



2022 Boston Unity Cup Tournament Rules + Code Of Conduct

(Updated September 2022)

ROSTERS

- Max roster size is 18 players. Roster freeze date is June 21st. After that no players can be added or dropped.
 - *Due to postponement of tournament play, 2nd Roster Freeze date of September 30*
- All 18 players may dress for each game.
- All players present must be listed on the Official Unity Cup roster with a photo in order to participate in that particular match.
- Teams must field a minimum of 5 players (4+GK) to begin the game.
- Each team may only have a maximum of 3 coaches/managers on their sideline, and must wear Official Unity Cup coach jersey.

UNIFORMS

- All players must wear official Unity Cup jerseys to enter a game. (matching socks and shorts recommended)
 - You will receive your team jerseys when you check in for your first game
 - These are for you to keep!
- All players are required to wear shin guards.
- No metal cleats are permitted.

SUBSTITUTIONS

- Unlimited substitutions may be made with the referee's permission at any stoppage.
- Referees will use their judgment in allowing substitutions during times when opponents have the opportunity to restart play quickly.
- Referees will also use their judgment in allowing substitutions if it is determined that a team is utilizing tournament rules to deliberately waste time.

SPECTATORS

- Spectators are not permitted to be on the field during games.
- Team captains are responsible for discussing appropriate behavior.



GAME TIME

- All Games are 2 – 25 minute halves in length.
- No stoppage time will be added except in extreme circumstances.

GROUP STAGE GAMES

- In the Women's bracket teams are guaranteed three games and will play each of the other teams in their group.
- In the Men's bracket teams are guaranteed four games and will play each of the other teams in their group.
- If teams are tied at the end of regulation and added time, each team is awarded a tie and 1 point in the group standings.
- Added time during group stage play is at the discretion of the referee. Extra time in each half will not exceed three minutes.

GROUP STANDINGS

- There will be a max goal differential of 6 goals for all group stage games (i.e. a score of 9-1 will result in a goal differential of 6 goals rather than 8).
- The following point values will determine standings for group stage games:
 - WIN = three (3) points
 - TIE = one (1) point
 - LOSS = zero (0) points
- The following criteria is used for standings purposes:
 - Greatest number of points in all group stage matches
 - Head-to-head Group play outcome
 - Goal difference in group stage matches
 - Least number of goals allowed in group stage matches
 - Coin toss

KNOCK OUT STAGES

- In the Women's bracket the top two teams in each group will move directly to the semifinals.
- In the Men's bracket the top three teams in each group will advance to the knockout stage. The 4 group winners will get a bye into the quarterfinals and the second and third place teams will have to participate in the play-in game.
- If teams are tied at the end of regulation, there will be two, five-minute overtime periods with the Golden Goal rule in effect.



- In the event the game is still tied after the extra time session the game will be decided by penalty-shoot out (3 kicks, followed by single, sudden-death kicks if necessary).
- Only players on the field at the completion of extra time will be permitted to participate in penalty kicks (goalies included).
- Order of kicks will be decided by coin toss.

FORFEITS

- In the event that a team is unable to field a full team and play their scheduled game(s) they will automatically forfeit and the game will result in a 2-0 win for the opposing team.
- The team who forfeits will be awarded 0 points in the standings and their opponent will receive 3 points in the standings and a +2 goal differential.
- Forfeits affect good standing of a team and potential future invitations to play in tournament.

BOSTON UNITY CUP INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event that a portion of the game schedule is suspended due to weather (or for any other reason), the following rules will apply:

- In the event of a stoppage, games that have completed a half, or are in the second half, will be deemed completed and the score at the time of the stoppage will stand.
- In the event of a stoppage, the Tournament Committee and the Referee Director will determine when it is safe to restart play. Games will resume on the original schedule with the next scheduled time slot due to play. (i.e. if it is safe to play at 3:45 PM, games will recommence with those teams regularly scheduled for 4:00 PM.)
- If a game starts late due to weather, the referee will manage game time retroactively (i.e if a 3:00 PM game begins at 3:15 PM, the teams will play the final 10 minutes of the first half then break for halftime and resume a full 25 minute second half)
- Games with the first half not completed, or games not played due to stoppage, will be decided by a coin flip between the team Captains and overseen by both the game referee and Tournament Commissioner.

BOSTON UNITY CUP CODE OF CONDUCT

- Proper conduct by all players and coaches is mandatory before, during and after all games.
- Teams are responsible for the conduct of their fans. Incidents involving a specific teams' fan will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Unity Cup Leadership team and could result in game suspension for the fan. In extreme cases such incidents may penalize the team.



- At the referee's discretion he/she may suspend and/or forfeit a match in the case of unruly fan behavior.

YELLOW + RED CARDS

- Yellow cards accumulate through Group play. Upon receiving a second yellow card during Group play, the player will receive a one (1) game suspension. Yellow cards will reset at the conclusion of Group play.
- Yellow cards accumulate through the knockout round. Upon receiving a second yellow card during the knockout round, the player will receive a one (1) game suspension.
- If a player receives a red card at any time, the player will leave that game immediately and will also serve a minimum one (1) game suspension.
- Any player receiving a red card or any coach who has been removed from a game by the referee will be given a minimum one (1) game suspension, which cannot be appealed. The ejected person will not be permitted within two hundred (200) yards of the playing field in all directions for the remainder of the game or while serving the one game suspension. Failure to comply will result in further disciplinary action.
- All red card suspensions will be reviewed by the Tournament Commissioner. The game site monitor and game official will send a detailed report to the tournament director to be reviewed to see if further action is necessary.
- Second offenses or conduct of a more serious nature will be reviewed by the Unity Cup Leadership team.
- Cards and minimum suspensions due to cards are not appealable.
- Appeals of disciplinary actions (other than mandatory suspensions) may be made by handing in a written appeal to the Unity Cup Leadership team.

SUSPENSIONS FOR MISCONDUCT TOWARDS GAME OFFICIALS

- Any assault on a game official will carry a five (5) year suspension from all Unity Cup activities.
- Deliberately striking or kicking or attempting to kick, throwing a soccer ball at, or spitting on an opponent, a referee or an assistant referee will carry a suspension for the rest of the tournament plus suspension from the subsequent year's tournament.
- Obscene gestures, whether at an opponent, a referee, fan etc., will carry a one (1) game suspension.
- Abusive language towards whether at an opponent, a referee, fan etc., will carry a one (1) game suspension.



- The above suspensions are to be considered minimum. The Tournament Director reserves the right to increase the suspension based on the severity of the violation. Situations not listed will be reviewed by the Unity Cup Conduct Committee.

SUSPENSIONS FOR MISCONDUCT TOWARDS AN OPPONENT, COLLEAGUE OR SPECTATOR

- Fighting (engaging in combat with an opponent, colleague or spectators by means of mutual exchange of blows delivered by hand, head, foot or other portions of the body) will carry a suspension through the rest of the tournament plus suspension from the subsequent year's tournament.
- Deliberately attempting to strike or kick an opponent, colleague or spectator will carry a two (2) game suspension.
- The verbal threat of bodily harm or to property, gesturing or signaling obscenely, the throwing of objects at an opponent, colleague or spectator will carry a two (2) game suspension.
- The above suspensions are to be considered minimum. The Tournament Director reserves the right to increase the suspension based on the severity of the violation. Situations not listed will be reviewed by the Unity Cup Leadership Team.
- Suspensions for serious foul play and persistent misconduct.
- Serious foul play shall be understood to be play characterized by fouls of an aggravated nature committed with such fervor as to threaten an opponent with serious physical harm and will carry a minimum one (1) game suspension with subsequent review.
- Suspension for abusive language directed at an opponent, colleague or spectator will carry a one (1) game suspension.
- Persistent misconduct will carry a one (1) game suspension.
- The above suspensions are to be considered minimum. The Tournament Commissioner reserves the right to increase the suspension based on the severity of the violation.

CONDUCT DETRIMENTAL TO THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF SOCCER

- Such misconduct shall include but is not limited to misbehavior as a spectator, the consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or the use of illegal substances in the vicinity of the playing field before, during or after the game. This offense carries a minimum one (1) game suspension with further review of the incident by the Unity Cup Conduct Committee.