

USPFC SOCCER- OUTDOOR 2026

GUIDING BODIES

United States Police & Fire Championships (USPFC)
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EVENTS

Men: OPEN [18+]
SENIOR [35+]

Women: OPEN [18+]

Entry Deadline: May 1, 2026

Teams: Each team shall consist of a maximum of 22 players. A minimum of 10 players must be registered for the team to be bracketed for the tournament. Each team is permitted one (1) Non-Playing Coach. (See General Sports Rules.) A player or coach may compete on only one team and in only one division.

NOTE: Soccer competitors may compete in both Indoor and Outdoor Soccer, when offered, but if a conflict in game schedules occurs due to a competitor entering both sports, the competitor must choose the sport he/she will compete in. The USPFC **WILL NOT** adjust game schedules to accommodate individual competitors/teams. The USPFC will not refund entry fees due to this scheduling conflict.

Confirmation of starting time/date will be forwarded to Team Captain only. A mandatory Team Captain/Coaches' Meeting will be held the afternoon/evening prior to the beginning of competition at the Host hotel. A representative from each Team MUST be present. A final Team Roster must be submitted at this meeting. Details will be in the Confirmation Letter.

EQUIPMENT

Game score records
Bracket Charts
Three (3) size five balls for each field (should be new balls)
Competitor Check-in Station (table, bench, etc.)
Refreshment table (water or other drink)

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BRACKETING

A Round Robin (Pool Play) shall be established. The top two (2) teams from each pool will advance to a single elimination.

If the total number of teams in a division is less than eight (8) a single group Round Robin tournament shall be used exclusively to determine the medal winners. The USPFC Director has the authority to change this prior to the start of the tournament.

When placing teams into groups, medal winners from the previous year should be separated, when possible.

DIVISIONAL PLAY

Placement in Division A and B will be determined by the result of Round Robin group play.

If 16 or more teams enter divisional play after Round Robin play, the teams will be divided into two groups depending on their standing. The top half will be placed in Division A and the bottom half will be placed in Division B.

A Single Elimination playoff in each division will follow to determine medal winners.

SCHEDULING

Schedule for five (5) days of competition.

Men's Open- Days 1-5

Men's 35+- Days 1-5

Women's Open- Days 2-5, unless there are more than six teams. If there are more than six teams, the schedule will be adjusted to Days 1-5. This will be confirmed one month prior to the start of the games.

Duration of Game: All games will be two 35-minute halves, both the round robin and the single elimination tournament, due to the number of consecutive days of competition. Player safety and well-being are of the utmost importance.

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GENERAL SPORTS RULES for Soccer

FIFA rule changes take place on June 1st of each year. USPFC will not implement any rule changes until the following year. For example, if rules change on June 1, 2023, those new rule changes will not apply until the 2024 USPFC.

Each team shall designate an individual to function as the team's coach/manager during each game.

There is free substitution during the game

All tie games in group play will be immediately followed by penalty kicks. Points will be distributed as delineated below.

Group Play points as follows:

- Win = 3 points,
- Shootout win = 2 points
- Shootout loss = 1 point
- Loss = 0 points

The following procedure will be utilized to determine which two teams from each group advance to the Single Elimination Finals tournament. It will also be utilized in a single group Round Robin to determine medal winners:

- Total win/loss points accumulated in group play
- Head-to-head games results
- Goal differential (for vs. against)
- Total goals for
- Total goals against
- Coin Toss

Teams will be seeded into the playoffs using a blind draw. This means that teams will be decided by a randomizer and the pools placed in the draw accordingly. Byes in the playoffs will not be determined by point differential in different pools since there is no way to determine which pool was the strongest during the pool play. By merely having more points than the 1st place team in another pool is not satisfactory for this tournament.

If group play is used exclusively to determine medals, the coin toss tiebreaker will not be used. Co-winners will be declared for teams still tied after the first three (3) tiebreakers.

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In the event of a tie in the Single Elimination Finals tournament, the winner will be determined by Kicks from the Penalty Mark except for the medal rounds. Each team will take 5 penalty kicks in accordance with the laws of the game to determine the winner. (Only the players that are on the field at the conclusion of extra time are allowed to participate in penalty kicks.) If after both teams have taken five kicks, both have scored the same number of goals, kicks continue to be taken in the same order until one team has scored a goal more than the other from the same number of kicks. Each kick is taken by a different player and all eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick.

If at the end of extra time one team has a greater number of players than their opponents, they must reduce their numbers to that of their opponents and the team captain must inform the referee of the name and number of each player to be excluded before the kicks from the penalty mark commence. The excluded player(s) must leave the field of play and return to the team bench area prior to the taking of kicks from the penalty mark.

During the medal rounds extra time will be played to determine the winner. Two further equal periods, each of 10 minutes duration, will be played. The Golden Goal rule will apply during these two periods. If the teams are still tied at the end of the two 10-minute periods they will proceed to kicks from the Mark (PK's).

Slide Tackling in the Senior Division and Women Division is not allowed. Slide “tackling” is the action used by a player when he slides down on the ground against an opponent to win the ball. “Sliding” without trying to win the ball from another opponent (i.e., saving the ball from going out of bounds or a scoring situation) is permissible as long as it's not against his opponent. In other words, sliding to score a goal against the goalkeeper is NOT allowed.

Player Check-in Procedures: Each player must check in at the "Soccer Check-in Table" prior to each game his/her team plays and show a Participant Pass and Agency Identification. The Team Coach or Captain will ensure that all players have been properly checked in. The Host Credentials Official will take possession of the player's Participant Passes and present them to the referee. The referee shall return the Participant Passes to Check-in following each game, after noting any player misconduct on the official game record. The Participant Passes will be returned to the players by the Host Check-in personnel.

Player Misconduct: If a player is ejected from a game by the referee (red card), he/she will be automatically suspended from playing in the following (one) game. The Soccer Discipline Committee will review the incident and recommend any further discipline to the USPFC. The USPFC will rule on the committee's recommendation.

Yellow cards will follow FIFA rules with the exception that all yellow cards incurred during Round Robin play will be discarded and begin anew in Single Elimination play.

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Whenever in the judgment of any game official the following acts occur, the participant shall be disqualified for the remainder of the tournament and may be subject to further sanctions as deemed appropriate by the USPFC.

- a) Physical contact with or threat to any game official or volunteer
- b) Fighting where an opponent is injured
- c) Any player (on or off the field of play) who joins in a fight regardless of the occurrence of injury.

TEAMS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THEIR BENCH AND THEIR FANS BEHAVIOR

Dress: Dress of players shall be consistent with FIFA and USPFC Rules. (no grid-iron shoes).

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AWARDS

A maximum of 69 sets (1st through 3rd place) of medals will be required for this event. USPFC will advise you of the number of sets needed based on total entries, plus a reasonable margin.

ATTENTION COORDINATORS

**THE GENERAL RULES APPLY TO ALL SPORTS.
YOU MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH ITS CONTENTS.**

**PRECISE RESULTS MUST BE FORWARDED
TO THE HOST COMMITTEE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE
CONCLUSION OF THIS SPORT**

The USPFC Director assigned to your sport is knowledgeable and experienced in providing assistance during the preparation and running of the sport. Questions, a detailed accounting of your preparations, and any area requiring approval of the USPFC shall be submitted in a timely manner to this USPFC Director.

The USPFC Directors want to work with you to make your sport a success.

PLEASE USE THE USPFC DIRECTORS AS A RESOURCE.