



Erie Premier Sports

HOLIDAY INDOOR CLASSIC: TOURNAMENT RULES

ROSTERS

- **Roster Size:**
 - U9-U10 maximum of 14 players per team
 - U11-U12 maximum of 16 players per team
 - U13-U19 & Adult maximum of 18 players per team
 - Players may not be rostered on more than one team per age division.
- **Signed Roster:** A completed Erie Premier Sports official tournament roster, with parent signatures (player signature if over 18), must be submitted 30 minutes prior to the start of your first game.
 - Any player without a signature will not be permitted to participate.
- **Roster Additions:** Players may not be added after rosters are submitted, even in case of injuries.

Club Divisions

- **Goalkeeper Exception:** A club with two teams in the same age division may have one GK participate on both teams. The player must play as GK on both teams. This player must be highlighted on both EPS rosters.
- **Double Roster (2 players):** If a club has two teams in the same age division, but different tournament groups, two players may double roster. These two players must be highlighted on both EPS rosters.
 - Example (ok to double roster): Team Blue plays in the U10 Boys Gold division. Team Red plays in the U10 Boys Silver division. Two players may double roster, plus the GK may double roster.
 - Example (no double roster): Team Blue plays in Bracket A of the U10 Boys Gold division. Team Red plays in Bracket B of the U10 Boys Gold division. Only the GK may double roster. No other players.
- **Age Group Chart:** Club divisions will follow the USSF birth year age group chart for the 2023-2024 season.

GAME REGULATIONS

- **Game Length:** Each game will consist of one period, with running clock and no half-time.
 - Final time slots will be determined based on the number of team entries in each division.
 - There will be minimal time between games.
 - At the end of the game, please vacate the field promptly to allow the oncoming teams to prepare for the next game.

Club Divisions	35-40 min time slots
Adult Divisions	30-35 min time slots

- **Clock Stoppages:** The clock will not stop for an injury except during the last minute of play and only on the discretion from the referee.
 - The tournament officials may stop the clock and adjust game times for major injuries.
 - Games that are stopped after 20 minutes of play, and cannot be completed, will be considered final.
- **Home Team:** The home team receives the opening kickoff, and will change or wear pinnies in case of similarly colored uniforms.
- **Game Ball:** A properly inflated, regulation size, soccer ball must be provided by the teams and approved by the referee.
- **Number of Players**

Club: U9-U10	EPS Pennbriar	7 v 7
Club: U11-U13	EPS Pennbriar	7 v 7
Club: U14-U19	EPS Pennbriar	7 v 7
Adult: Men's & Coed	EPS Pennbriar	7 v 7

- **7 v 7 Divisions:** A minimum of 5 players are required to start/finish a game.
- **Coed Division:** 7v7 (6 field players + goalkeeper)
 - Of the 6 field players, a max of 4 males is permitted. Goalkeepers are gender neutral.
 - A minimum of 3 + goalkeeper are required to start/finish a game, with at least 1 field player being female. At no time, may a team play without any females on the field.
- **Jerseys:** All players must have the same color jersey.
 - The goalkeeper jerseys should be a different color from both team's jerseys.
- **Shin Guards:** Shin guards are mandatory and must be covered by socks.
- **Casts / Splints:** No casts or splints, unless approved by both the referee and tournament officials.
- **Jewelry:** No jewelry, rubber wristbands or similar items may be worn, unless approved by both the referee and tournament officials.
- **Footwear:** Plastic or rubber cleats, turf shoes, or flats are permitted - no metal.

GAME RULES

Standard soccer rules are used with modifications for indoor play.

- **Sliding / Slide Tackling:** Slide tackling to win the ball from an opponent is prohibited.
 - Sliding to get to or save the ball when no opponent is involved is permitted.
- **Offside Rule**

Club: U9-U10	EPS Pennbriar	no build out line
Club: U9-U19	EPS Pennbriar	no offside rule
Adult: Men's & Coed	EPS Pennbriar	no offside rule

- **Goalkeeper Distribution:** The ball must be put back into play within 6 seconds of goalkeeper control.

- **Free Kicks / Restarts**
 - **EPS Pennbriar Divisions:** All free kicks are indirect (with exception of penalty kicks).
 - Opponents must be at least 3 yards away on free kicks.
 - The ball must be put back into play within 6 seconds of the referee's signal.
 - Kick-offs may be played into either half of the field.
- **Ball Hitting Net / Ceiling:** Any ball hitting the netting or ceiling structure will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team underneath the point of contact.
 - Should the point of contact be within the opponent's penalty area, an indirect free kick will be taken at the penalty spot.
- **Penalty Kicks:** Fouls inside the team's own penalty area will result in a penalty kick.
 - All players must be outside the penalty area and the required yards away from the penalty spot. Players cannot enter the area until the ball is kicked.
 - The ball is in play once kicked.
- **Substitutions:** Unlimited substitutions at any stoppage of play based on the discretion of the referee.
 - Substitutions must occur from the halfway line.
 - Illegal substitutions may result in a yellow card to the player(s) involved.
- **Pass Back to Goalkeeper:** The goalkeeper may not use hands on intentional foot passes from teammates. Infractions will result in an indirect free kick from the penalty spot.
- **Yellow Cards**
 - Any player receiving a yellow card must serve a 5-minute time penalty.
 - The team may replace the player.
 - Two yellow cards in one game equal a red card.
- **Red Cards**
 - Any player receiving a red card is disqualified from the game and the team will play short for the remainder of the game.
 - A player receiving a red card will receive a minimum 1-game suspension; unless the tournament staff determines further sanctions apply. This applies to the team's next game in that division.
 - A player receiving more than one red card in the tournament will be ineligible for all future tournament games.

HEADING GUIDELINES

- The tournament will follow the guidelines for U.S. Soccer's Player Safety Campaign: Concussion Initiatives & Heading for Youth Players. **Players in U-11 programs and younger shall not engage in heading, either in practices or in games.**
- **Erie Premier Sports will adhere to these guidelines: no heading for U9, U10, U11 divisions.**
- **In all other divisions, heading will be permitted as normal.**
- When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick (IFK) should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header 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.

BRACKETING, SCORING, AND STANDINGS

- **Bracketing**
 - Number of brackets and teams per bracket will be determined by the number of accepted teams per division.
 - Each team is guaranteed 3 games.
 - The tournament will consist of bracket play, followed by playoffs and/or a championship game(s). Please refer to the Division Formats sheet for specifics.
- **Scoring**
 - 3 points for a win
 - 1 point for a tie
 - 0 points for a loss
- **Forfeits:** Forfeits shall result in a 0-7 loss.
- **Standings & Tie-Breakers**
 - Division standings will be determined by most points outlined in the Scoring section.
 - In the event that two or more teams tie on points, the tie-breakers will be used in the following order.
 - Head-to-head result (if more than 2 teams are tied, skip this step)
 - Most wins
 - Largest goal differential, with a maximum of +7 per game (ex: 8-0, 8-1, and 7-0 all result in a +7 goal differential for that game)
 - Most shutouts
 - Most goals scored, with max of 7 per game
 - Least goals against, with a max of 7 per game
 - If teams are still tied, a sudden death playoff will be used starting with Best of 3 Penalty Kicks.

****When the tie-breaker system is used, the criteria are followed until one or more teams is eliminated. Then the criteria start over again at the first tie-breaker with the remaining teams. These are repeated until a winning order is determined.**
- **Mercy Rule:** If a team outscores an opponent by more than ten (10) goals, the score recorded in the system will not exceed a +10 goal difference (ex: 15-2 is recorded as 12-2). This will not affect the tie-breaker rules as the maximum goal differential is +7.
- **Playoffs for Same Club**
 - Two teams from the same club may not be paired against each other in the first round of playoffs.
 - If possible, the tournament committee will adjust the seeds to avoid such conflict, keeping as close to the original seedings as possible

DIVISION FORMATS

- Each division will have a specific format based on the number of teams.
- If a division has a team or teams drop, and it requires a schedule change, this may also alter the division format.
- Please refer to the Division Formats sheet for specifics.

OVERTIME AND PENALTY KICKS

Bracket play games may end in a tie. Playoff games will result in penalty kicks if tied at the end of regulation.

- **Best of 3 Penalty Kicks:** Best of 3 penalty kicks, with a coin flip to determine who shoots first.
 - Must be 3 separate shooters.
- **Sudden Death Penalty Kicks:** If after best of 3, the score is still tied, the teams will take one kick at a time in a sudden death situation, alternating each team every round.
 - There is no restriction on who can take the sudden death penalty kicks. The same player (if desired) can continue to shoot every round in Sudden Death.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

- **Protests:** There are NO protests. All referee decisions are final and may not be appealed. Should you have an administrative issue (ex. questioning player eligibility), please contact the tournament headquarters immediately. The tournament committee will have the final say on any issues.
- **Cancellation:** In the event the tournament is canceled (in part or fully) due to inclement weather or other circumstances, **NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED**, including housing or travel expenses.
- **Entry Fee:** Once a team has been accepted and payment has been processed, there will be no refunds.
- **Awards:** Awards will be presented to the Champion and Finalist players for each division. Teams should meet at the tournament headquarters after the final to receive awards.

FACILITY REGULATIONS

- **Behavior:** Coaches and team managers are responsible for overall behavior and conduct of their players, coaches and spectators. Any disruptive behavior during games, to the facility, staff or officials will result in that person(s) being removed from the tournament and/or facility. Persistent or overall unruly behavior may result in the team being disqualified.
- **Spectator Seating:** Only rostered players and coaches are permitted on the bench areas or field of play. Spectator areas are on the opposite side of the field.
- **Warm-Up Areas:** Warm-up with the ball is not permitted. Players are not permitted to warm-up in the hallways or common areas.

These rules are subject to change based on the best interest of the players, teams, officials, and fair play. All decisions made by the tournament staff are final.