitch. The penalty shootout will consist of 5 penalty takers.

Final

In the event of a draw, a penalty shootout will be held according to FIFA rules. Penalty shootouts may take place on a designated pitch. The penalty shootout will consist of 5 penalty takers.

4. Match Duration

The match duration for group, intermediate, and final matches is 1 x 25 minutes.

5. Matches

- a. The team leader must register their team with the referee at the field of play at least 5 minutes before the start of the match.
- b. Each team has a quota of 5 substitutions per match (including 1 goalkeeper) from the team roster (substitutions on and off). Substitutions are only permitted during breaks in play, after registering with the head referee. Substituted players may also re-enter the game (re-substitution). Re-substitutions are not unlimited and must be deducted from the substitution quota.
- c. If a club participates in the tournament with multiple teams in the same age group, it is not permitted to substitute players between participating teams. Players may only play for the team they are registered with according to the team roster. In case of a violation of this rule, all matches in which an unregistered player is used will be forfeited 2-0 to the opposing team, and a report will be sent to the association.
- d. Each club must bring a spare kit that is clearly distinguishable from their club colors. If, before the start of the match, the referee decides that the teams' club colors are too similar, the club listed first in the schedule must play in their spare kit or with over-the-knee jerseys.
- e. At the beginning of the tournament, the tournament organizers will determine which side each team will play on. This will depend on whether a team is listed first in the schedule or not. The choice of side can also be made uniformly by a coin toss, but this must be applied consistently to all matches in the same round. Any objection to an incorrect choice of side must be raised with the referee or the tournament organizers before kickoff. Subsequent complaints or challenges to the match result are therefore not possible.

6. Disciplinary Measures.

According to FIFA rules, a referee can sanction a player with the following personal penalties:

- a. a caution (yellow card),
- b. a 5-minute suspension,
- c. a yellow-red card (permanent sending-off),
- d. or a red card (permanent sending-off).

Penalties can only be issued in the specified order, and penalties can be skipped. For example, a caution (a) is no longer possible after a player has already received a temporary suspension (b); only a yellow-red card (c) and a red card (d) are possible. Players sent off, even with a temporary suspension, may not be replaced in that match.

A player who has been sent off (red card, (d)) is suspended for the next match. The tournament management has the option, in cases of serious offenses, to impose a longer suspension after consulting with the tournament commission (tournament director, Euro Sporting coordinator, head referee).

If a player is sent off (c, d) or receives a caution (a) or a temporary suspension (b), the referee will inform the tournament commission immediately after the match. All reports regarding misconduct by a player or team manager will be reported by the tournament organizer to the respective regional association of the German Football Association (DFB), which will then forward these reports to the relevant national associations of the player's home country. A suspension from league matches in the home country is possible as a result, but is not the responsibility of the organizer.

In group matches, all results for a team will be declared invalid and recorded as a 2-0 loss if:

- the team in question fielded an ineligible player;
- the referee abandons the match prematurely due to the team in question;
- the team in question fails to appear for the group match (after a delay of 10 minutes without prior notice);
- the team in question has been expelled from the tournament.

In the intermediate and final rounds, the team in question loses 2-0 in the aforementioned cases.

In the event of a timely proven substitution error (exceeding the substitution quota), only the specific match in question will be recorded as a 2-0 loss for the team in question.

In cases of serious misconduct by players, coaches, parents, and fans, including off-field incidents (e.g., at the hotel, parking lot, etc.), the team may be excluded from the tournament. If an exclusion occurs before the start of a new round (group, intermediate, or final round), the results of the current round and all subsequent rounds will be evaluated according to the previous rules. A new round begins with the kickoff of the first match of that round, regardless of whether the excluded or an affected team is involved.

Excluded teams are not included in the final standings. All subsequent teams move up.

Appeals.

Appeals regarding referee decisions are not permitted. Objections regarding other matters must be submitted in writing to the tournament management by the team captain no later than 15 minutes after the affected match.

The tournament committee also decides on matters not covered by the regulations. The decisions of the tournament committee are binding.

7. Schedule.

The tournament committee reserves the right to amend the schedule in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

8. Liability.

Participating clubs are responsible for ensuring adequate insurance coverage for their players. The organizer and Euro-Sportring are not liable for personal injury, property damage, or loss of personal belongings.

Small-Field Tournament Regulations

For small-field games (U9, U10, U11), the following additional rules apply:

1. Games are played with 6 outfield players and 1 goalkeeper.
2. Back passes to the goalkeeper are permitted.
3. There is no offside rule.
4. Goal kicks may be played beyond the halfway line.
5. Goal kicks must be taken from inside the penalty area.
6. Penalty kicks are taken from a distance of 8 meters.
7. Free kicks for the attacking team and dropped balls must be taken at least 5 meters from the goal line.
8. At kick-off, as well as during the execution of free kicks and corner kicks, opposing players must be at least five meters away from the ball.
9. There is no limit to the number of substitutes. (5b) therefore does not apply. Substitutions are only permitted during a stoppage in play. Repeated substitutions are permitted (so-called re-substitutions).