VIRGINIAN ELITE SOCCER TOURNAMENT

I. AGE AND ELIGIBILITY

A. Participation in the Virginian Soccer Tournament is open to accepted boys and girls teams composed of a maximum of fifteen (15) players for U-9 and U-10 age groups (playing 7v7) , fifteen (15) players for U-11 and U-12 age groups (playing 9v9), eighteen (18) players for U-13 (playing 11v11), and twenty-two (22) players for U-14 through U-19 age groups (playing 11v11) meeting the age limit of the specified division; Players must have been born during, or subsequent to, the divisional year, as defined by US Soccer Guidelines; Player registration cards duly authorized by State/Provincial or National Association will be required as proof of age.

Age groups*:

Under 19/20	Jan 1, 1997 - Dec 31, 1998
Under 18	Jan 1, 1999 - Dec 31, 1999
Under 17	Jan 1, 2000 - Dec 31, 2000
Under 16	Jan 1, 2001 - Dec 31, 2001
Under 15	Jan 1, 2002 - Dec 31, 2002
Under 14	Jan 1, 2003 - Dec 31, 2003
Under 13	Jan 1, 2004 - Dec 31, 2004
Under 12	Jan 1, 2005 - Dec 31, 2005**
Under 11	Jan 1, 2006 - Dec 31, 2006 **
Under 10	Jan 1, 2007 - Dec 31, 2007 **
Under 09	Jan 1, 2008 - Dec 31, 2008**

*Combining of age groups will be done at the Tournament Committee's discretion, if needed.

** The the U-9 and U-10 age groups that play (7v7) and the U-11 and U-12 age groups that play (9v9) will play on smaller fields.

B. All teams accepted should be registered with a National State Association affiliated with the USYS/USSF or national equivalent and must present a valid State or Provincial roster. Teams that are members of organizations of the United States Soccer Federation but not members of US Youth Soccer (such as AYSO, SAY or US Club Soccer) DO NOT have to have a US Youth Soccer Permission to Travel form (although that team's organization may require that the team have permission). Such a team roster does need to be provided to tournament officials, however, along with current passes from its organization and a current team roster.

C. A maximum of seven (7) guest players may be used on a Virginian Tournament Team Roster. However, a team using guest players must have no more than a maximum of fifteen (15) players for U-9, U-10 age groups (playing 7v7) and U-11, U-12 age groups (playing 9v9), a maximum of eighteen (18) players for U-13 age group (playing 11v11), and a maximum of twenty-two (22) players for U-14 through U-19 age groups on said roster. Guest players must be current USYS/USSF or national equivalent players. Guest players may be recreational players provided they obtain certification comparable to a player registration card and obtain this certification from the same state official that grants player registration cards. US Club Soccer teams

may only take guest players registered under US Club Soccer, and USYS teams may only take guest players registered with properly stamped USYS player pass cards.

D. Teams that are not part of Region I (that are not US Club Soccer teams) must have a **Permission to Travel Form** signed by their association.

1. Region 1 Policy Regarding Application To Host A Tournament

   Region I has established the following policy concerning permission to travel when attending USYS sanctioned tournaments in Region I. The purpose of this policy is to make it as simple as possible for the US Youth Soccer Region I teams to travel to tournaments within Region I.

   The new policy states that any USYS State Association teams within Region I that is accepted into a tournament in Region I do not need permission to travel papers. Permission to Travel is not required in friendly games within Region 1.

2. National State Associations in Region I:

   Connecticut Jr. Soccer Assn
   Delaware Youth Soccer Assn
   Eastern New York Youth Soccer Assn
   Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Assn
   Soccer Maine
   Maryland Youth Soccer Assn
   Massachusetts Youth Soccer Assn
   New Hampshire Soccer Assn
   New Jersey Youth Soccer Assn
   New York State West Youth Soccer Assn
   Pennsylvania West State Soccer Assn
   Soccer Rhode Island
   Vermont Soccer Assn
   Virginia Youth Soccer Assn
   West Virginia Soccer Assn

E. All teams requiring Hotel accommodations must (as a condition of acceptance) use the tournament housing service in order to be considered for tournament play. Teams that do NOT use the tournament housing service will be disqualified.

F. Teams who withdraw after April 1, 2017 will forfeit their application fee.

II. TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

A. Team check-in will be online and in-person at Tournament Headquarters.

B. When submitting team check-in online, teams MUST submit their check-in forms no later than 5PM on May 19, 2017. No exceptions. Any teams requiring to check-in after this date, must go to the in-person check-in at the Tournament Headquarters hotel. Complete instructions are available on the tournament website for online check-in.

C. Tournament Headquarters during the tournament will be at the Hyatt Regency Fairfax Hotel. The Hyatt address is 12777 Fair Lakes Circle, Fairfax, VA 22033. Phone is (703) 818-1234. The 2017 Tournament Headquarters Coordinator is Sharon Deplitch.

D. Game Check-in: Teams are required to check-in at their fields 30 minutes prior to each game as per Section 5 of these rules.

E. Rosters:

1. All teams must provide 1 copy of their official state approved roster at tournament check-in.
2. Players' names and jersey numbers MUST be listed on the Official Virginian Team Roster approved by The Virginian.
3. Only players listed on the approved "Official Virginian Team Roster" at check-in may play in the tournament. There is a maximum of ten (10) players for age group U-9 and U-10 (playing 7v7) and U-11 and U-12 (playing 9v9) and a maximum of eighteen (18) players for age group U-13 (playing 11v11). There is a maximum of twenty-two (22) players for U-14 through U-19. However, teams with 22 player rosters must designate the maximum18 players that will be participating in each game. Only 18 players may be in uniform on the team bench. Additional players may not be added during the tournament weekend.

F. Permission to Travel Forms:

1. All required teams (as per Section 1D of these rules) must provide a copy of their team’s Permission to Travel Form at Tournament Check-in.

G. Individual Player Requirements:

1. All players must have current:
   a. Signed Medical Release forms or equivalent

H. Player Registration Cards: All USYA teams must have USYA player cards and all US Club Soccer teams must have US Club Soccer player cards.

III. LAWS OF THE GAME

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

At age group divisions U11 and younger – Whenever the ball strikes a player in the head, play is stopped. The proper restart depends upon whether the player deliberately played the ball with his or her head. If deliberate, the proper restart is an indirect free kick to the opposing team. If this occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If the play by the head is deemed inadvertent, then the proper restart is a dropped ball.

IV. DIVISIONS, SUB-DIVISIONS and FLIGHTS

A. **Divisions:** The Virginian will make available four main divisions. For U-9 through U-19 age groups, the Virginia Cup will be the highest division followed by Premier Gold, Premier Silver and Premier Bronze. Divisions may be deleted, combined or added at the Tournament Committee's discretion.

B. **Sub-divisions:** Each Division may be further divided into sub-divisions at the Tournament Committee's discretion.

C. **Flights:** Flights are a subcategory of a Division or Sub-division.

V. DURATIONS OF GAMES

A. The duration of tournament games shall be in accordance with the following:

Age Group	Ball Size	Preliminary Game Length	Semi-Final Game Length	Championship Game Length
U-19	5	60 minutes	60 minutes, 2 10-min. overtime periods	80 minutes, 2 10-min. overtime periods
U-18	5	60 minutes	60 minutes, 2 10-min. overtime periods	80 minutes, 2 10-min. overtime periods
U-17	5	60 minutes	60 minutes, 2 10-min. overtime periods	80 minutes, 2 10-min. overtime periods
U-16	5	60 minutes	60 minutes, 2 10-min. overtime periods	80 minutes, 2 10-min. overtime periods
U-15	5	60 minutes	60 minutes, 2 10-min. overtime periods	80 minutes, 2 10-min. overtime periods
U-14	5	60 minutes	60 minutes, 2 10-min. overtime periods	70 minutes, 2 10-min. overtime periods
U-13	5	60 minutes	60 minutes, 2 10-min. overtime periods	70 minutes, 2 10-min. overtime periods
U-12	4	60 minutes	60 minutes, 2 10-min. overtime periods	60 minutes, 2 10-min. overtime periods
U-11	4	60 minutes	60 minutes, 2 10-min. overtime periods	60 minutes, 2 10-min. overtime periods
U-10	4	50 minutes	50 minutes, 2 5-min. overtime periods	50 minutes, 2 5-min. overtime periods
U-09	4	50 minutes	50 minutes, 2 5-min. overtime periods	50 minutes, 2 5-min. overtime periods
All games will have a 5 minute half time period.				

B. All games will be played with a running clock. The referee may stop the clock for serious injuries or other incidents. The referee is the official timekeeper and therefore all decisions regarding game duration are solely at the referee's discretion and shall not be protested. The referee may, at their discretion, give water breaks at the mid-point of each half if heat-related issues are a concern.

VI. FIELD CHECK-IN TIME AND FIELD AND GAME EQUIPMENT

A. All Games

1. Check-in time is 30 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off.
2. Players' numbers MUST be listed on the Official Virginian Team Roster approved by the Virginian tournament staff. Players must wear numbers visible on the back of their uniforms and these numbers shall coincide with those listed on the team's Official Virginian Team Roster.
3. Players shall wear shin guards in accordance with FIFA laws.
4. No metal cleats will be allowed, and no jewelry will be allowed.
5. Hard and soft casts are permitted with the approval of the referee.
6. Where opposing team's uniform colors are similar, the designated home team will change colors. The designated home team is listed first on the schedule.
7. When requested by the referee, each team must provide a referee assistant.
8. The Virginian Elite Soccer Tournament will provide all game balls for the duration of the tournament.
9. Players and coaches of both teams will take the same side of the field. All other spectators and supporters will take the opposite side, directly across from their team. Only three team officials are permitted on the sidelines with their players.

B. **U-9 through U-13 teams:** The following must be present at the field for check-in 30 minutes prior to a game and for the duration of the game:

1. Player registration cards
2. Official Virginian Team Roster, as submitted at Tournament Check-in. This roster must be presented to Field Marshal during check-in 30 minutes prior to each game (roster will be returned after each inspection).
3. Players' shirt numbers MUST match the number on the Team Roster approved by The Virginian tournament staff. If the numbers are not the same, the player is not allowed to play until the numbers match (i.e. change jersey).

C. **U-14 through U-19:** The following must be present at the field for check-in 30 minutes prior to the game and for the duration of the game:

1. Player registration cards
2. Official Virginian Team Roster as submitted at Tournament Check-in. This roster must be presented to Field Marshal during check-in 30 minutes prior to each game (roster will be returned after each inspection).

3. **For teams using 22 player rosters:** Five copies of the Official Virginian Game Roster as submitted at Tournament Check-in. For each game, the maximum 18 players designated that will be participating. The players not participating will be lined through. This roster must be provided to the Field Marshal during check-in 30 minutes prior to each game and will not be returned to the team. The field marshal will submit this roster with the score card/game report. The remaining players (listed on the Official Virginian Team Roster but lined through on the Official Virginian Game Roster) may sit on the team bench side however; they may NOT be in uniform.
4. Players' shirt numbers MUST match the number on the Team Roster approved by The Virginian tournament staff. If the numbers are not the same, the player is not allowed to play until the numbers match (i.e. change jersey).

VII. PROTESTS & DISPUTES

A. There will be no protests allowed.

B. All disputes for non-referee decisions are submitted thru the Site Coordinator in writing to the Tournament Committee (consisting of the Tournament Director, and other Virginian staff) at Tournament Headquarters for approval by the end of the day that the dispute occurred. All decisions by the Tournament Committee are final and may not be appealed.

C. All protests & disputes for referee decisions are not allowed; decisions by referees may not be appealed.

VIII. SUBSTITUTIONS

A. Substitutions are unlimited with regard to the number of players and reentry. Substitutions may be made from mid-field with the CONSENT OF THE REFEREE at any stoppage of play. Players leaving the game should come off the field prior to new players entering the field.

B. Under no circumstances may substitutions be made after the game has ended in a tie and FIFA penalty kicks will be required to determine a winner.

IX. GAME AND SCORE REPORTING

A. The Field Marshall will ensure that the score cards are properly completed, signatures obtained, and the scores recorded at the end of each game. **The team manager/or team representative from both teams must sign the score card at the conclusion of each game and, before leaving the field area, provide complete and accurate information on the team's players/officials receiving yellow/red cards during the game including their full name and shirt number, if applicable.**

B. It is the responsibility of the Field Marshall to deliver the completed and signed Score Card to the appropriate Site Official (Division Coordinator/Site Coordinator) promptly at the conclusion of each game. The Site Official is responsible for reporting all match results, cautions, and ejections to the tournament headquarters. In case of a discrepancy, the Official Score Card, signed by the coaches and referee, prevails.

X. CONDUCT

A. Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves within the spirit of the LAW as well as the letter of the LAW. Displays of temper or dissent are cause for ejection from the game and the surrounding field area. Repeated violations may result in the suspension of the team from the tournament as decided by the Tournament Director.

B. Players, coaches and team officials ejected from a game by the referee shall be ineligible for the next scheduled game. The referee should show the red card to the team official. If the referee does not, but asks the team official to leave the field, this is still considered an ejection from the game.

C. It is the responsibility of the team's coach or the person acting in the coach's behalf to control the conduct of its parents and other spectators. Failure to do so may result in a warning to the coach or the person acting in the coach's behalf by the referee. If unacceptable conduct continues, the referee may eject the team's coach, or the person acting on the coach's behalf, from the game.

D. In accordance with the USYSA Tournament Hosting Agreement, all red and yellow cards and other matters involving team conduct will be reported to the home club and State/Provincial Association of the team involved as well as the US Youth Soccer National Office.

E. For foreign teams, the tournament committee will notify the US Soccer Federation of disciplinary action taken, and that the Federation will transmit the disciplinary action taken or required to the team's provincial or national association.

F. Artificial noise making devices are prohibited.

G. Smoking, alcoholic beverages, and verbal abuse of anyone are not permitted at any of the field sites.

XI. POINTS, FLIGHT WINNERS, AND WILD CARD TEAMS

A. In the preliminary games, each team will be awarded three (3) points for a win or a game forfeited to them, one (1) point for a tie, and no (0) points for a loss. At the end of the preliminary rounds, the flight winner will be the team with the most points in their flight. In the event of a tie within a flight, the following criteria will be used to determine the winner in this order:

1. Head to head competition (in the event of a tie among three (3) or more teams, this criterion will not be considered*)
2. Most wins
3. Goal differential. In each preliminary game, bonus points will be awarded for goal differential (difference between goals for and goals against) to a maximum of five (5) goal differential bonus points per game. (Example: A team winning 7-1 would receive the maximum 5 bonus points).
4. Least Goals Against.
5. FIFA penalty kicks (at least thirty minutes prior to the scheduled playoff round games)

* In the case of three-way ties, the tiebreaker sequence begins with "Most Wins" and proceeds, in order, down through the steps until the tie is broken and only one team remains. No steps are to be repeated or skipped.

B. If ties remain among teams, then FIFA penalty kick procedures will be used to determine a winner (at least thirty minutes prior to the scheduled playoff round games). In the event that a wild card team must be selected for a semi-final game, the above procedure will be used across the entire division**.**

XII. SEMI-FINAL AND CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

A. Winners of each flight advance into either the semi-final or championship game depending on the number of flights in a division.

B. In Divisions of 3 flights, the winners of Flights B and C will play each other for semi-final match #1. The winner of Flight A will play the "Wild Card" team with the most points, excluding the flight winners. If the Wild Card team is also from flight "A", then the Wild Card team will play the winner of Flight B; and Flight Winners A and C will play the second semi-final game.

C. Overtime will be played in case of a tie at the end of regulation time only in the semi-final and championship games. The winner (Champion) will be determined as follows:

1. **U-11 through U-19:** A twenty (20) minute overtime is played (two 10 minute periods). If the score is still tied after twenty (20) minutes of overtime (two 10 minute periods) then FIFA penalty kicks will be taken to determine the winner. All players on the field must kick before any player may kick a second time.

2. **U-9 and U- 10:** A ten (10) minute overtime is played (two 5 minute periods) if the score is still tied after ten (10) minutes of overtime (two 5 minute periods), FIFA penalty kicks will be taken to determine the winner. All players on the field must kick before any player may kick a second time.

D. Trophies or awards are awarded only to the division winner (Champion) and runner-up team (Finalist). These are the two teams that play in the division's Championship game. All players playing in the U8 age group will receive a medal.

XIII. FAILURE TO SHOW AND FORFEITS

A. **A team shall be allowed a ten (10) minute grace period after the scheduled kick-off time before the match is considered a forfeit. A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team and if seven (7) players are present, the game will not be delayed**. **For the U9 and U10 age groups a minimum of six (6) players constitutes a team.** The site coordinator must get final approval from the Tournament Director or her representative at the Command Center before marking a team as forfeiting due to tardiness. Exceptions to this rule are at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

B. In no case shall a team, which forfeits a game be declared a flight winner or a wild card team. If an apparent flight winner forfeits a game, the team in that flight with the next best record shall be named the flight winner. In addition, in divisions where the second place team of one flight plays the first place team of another flight in the semi-final game, in no case shall a team which has forfeited a game be declared the second place team in a flight. The team with the next best record in the flight shall be declared the second place team and play in the semi-final game. If a team is the cause for

termination of a game, that team will be considered to have forfeited that game. The determination as to which team is the cause for the termination shall be at the sole discretion of the referee on the field and the decision may not be protested.

C. A forfeit in the preliminary rounds shall be awarded as three (3) points for the win. The score of a forfeited game will be recorded as 3-0 for the wining team. Forfeits of a semi-final or championship game shall be recorded as 3-0 for the winning team.

D. Any team forfeiting a championship game will not be entitled to individual trophies or team awards.

E. Playing a "red-carded player" (a player receiving either a red card or two yellow cards in one game) in the game following the receipt of a red card is grounds for a forfeit.

XIV. INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, the Tournament Director or official representative(s) will have the authority to:

A. Relocate or reschedule any game(s);

B. Change the duration of any game(s);

C. Cancel any preliminary game(s);

D. Consider any game terminated by game or Tournament Officials after one half of play as official as of the time of termination (and the score stands at time of termination)

E. Determine the format for advancement.

XV. GENERAL

A. The tournament will do its best to schedule three (3) games for each team. However, at the Tournament Director's discretion, the number of games may be reduced in which case the tournament is not liable for any expenses and no refunds for the tournament application fees will be given.

B. Under no circumstances whatsoever will the Virginia Youth Soccer Association, Inc., the Springfield, South County Youth Club Corporation, the Virginian Tournament Committee, or any of their official representatives be responsible for any expenses (including the Tournament entry fee) incurred by any team. This includes a situation whereby the Tournament or any game(s) is canceled in whole or part.

C. The Tournament Committee's or their official representative's interpretation of the rules shall be final pertaining to this Tournament.

D. No items, including raffle tickets, may be sold at Tournament Headquarters, playing fields, or surrounding areas for the duration of the tournament unless specifically sanctioned by the Virginian Tournament Committee.

E. Photographs/film/video taken during the tournament may be posted on the tournament website.

F. Refund policy will be determined within 60 days of the tournament; once all invoices are paid and the final budget is approved by the SYC Board.

G. All referees are certified by the Federation.

H. No smoking at any school or military base.