

Soccer Maine



2021
Fall Classic League
Procedures and Rules



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

Contents

| | |
|--|---------|
| 100. Name and Purpose..... | Page 3 |
| 200. League Organization..... | Page 3 |
| 300. Entry Procedure and Fees..... | Page 3 |
| 400. Player Eligibility, Player Registration, Team Rosters and Player Passes | Page 5 |
| 500. Scheduling, Cancelling and/or Terminating Games..... | Page 7 |
| 600. Referees & Referee Fees..... | Page 8 |
| 700. Game Procedures..... | Page 9 |
| 800. Standings, Festivals, Playoffs, Tiebreakers..... | Page 11 |
| 900. Protests, Penalties, Suspensions..... | Page 14 |
| Appendix A – Laws of the Game..... | Page 15 |



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

100. Name and Purpose

The name of the competition is the **Fall Classic League**. The Fall Classic League’s purpose is to provide an opportunity for town/district classic club teams to participate in an organized league during the fall season.

200. League Organization:

201. Dates

The Fall Classic League season will run from the last Sunday in August to the end of October. Sunday game dates are: **August 29, September 12, September 19, September 26, October 3, October 17. U9 through U11s will begin on September 12th** and will have a Saturday game date included as the sixth game date. Other Saturdays could be a possibility if there are uneven numbers of teams in various brackets, necessitating bye weeks and a Saturday game date for some teams.

202. Level of Play

The Fall Classic League is open to classic level teams only.

203. Team Eligibility

The Fall Classic League is only open to teams fielded by Soccer Maine Member Classic Clubs who have correctly entered the league, paid the league fees, and are in good standing.

204. Age Groups Offered

The Fall Classic League will offer competition in the following age groups:

| Age group: | Type of League: | Format: | Player Age prior to Aug 1 st , 2021: |
|------------|-----------------|---------|---|
| U-8 | Non-Competitive | 7v7 | 7 |
| U-9 | Non-Competitive | 7v7 | 8 |
| U-10 | Non-Competitive | 7v7 | 9 |
| U-11 | Non-Competitive | 9v9 | 10 |
| U-12 | Competitive | 9v9 | 11 |
| U-13 | Competitive | 11v11 | 12 |
| U-14 | Competitive | 11v11 | 13 |

204.1. Under-8 and Under-9 Age Groups: All clubs who can field teams (based on their registration data) at the U-8 age level are instructed to do so. Further, clubs are instructed to field teams at the lowest age league possible. In other words, place the U-8’s on one team and the U-9’s on another. **Soccer Maine requires players to be age 7 by August 1 of the previous year** in order to be registered and play.

205. Administration

The Classic Committee of the Soccer Maine Board of Directors, along with the Executive Director, will conduct the Fall Classic League. The Vice President of Classic and the District Directors constitute the Classic Committee.

300. Entry Procedure and Fees

301. Club Affiliations

All Clubs must answer the Club Affiliation questions through their Got Sport club account and submit their Club Affiliation fee of \$100 to Soccer Maine by *July 15th*.



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

302. Sanctioning of Clubs: As a general rule, Soccer Maine will sanction only one travel soccer club from a particular city, town, or school district. Soccer Maine will sanction additional clubs within a town, city, school district which already has a sanctioned soccer club only if, based upon evidence presented by the proponents of the proposed additional club to the Soccer Maine Board of Directors, the Soccer Maine Board of Directors is convinced that the sanctioning of an additional club is necessary to prevent the denial of competitive soccer opportunities for travel-level youth soccer players in the affected town, city or school district. In addition, to be sanctioned as a club for Fall Classic play, the proposed additional club within such town or city must be able to field teams in at least two (2) age levels, and must offer both boys and girls teams (at least 4 teams).

303. Statement of Intent: The purpose of the rules stated above is to encourage the formation of new soccer clubs by allowing small town and cities, which individually would be unable to form a competitive or full-service club, to combine for such purpose, while, at the same time, not requiring the dissolution of existing multi-community clubs, such as Lewiston-Auburn Soccer Club (LAYSAC.) The rule is not designed to encourage the formation of premier or select teams; thus the rules against recruiting and collusion. As the rule is more liberal than the prior rule—because of the absence of the four-team limit—the Soccer Maine Board will monitor compliance more strictly, and exceptions will not be granted. The rule will also be studied to insure that the above-stated goal is met—that is, to expand opportunities for prospective youth soccer players in Maine, not to further restrict them.

304. Team Entry and Declarations

304.1 All Team Entries: Clubs must enter teams through their GOT SPORT club account on their Teams page by July 21st. This commits your teams to the Fall Classic league. Team submissions cannot be deleted by the Club once submitted. All team contact information must be in the team account when applying for the league.

304.2 Competitive Team Entries: All competitive level teams must additionally declare the division they request assignment into. Division 1 is more competitive and Division 2 is more developmental. **Clubs must include D1 or D2 in the team names during the registration process of GOT SPORT.** Teams declared as Division 1 and Division 2 MUST play the complete regular season in their requested division.

304.3 D2 Champions from Past Year: All winners of the Division 2 championships from the past year will not be considered for inclusion in Division 2 for the upcoming Fall Classic League unless unusual or extraordinary circumstances can be demonstrated to the *Classic* Committee. Those teams that won Division 2 the previous year should declare themselves as Division 1 teams, unless granted permission by the *Classic* Committee to enter Division 2.

305. Team Entry Fees

Payment is due by July 23rd. After July 23rd, Soccer Maine will charge late fees.

305.1 U8, U9, U10 & U11 Team Entry Fees: The team entry fee is \$275 per U8, U9, U10 & U11 team.

305.2 U12, U13 & U14 Team Entry Fees: The team entry fee is \$325 per U12, U13 & U14 team.

306. Player Registration Fees

The player registration fee is \$15.25 per player due August 1st. *Player fees not included in August 1st payments for late registering players must be paid by August 25th. While player data should be substantially complete when the team is submitted, you can add players after submission.*



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

307. Team Withdrawal

Clubs may withdraw a U12 through U14 team prior to July 26th and receive a full refund of the entry fee. Clubs may withdraw a U8 through U11 team prior to August 10th and receive a full refund of the entry fee.

Teams can only be withdrawn/removed from the league by notifying the Soccer Maine Executive Director in writing. Any team withdrawn from the Classic League after July 26th (U12-U14) or August 9th (U8-U11) forfeits the full team entry fee. Further, any team withdrawn after release of the schedule for the Classic League incurs an additional \$250 fee.

308. Late Fees: A late fee of \$50 per team will be assessed if Soccer Maine receives fees after the prescribed due dates.

400. Player Eligibility, Player Registration, Team Rosters and Player Passes

401. Player Registration

All players should be correctly registered in the Soccer Maine GOT SPORT player registration database by August 1 indicating that your team is viable. The player registration fee is \$15.25 per player. Additional players can still be added after this date, but the team must show a viable roster by this date to be included in the schedule.

402. Player Eligibility Rules: All players must be from the same town or school district.

402.1 Exceptions: Players may be from a different town, city or school district if one or more of the following exceptions apply to each such player:

- 1) The town, city or school district in which such player resides does not have a travel soccer club to join;
- 2) The town, city or school district in which such player resides does have a travel soccer club, and player registered in such club by the club's deadlines, but such club (the "host club") does not offer a team for such player's age group or, for U-11 and up, within one year of such player's age group and such player's host club has signed a waiver/transfer form; (for purposes of this rule U-10 is a single age group, including U-9 and U-8); or
- 3) Such player registered and tried out for a team offered by his/her host club, such player was not selected for such team, and such player's host club has signed a waiver/transfer form.

402.2 Waivers: Host clubs shall execute waiver/transfer forms for players within exceptions 2 and 3. The purpose of the waiver/transfer form in such instances is to have the host club certify that the facts establishing eligibility for the exception are true, and constitutes the host club's written certification to that effect. A waiver form can be found on the Soccer Maine website at www.soccermaine.com.

402.3 Procedure: If a roster includes players falling within any of the exceptions listed above (or any combination of such exceptions), the club registrar must attach a separate document listing the players and the exceptions applicable to each. Any waivers or transfer forms must also be attached. Before the roster is approved the Soccer Maine Executive Director shall review the roster with the District/League Director and/or VP Classic to determine compliance with this rule. If Soccer Maine suspects a violation of this rule, the matter shall be reviewed in its entirety, and shall determine whether the player(s) is/are eligible and/or whether any other action and/or sanction may be appropriate. If the Classic Committee determines that there has been a violation of this rule, the committee can, in addition, and in its sole discretion, determine the team or teams affected to be ineligible for regular



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

season and/or any end of season tournament and/or festival, and may, in addition, and in its sole discretion, impose other sanctions upon the coach or club involved, including, without limitation, suspension from Soccer Maine activity. Cases of collusion and violations of the prohibition on recruiting will be dealt with most harshly.

402.4 Double-roster player: Players are not permitted to double roster with teams participating in the Fall Classic League.

403. Prohibition Regarding Recruiting: Clubs and coaches are not to engage in the recruiting of players for the fall travel season. Clubs may generally advertise the time and location of tryouts in available public media, and may state that persons from other towns known not to have a travel soccer club may participate. Moreover, clubs and individual coaches (whether acting with or without the knowledge or approval of their club) are absolutely prohibited from conspiring or colluding to create a pool of players who meet any or all of the above-listed exceptions in order to create a team (in other words, a premier-like team). An example of prohibited conduct would be two clubs (or coaches) agreeing that one would offer a U-12 team (but not a U-14 team) while the other offered a U-14 team (but not a U-12 team) so that both teams would be stronger (and both could have fielded teams in both age groups). This example is not meant to be limiting.

404. Team Rosters

Clubs are required to create a team roster in the Soccer Maine player registration database when they apply their teams. **Rosters freeze on August 20th for U12-U14, and September 3rd for U8-U11.** Soccer Maine understands that on occasions new club registrars may need additional time and assistance in completing roster submission online. Those clubs with roster complications may contact the Soccer Maine Executive Director who will assist them with their rosters. Each team shall have a printed Official Roster available for inspection by game referees or league officials. Only Official printed Rosters with the signature of the Executive Director/State Registrar will be accepted at games and the year-end play-offs and festivals. **Each Frozen Roster MUST accurately include each player's jersey number.**

405. Roster Sizes

405.1 U8-U10 Roster Sizes: Fourteen (14) is our roster limit. This is double the number of players on the field. If additional players are wanted beyond 14, please request approval from Soccer Maine so that the internal Got Sport roster limit can be adjusted.

405.2 U11-U12 Roster Sizes: Sixteen (16) is our roster limit goal, though you will be able to roster up to 18, which is double the number of players on the field. If additional players are wanted beyond 18, please request approval from Soccer Maine so that the internal Got Sport roster limit can be adjusted.

405.3 U13-U14 Roster Sizes: Twenty-two (22) is our roster limit. Beyond 22 players, please have this request approved by the Soccer Maine so that the internal Got Sport roster limit can be adjusted.

406. Player Passes

Individual players on Fall Classic League teams are not required to have player passes. If a team is participating in an event that requires player passes, i.e. a tournament, please contact the State Office. Frozen rosters will be used for all games and at the year-end play-offs. **Each Frozen Roster MUST accurately include each player's jersey number.**



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

407. Club Pass

The “club pass” concept’s core objective is to provide clubs and coaches with the flexibility to move players **from team to team** in their own club as necessary for equity in games based on player development and team needs. **Club Pass allows Clubs to temporarily loan players from one team to another for a specific game.** Players may be allowed to move up two age groups, but never moved down an age group. Each Club shall determine their participation in program and Soccer Maine will not mandate participation.

Club pass *will* be allowed for ANY U-8, U-9, U-10 and U-11 game. Club Pass may be used only for “friendlies” in the U-12, U-13 and U-14 ages.

500. Scheduling, Canceling, and/or Terminating Games

501. Scheduling

Soccer Maine staff will create the League schedule based on the team entries submitted to Soccer Maine. Schedules will be posted on the Soccer Maine website by August 20th.

501.1 Non-Competitive level games:

The primary, but not sole determining factor in bracketing, is geographic location. The Classic Committee will focus on minimizing travel while ensuring the quality of the games does not diminish. We will attempt to not have Club teams compete against one another. The Classic Committee reserves the right to move teams as needed in developing viable brackets.

501.2 Competitive level games: The primary factors in determining bracketing are geographic location and Division declaration. However, based on the population of the brackets, teams may be distributed into brackets outside their districts in an effort to create equity amongst the Clubs and teams.

501.3 League Games: League games are predominately scheduled for Sundays. On a few circumstances, league games may be scheduled on Saturday because of bracketing constraints, or if both clubs/teams agree to move a Sunday scheduled game. **Rescheduling of league games must be within the weekend of the Soccer Maine scheduled date so as not to create a situation where multiple games have not been played by a team late in the season. For example, if a team wishes to move a Sunday league game to a Saturday, it must be the preceding Saturday.**

501.4 Club Responsibilities: Once the schedule has been created and posted for teams to view, clubs have the responsibility to arrange the times and locations for home games. Contact information for teams is available within the posted schedule. Soccer Maine does not secure playing sites or assign game times. This is the responsibility of the Member Clubs to allow for scheduling flexibility. Clubs are required to have field availability.

502. Cancelling Games

502.1 Unforeseen Circumstances: As a general rule, games are not cancelled, however, if severe weather or extenuating circumstances, such as loss of field due to a weather event, would prevent a game from being played safely, and if the game must be postponed, the home team is responsible for informing the opponent, the referees and Soccer Maine. The referees should be paid if the game is not cancelled within a reasonable amount of time prior to kick off. The home team is responsible for attempting to find a suitable time to reschedule the game within next week if possible. Games cannot be pushed off to the end of the season. If the teams cannot find an agreeable time to make up the



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

game, the game will be considered cancelled and one team would be assigned a forfeit. The home team must inform Soccer Maine of any such cancellation by email.

502.2 Forfeited Games: Teams are required to play all games assigned by Soccer Maine. In the event a team does not arrive at the venue (a 'no show') at the scheduled start time, the game is considered forfeited. It is the responsibility of the hosting team (home team) to notify Soccer Maine of any team who forfeits a game as a result of a 'no show.' **All forfeited teams are subject to the following fines and sanctions:**

502.2a 1st Occurrence: Any team who forfeits a game will have the game recorded as a 0-3 loss, and shall be fined \$250 per game payable to Soccer Maine, along with the appropriate referee fees, within fourteen (14) days of the scheduled game.

502.2b Additional Occurrence: Any team who forfeits any additional games will have the game recorded as a 0-3 loss, shall be fined \$250 per game payable to Soccer Maine, along with the appropriate referee fees, within fourteen (14) days of the scheduled game, and shall be ineligible to compete in Soccer Maine's year-end festival and/or tournament.

502.2c Withdrawal from league during season: If a team withdraws from the league any time within 3 days of or after the beginning of the season, every missed league game shall be considered a forfeit and the sanctions in section 502.2a and 502.2b shall be applied.

502.2d Standing within Soccer Maine: Failure by a club to pay the fine shall result in the club not being in good standing and thus its teams being ineligible to compete in any Soccer Maine sanctioned game and/or event. The Classic Committee has exclusive and final decisions in the determining a decrease or waiving fines in exceptional circumstances.

503. Terminating Games

Once a referee has jurisdiction over a game, the game may only be terminated by the referee as provided for in the FIFA Laws of the Game.

503.1 Game Terminated in First Half: If a game is terminated before the second half of the game has begun, and the termination is not due to the conduct of one of the teams, the game shall be played in its entirety.

503.2 Game Terminated in Second Half: If a game is terminated after play has begun in the second half of the game, but before the end of the second half, and the termination is not due to the conduct of one of the teams, the game is considered complete, and the score at the time of termination will stand.

600. Referees and Referee Fees

601. Assigning

Home teams are responsible for obtaining referees for League games. Member Clubs must have a Certified Referee Assignor. The Referee Assignor must assign only currently certified referees **and must make every attempt to assign referees to scheduled games. If for any reason that is not possible, the Assignor should immediately notify the member club that he/she cannot assign the game and therefore the game should not be scheduled.** There are no exceptions to these requirements. The minimum fee for assignors is \$5/game assigned. However, assignors negotiate their fees annually with the club they represent. **Clubs are strongly**



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

encouraged to have a written contract with their referee assignor - identifying the roles and responsibilities of both parties and the compensation agreed upon in advance of the fall travel season.

602. Number of Referees

The Under-8, Under-9 and Under-10 age groups will use a single center referee. All other age groups **MUST utilize a “three-man” referee crew employing the diagonal system of control.** A “two man/two whistle” system may NEVER be utilized under any circumstances. In the event that an Assistant Referee is missing at the last moment, the center referee can ask the participating teams to assist him/her in finding a “club linesman”. The “club linesman” will only signal the ball in or out of play according to Law 9. If an Assignor is unable to assign referees, the game should not be scheduled until such time as the correct number of certified referees can be assigned

603. Referee Fees

Each team will pay half of the referee fees directly to the assigned referees. Teams must pay fees in full in advance of the game. Referees will be instructed not to commence a game until they have been paid in full. Referee fees are as follows:

| Age Group | Referee: | Assistant Referee (each): |
|---------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Under-8, -9 & -10 | \$30/game | NA |
| Under-11 & Under-12 | \$40/game | \$20/game |
| Under-13 & Under-14 | \$50/game | \$25/game |

700. Game Procedures

701. General

All Fall Classic League games played (scheduled games and friendlies between teams in the league) are considered Soccer Maine sanctioned games and subject to application of all rules and conditions set forth in this handbook and all other Soccer Maine Policies, Procedures and Rules. Sanctioned games are the only games in which your insurance coverage is in effect. Teams participating in games with teams who are not registered with the league or Soccer Maine can register the game through our ETravel link in your GOT SPORT account so that insurance coverage is in effect.

701.1. Game Ball: The home team shall provide the game ball.

701.2. Jersey Colors: The away team shall have choice of jersey colors. In the event of a conflict, the home team must change or wear different colored pinnies if so directed by the referee.

701.3. Availability of Procedures and Rules: Coaches are required to have a copy of these Procedures and Rules with them for any clarifications.

701.4. Field determination: Both teams, and a **maximum of three (3) team officials for each team**, shall take the same side of the field. Spectators shall take the other side of the field. The home team shall choose which side the teams will take.

701.5. Post-Game Procedures: Home teams in competitive level games will document scores in the Got Sport system. The **Event ID and Event Pin** will also be posted on Soccer Maine’s webpage under the Fall Classic League. The home team should immediately post the score, and must have the score posted by the following Monday at 4 P.M. Failure to post the score by this time will result in the score being recorded as a 0-3 win for the away team.



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

702. Coaches

At all times, a **minimum of one Soccer Maine licensed and rostered coach** must coach the team and be in the player area. A maximum of three Soccer Maine licensed and rostered coaches rostered to the specific team may be in the team area during games. 3 coaches maximum can be listed on the physical roster.

All coaches, assistant coaches and other team personnel are required to complete all risk management requirements, which include a background check, SafeSport training and concussion awareness training processes in order to be rostered to and/or work with a classic team affiliated with a Soccer Maine club. These are all available in your Got Sport account.

Coaches are also required to have the appropriate coaching education license. Courses are sponsored by Soccer Maine and can be accessed through the US Soccer Learning Center, also noted on the Soccer Maine website.

703. Field

The home team is responsible for ensuring the game field is ready and safe for play at least 30 minutes prior to kick-off. Ready and safe for play includes but is not limited to smooth and stable playing surface, proper field markings, corner flags, goals, goal nets, all according to FIFA Laws of the Game, **and goal anchors**. Should reasonable corrections be required by the referee, the home team is responsible for compliance.

Failure to provide a suitable game field is grounds for a game to be terminated. If a game must be terminated due to a game field that is not ready and safe for play, the home team will incur a \$100 fine.

704. Game Oversight

Once the referee is on site, s/he is responsible for ensuring that the game is played to completion per the rules and regulations being applied to the game. The referee has the exclusive right and corresponding responsibility to terminate and/or abandon a game. Should this occur, the referee must provide a written game report within 24 hours to the VP Classic and Soccer Maine's State Referee Administrator.

705. Heading Protocol

There will be no heading allowed in games for players 10 and under (U11 and below). This protocol should be followed in all training/practices as well. Deliberate heading in these age groups will result in awarding an indirect free kick 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 the spot of the offense.

For U12 through U14 players, heading training shall be limited to no more than 30 minutes per week. Please note that this follows the newly released Heading Recommendations from US Soccer for all youth soccer players.

706. Tie Games: Tie scores will stand in all games. No overtime or penalty-kick tiebreakers.



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

800. Standings, Playoffs, Tiebreakers

801. Standings

League standings will be kept in each competitive age group division (U12, U13 and U14). Those standings will be determined by the number of points received. Points will be awarded as follows:

- a. Three (3) points for a Win
- b. One (1) point for Tie
- c. Zero (0) points for a Loss

802. Tiebreakers

In the event of a tie within a division, the following criteria will be used to determine final placement:

- a. Head to head result;
- b. Goal differential (only the first three goals greater than the opponent count toward goal differential);
- c. Fewest goals allowed;
- d. Coin Toss conducted by VP of Classic or Executive Director.

803. Festivals: Soccer Maine traditionally holds festivals for the age groups of U-8/U-9, U-10 and U-11 which are non-competitive. **Soccer Maine will make every attempt to hold these festivals as part of the season in 2021 as we return from our COVID time period of no large events, understanding that circumstances could change in regard to COVID 19.**

As is the case for all teams, games, etc., no over-age players are allowed to play on teams within the festivals. Coaches are cautioned to follow the Soccer Maine Eligibility Rule and other Policies with respect to official rosters.

803.1 Participation in Festivals: The end-of-season Festivals are part of the season for all U8 through U11 teams. Clubs must notify Soccer Maine in writing (via email) to Soccer Maine's Executive Director by **October 4th, 2021**, if they have a team that cannot participate. This communication must come from the Club President. Acceptable reasons would be not enough players. A coach not being available is generally not an acceptable reason for non-participation by a team – most teams have more than one coach. There are no consequences for withdrawal from the festival prior to that date. After that date, withdrawal will be considered a forfeit.

803.2 Dates:

1. U-8/U-9 & U-10 boys' and girls' festivals occur on the weekend of October 23rd/24th
 - a. North/Central at TBD
 - b. Metro/South at TBD
3. U-11 boys' girls' festivals will also occur on October 30th/31st
 - a. North/Central at TBD
 - b. Metro/South at TBD

803.3 Teams: Soccer Maine recommends that clubs who have more than one team in non-competitive age brackets evenly balance their teams; i.e. no "A" or "B" teams. To help create balanced play at the festival, coaches should accurately indicate the comparative strength of their team. Clubs should notify the particular Festival Directors, if asked of the comparative strength of the Club's teams.



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

803.4 Requirements:

803.4a Players: Players will not be permitted to play or participate in the festival if the player is not listed on the Official Roster or the player has been deemed ineligible to play due to the red card policy.

All uniforms must be numbered. **Duplicate numbers on any team are not permitted.** It is the home team's responsibility to change uniforms if a color conflict arises. Pinnies, which permit the underlying number to be discerned, are acceptable for this purpose. Shirts must be tucked in and socks must cover shin guards. Boxer shorts, bike shorts, jams and the like, unless of the same color as the shorts over them, must not hang below the uniform shorts. The use of shin guards is mandatory. Referees will exclude players not so equipped from play. If weather is exceptionally cold, players may wear additional clothing of the same color, with referee approval.

803.4b Coaches: Coaches must register with the official responsible when they check in their players. There can be a maximum of three (3) coaches rostered per team, and on the field during a game; all must be registered with Soccer Maine.

803.5 Forfeit of Game: If any team in any age division does not show for a game at the festival the following will occur. The TEAM will be assessed a fine of \$250, plus referee fees, which must be paid within seven (7) days after the forfeit. If the Club does not pay the fine within the prescribed timeframe, the Club will not be permitted to participate in ANY Soccer Maine events until the fine is paid in full.

804. Playoffs

804.1 Participation in Playoffs: All competitive teams in the Fall Classic league qualify for the post-season tournament. Teams may choose not to participate in the playoffs, but must declare their intentions not to participate **in writing via email** from their Club President to the **VP of Classic and Soccer Maine Executive Director** by **October 4, 2021**. No consequences will happen for withdrawal from the play-offs prior to that date. After that date, withdrawal will be considered a forfeit. **Please note that Soccer Maine will make every attempt to have normal statewide playoffs for 2021 as we return from our COVID time period of no large events, understanding that circumstances could change in regard to COVID 19.**

804.2 Seeding for the Playoffs: The top 16 ranked teams in the Division 1 U-13 & U-14 brackets and the top 24 teams ranked in the Division 1 U-12 brackets will compete for the Champions Cup. All other regular season Division 1 teams positioned below these respective rankings will compete for the Classic Cup. All teams will be ranked according to Section 801 and if ties occur, Section 802 defines the tiebreakers. Regular season Division 1 teams moved down to Division 2 will be seeded in the top portion of the Classic Cup seeding.

The Classic Committee does not anticipate moving any Division 2 regular seasons team to Division 1 play-offs, unless circumstances arise that clearly show a team should be in the higher Division, or other reasons that may arise necessitating movement of teams.

804.3 Dates: Divisional Play-offs will begin play on October 23rd and go through October 24th. All attempts will be to complete brackets in the one weekend depending on numbers of teams and weather



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

concerns. **No team will play more than two (2) games in a single day with preference given to 1 game per day. No team will play more than 3 games on the playoff weekend. Rain date will be the following Saturday, October 30th.**

804.4 Requirements:

804.4a Players: Players will not be permitted to play or participate in playoffs if the player is not listed on the frozen Official roster or the player has been deemed ineligible to play due to the red card policy-Section 902.

804.4b Coaches: Coaches must register with the State official when they check in their players. All must be registered with Soccer Maine and have their **Soccer Maine Official rosters** with them.

804.4c Registration: If a team/player is not in compliance with sections 804.4a, 804.b or there is no registered coach, the game will be deemed as a forfeit.

804.4d Uniforms: All uniforms must be numbered. Duplicate numbers on any team are not permitted. It is the home team’s responsibility to change uniforms if a color conflict arises. Pinnies, which permit the underlying number to be discerned, are acceptable for this purpose. Shirts must be tucked in and socks must cover shin guards. Boxer shorts, bike shorts, jams and the like, unless of the same color as the shorts over them, must not hang below the uniform shorts. The use of shin guards is mandatory. Referees will exclude players not so equipped from play. If weather is exceptionally cold, players may wear additional clothing of the same color, with referee approval.

804.5 Bracketing

804.5a Play-off brackets: The creation of play-off brackets shall be primarily based on the regular season-end seeding of all playoff brackets in an age group and division together. The bracketing shall be developed in a serpentine format as such;

| Bracket # 1 | Bracket #2 | Bracket # 3 | Bracket # 4 |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 |

804.5b Lower Seeds: The top 8 seeds will be assigned to the listed bracket based solely on seeding. The Classic Committee may move any team seeded lower into a different bracket because of geographic challenges. The purpose of these potential moves is not to affect the competitive level of the brackets but to minimize-travel in areas where it doesn’t affect the overall standings. Once completed the Executive Director shall post all brackets on the Soccer Maine website and list the seeding for each team within each bracket. Hosting priority will be given to the top seed in the bracket, however, Soccer Maine’s priority is to make sure all brackets are hosted by clubs that can provide the necessary fields, referees, and oversight, and that travel is not unduly impacted by location of the bracket.

804.6 Bracket Winners: The playoffs for U12 and up is a single elimination format. Games with a tied score at the end of regulation shall complete two (2) 5-minute overtimes (no golden goal). If the game is still tied at the conclusion of the overtime periods, then FIFA Kicks from the penalty



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

mark, as specified in the Laws of the Game shall be followed to determine a winner. One round of five (5) kicks from the penalty mark per team will be taken. If a winner has not been determined, sudden death kicks from the penalty mark will be performed. Only players on the field at the end of the match are eligible to take penalty kicks.

804.6 Bracket Winners: The playoffs for U12 and up is a single elimination format. Games with a tied score at the end of regulation shall complete two (2) 5-minute overtimes (no golden goal). If the game is still tied at the conclusion of the overtime periods, then FIFA Kicks from the penalty mark, as specified in the Laws of the Game shall be followed to determine a winner. One round of five (5) kicks from the penalty mark per team will be taken. If a winner has not been determined, sudden death kicks from the penalty mark will be performed. Only players on the field at the end of the match are eligible to take penalty kicks.

804.7 Fall Classic Semi-Finals and Finals:

804.7a Dates: The Classic and Champions Cup semis and finals tournament is scheduled for weekend of **October 30/October 31, 2021**. Soccer Maine reserves the right to change the date games are played as necessary based on weather and field concerns.

804.7b Games: All games played in the Championship rounds shall be played in a single elimination format. Games with a tied score at the end of regulation shall complete two (2) 5-minute overtimes (no golden goal). If the game is still tied at the conclusion of two overtime periods, then the FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark Tie-Breaker procedure as specified in the Laws of the Game shall be followed to determine a winner. One round of five (5) kicks from the penalty mark per team will be taken. If a winner has not been determined, sudden death kicks from the penalty mark will be performed. Only players on the field at the end of the match are eligible to take penalty kicks.

804.8 Forfeit of Game: If any team in any age division does not show for a game in the playoffs the following will occur. The TEAM will be assessed a fine of \$250, along with referee fees in full which must be paid within seven (7) days after the forfeit. If the Club does not pay the fine within the prescribed timeframe, NO OTHER team within the Club will be permitted to participate in ANY Soccer Maine events until the fine is paid in full.

900. Protests & Suspensions

901. Protests: Decisions of referees or host site agents in administrating any section of this handbook cannot be protested. The Classic Committee will not accept any protests.

902. Suspensions: Any player who is ejected from a game (receives a red card) or coach who is ejected from a game must sit out the next Fall Classic League game. Any player or coach who is ejected from the last game of the season (receives a red card) must sit out the next Soccer Maine sanctioned game, whether in a league, tournament, or other event. A player or coach may be suspended for more than one game if the VP of Classic and Executive Director, in concert with the State Referee Administrator determines the initial offense to merit more severe consequences. All Red Cards and ejections must be reported to the State Referee Administrator and Soccer Maine Executive Director



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

APPENDIX A – LAWS OF THE GAME

Except as otherwise provided in these rules; FIFA’s “Laws of the Game” apply to all age groups within the Fall Classic League.

For all age groups, goals must be anchored securely to the ground.

Rules: U-08, U-09 & U-10 Modified Rules - 7v7

Law 1 – The Field:

- A. Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 65 yards nor less than 55 yards, and its width not more than 45 yards or less than 35 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width. Recommendation: Length – 60 yards, Width –40 yards.
- B. Markings:
 1. Distinctive lines necessary, sidelines and goal lines.
 2. Penalty Area – 12 yards out from the goal line x 24 yards wide.
 3. A halfway line can be marked out across the field or otherwise indicated.
 4. While other markings are possible, they are not necessary to ensure the enjoyment and development of the youngsters.
 5. A center circle with an 8-yard radius.
 6. Four corner arcs with a two-foot radius.
 7. Goal Area – 4 yards from the goal line x 8 yards wide.
 8. Goals – 6 feet high and 18 feet wide.

Law 2 – The Ball: Size 4.

Law 3 – Number of Players:

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time: seven. One of these players must be designated as the goalkeeper.
- B. Playing time: Each player **SHALL** play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
- C. There will be U-8, U-9 & U-10 girls’ teams and U-8, U-9 & U-10 boys’ teams. Boys’ teams may be co-ed. If there is one boy on a team, it is considered a boys’ team.

Law 4 – Player’s Equipment: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated shoes.
- B. Shin-guards: Mandatory.

Law 5 -- Referee:

- A. Certified referees.
- B. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

Law 6 – Assistant Referees: N/A

Law 7 – Duration of the Game:

- A. The game shall consist of two equal halves of 25 minutes each.



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

- B. The half time break shall be five minutes.
- C. If the game is 'tied' at the conclusion of the second half, the match is deemed complete and a "tie" is awarded to both teams.

Law 8 – The Start of Play: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be seven yards from the center mark while the kick-off is in progress.

Law 9 – Ball in and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA.

Law 10 – Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

Law 11 -- Offside: There shall be no offside.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. All fouls will result in an **INDIRECT FREE KICK** with the opponents seven yards away from the ball.
- B. The referee must briefly explain **ALL** infractions to the offending player.

Law 13 – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. Shall be classified under one heading – **INDIRECT**.
- B. Opponents must be seven yards away from the ball.
- C. A goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player on either team.

Law 14 – Penalty Kicks: No penalty kicks are to be taken during these games.

Law 15 – Throw-in: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: A second throw-in must be allowed if the player commits a foul on the initial attempt. The referee shall explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw.

Law 16 – Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. Goal kick may be taken within two to three yards of the goal.
- B. Opponents must retreat to mid-field when the kick is taken.

Law 17 – Corner Kick Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be seven yards away from the ball.

Law 18 – Substitutions: Substitutions shall be unlimited, and be made at mid-field **for both players entering and players exiting:**

1. Prior to a throw-in -either team
2. Prior to a goal kick –either team
3. After a goal -either team
4. After an injury when the referee stops the game –either team
5. At half time –either team



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

Rules: Rules: U-11 & U-12 Modified Rules - 9v9

Law 1 – The Field:

- A. Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 80 yards nor less than 70 yards and its width not more than 55 yards or less than 45 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width. Recommendation: Length - 75 yards, Width - 50 yards.
- B. Markings:
 - 1. Distinctive lines not more than 5 inches wide.
 - 2. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
 - 3. A center circle with an 8-yard radius.
 - 4. Four corner arcs with a radius of two feet.
 - 5. Goal Area - 5 yards out from the goal line x 16 yards wide.
 - 6. **Penalty Area - 14 yards out from the goal line x 36 yards wide. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made ten (10) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.**
- C. Goals: Recommended - six feet high by 18 feet wide. Optional – A 7-foot by 21-foot goal is allowed.

Law 2 – The Ball: Size 4.

Law 3 – Number of Players:

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time: nine. One of these players must be designated as the goalkeeper.
- B. U-11 Playing time: each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
- C. There will be girls' and boys' teams. Boys' teams may be co-ed. If there is one boy on a team, it is considered boys team.

Law 4 – Player's Equipment: Conform to FIFA.

Law 5 -- Referee:

- A. Certified Referees.
- B. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

Law 6 – Assistant Referees:

- A. Certified Assistant Referees.
- B. Use "Club Linesman"

Law 7 – Duration of the Game:

- A. The game shall consist of two equal halves of 30 minutes each.
- B. The half time break shall be five minutes.
- C. U-11 is "non-results oriented."
- D. U-12 is "results oriented."
- E. If the game is 'tied' at the conclusion of the second half, the match is deemed complete and a "tie" is awarded to both teams.



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

Law 8 – The Start of Play: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be 8 yards from the center mark while the kick-off is in progress.

Law 9 – The Ball in and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA.

Law 10 – Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

Law 11 -- Offside: Conform to FIFA.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA.

Law 13 – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight yards away from the ball.

Law 14 – Penalty Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the exception that the penalty mark is ten yards from the center of the goal line.

Law 15 – Throw-in: Conform to FIFA.

Law 16 – Goal Kick:

U-12 Conforms to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- a. Goal kick must leave the box before an opposing player can touch the ball.

U-11 conforms to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- b. Goal kick may be taken within two to three yards of the goal.
- c. Opponents must retreat to mid-field when the kick is taken.

Law 17 – Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA.

Law 18 – Substitutions: Substitutions shall be unlimited, and be made at mid-field for both players entering and players exiting:

- Prior to a throw-in -either team
- Prior to a goal kick –either team
- After a goal –either team
- After an injury when the referee stops the game –either team
- At half time –either team



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

Rules: Rules: U-13 & U-14 Modified Rules - 11v11

Law 1 – The Field:

- A. Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 120 yards nor less than 100 yards and its width not more than 80 yards or less than 60 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width. Recommendation: Length - 100 yards, Width - 70 yards.
- B. Markings:
 - 1. Distinctive lines not more than 5 inches wide.
 - 2. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
 - 3. A center circle with a 10-yard radius.
 - 4. Four corner arcs with a radius of three feet.
 - 5. Goal Area - 6 yards from each goal post and 6 yards into the field of play, joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
 - 6. Penalty Area - 18 yards from each goal post and 18 yards into the field of play, joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
- C. Goals: 8 feet high and 8 yards wide.

Law 2 – The Ball: Size 5.

Law 3 – Number of Players:

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time: eleven. One of these players must be designated as the goalkeeper.
- B. There will be girls' and boys' teams. Boys' teams may be co-ed. If there is one boy on a team, it is considered boys team.

Law 4 – Player's Equipment: Conform to FIFA.

Law 5 -- Referee:

- A. Certified Referees.
- B. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

Law 6 – Assistant Referees:

- A. Certified Assistant Referees.
- B. Use "Club Linesman"

Law 7 – Duration of the Game:

- A. The game shall be divided into two equal halves.
 - U-13 35-minute half
 - U-14 35-minute half
- B. The half-time break shall be five minutes.
- C. If the game is 'tied' at the conclusion of the second half, the match is deemed complete and a "tie" is awarded to both teams.

Law 8 – The Start of Play: Conform to FIFA.



Fall Classic League Procedures and Rules

Law 9 – Ball in and out of Play: Conform to FIFA.

Law 10 – Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

Law 11 -- Offside: Conform to FIFA.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA.

Law 13 – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA (new rule as of 2020)

Law 14 – Penalty Kicks: Conform to FIFA.

Law 15 – Throw-in: Conform to FIFA.

Law 16 – Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA.

Law 17 – Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA.

Law 18 – Substitutions: Substitutions shall be unlimited, and be made at mid-field **for both players entering and players exiting:**

- Prior to a throw-in -either team
- Prior to a goal kick –either team
- After a goal -either team
- After an injury when the referee stops the game –either team
- At half time –either team