



## 2026 SPECTATOR CUP RULES

### 1. NAME:

- a) *The Spectator Cup*
- b) *Entry Deadline – May 15<sup>th</sup>*
- c) *Entry Fee – \$150.00*

### 2. TEAM ELIGIBILITY:

- a) *The competition shall be open to any amateur women's and men's recreational/competitive registered teams from all District Associations in Ontario Soccer.*
- b) *For the purpose of the competition, eligibility shall be defined as follows:*
  - i) *all players shall be properly registered with their Club/District/OS.*
  - ii) *a player shall not play for more than one (1) team in any one cup competition.*
  - iii) *the use of trial permits, temporary registration permits or movement of players, as defined in the Published Rules of Ontario Soccer, will not be permitted in the competition.*
- c) ***All teams must be in possession of an approved PowerUp roster before being eligible to play. In the event of an eligible player arriving late, the player must be confirmed as rostered, to the assistant match official and the opposing coach. The game official must be notified prior to the commencement of the game of any discrepancies.***
- d) ***Teams from outside Hamilton Soccer must obtain and provide proof of travel (ATF) from their District***
- e) *In all games of the competition, teams shall be allowed to dress twenty-five (25) players.*
- f) *Each team shall, no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the kick-off time, hand the team sheet of all eligible players to the game official. (Semi-finals & final, to the Hamilton Soccer representative).*
- g) *Unlimited substitutions will be permitted. Substitutions shall take place only;*
  - during or following stoppage of play,*
  - when a goal is scored,*
  - at a goal kick,*
  - at the beginning of the second half,*
  - at the match official's discretion because of injury.*

**3. HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- a) *The home team is the first team drawn in any pair of ballots in the cup draw and shall be responsible for the following:*
- i) the provision of nets and corner flags.*
  - ii) the provision of a suitable game ball,*
  - iii) the reporting of the game result to the Cup Coordinator within twenty-four (24) hours of the game,*
  - iv) if the colours of the two teams are similar, as judged by the match official, the home team must wear alternate colours.*
  - v) the securing of a suitable playing field and obtaining permit. Permit MUST be present at field on game day at the field.*

**4. SCHEDULING AND RE-SCHEDULING OF GAMES:**

- a) *all games to be scheduled by the home team, located within 25 kms of the home team's home field, with the assistance of the Cup Coordinator, and played by the stipulated date giving the opposing team a minimum of 7 days' notice, except for the semi-finals and finals. Hamilton Soccer will maintain the right to schedule any game that is not scheduled by the home team by the stipulated date, where the home team will then be fined a \$50.00 administration fee and responsible for the cost of the field rental.*
- b) *the cost of the field which is to be capped at \$200.00, shall be divided equally by the two teams, except for the semi-finals and finals. The 50% cost of the field shall be payable before game time to the home team. If Hamilton Soccer needs to collect any funds on behalf of the home team, a \$50 administrative fee will be assessed to the team owing the fees. If for any reason the game is not played due to not enough players, last minute inclement weather, etc, the match officials and assistant match officials shall be paid half of the game fees.*
- c) *Match Official Fees are as follows:*  
*\$85.00 for the match official and \$65.00 for each assistant match official. **The District will invoice the teams for the match official fees and will pay the match officials directly. No match official fees are to be paid on the field.***
- d) *in the event that a scheduled game cannot be completed on the designated date because of unplayable field conditions, it shall be rescheduled in accordance with 4.a) and must still be played by the stipulated date. If 75 minutes of the scheduled game is played, the game shall be deemed completed.*

**5. REFEREES:**

- a) *The Cup Coordinator shall be responsible for overseeing all game appointments up to, and including, the finals.*
- b) *Game sheets and misconduct reports are to be submitted through E2E within forty-eight (48) hours of the game.*

**6. DURATION:**

- a) The duration of all games in the competition shall consist of two (2) forty-five (45) minute halves.*
- b) If a game is tied at the end of Regulation Time, the winner of the game shall be determined by “the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark”, in accordance with the current edition of the F.I.F.A. Laws of The Game and Universal Guide for Match Officials.*

**7. PROTESTS:**

- a) All protests arising out of games in the competition shall be sent to Hamilton Soccer by:
  - i) email within two (2) days of the game to which they relate, accompanied by a protest fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00), delivered to the Hamilton Soccer Office.**
- b) In all protests, the protesting team must send the team protesting against, by email, within two (2) days of the match concerned.*
- c) Protests shall be dealt with by the Executive Committee and there shall be no further appeal of any kind against a decision of the Executive Committee.*

**8. DEFAULTS - NO SHOWS, WITHDRAWALS, AND ABANDONED GAMES:**

- a) No Show: Any team failing to fulfill their appointed Cup game shall forfeit their entry fee and pay any applicable match officials fee incurred, any field rental costs, and be fined an amount not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), and the team officials may be subject to disciplinary action.*
- b) (i) Withdrawal: Any team which is unable to fulfill its appointed Cup game and which has notified the Cup Coordinator and the opposing team at least 72 hrs. prior to kick-off time, shall forfeit their entry fee and may be subject to other expenses.
  - (ii) The Cup Coordinator will notify the match officials not to attend a game as noted in 8.b).i).**
- c) Disposition of abandoned games shall be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.*

**9. DISCIPLINE:**

- a) For players that have been sent off in the Cup competition, the Discipline Committee will hear or review the case before the next round, where the suspension must be served, if the accused is found guilty.*
- b) Match Official assault cases, involving alleged attempted physical assault or physical assault, will be handled in accordance with the Published Rules of Ontario Soccer and the accused person will be immediately suspended and shall remain so until the case is resolved.*

**10. LAWS OF THE GAME:**

*All games shall be played in accordance with the above Rules and the Laws of the Game, as observed by Ontario Soccer.*