

## 2019 Lightning Cup Tournament Rules

GUFC returns in 2019 to host the season-ending tournament for boys and girls from U8 through U11. The aim is to introduce youth community players and their families to a "tournament style" setting while promoting team growth, sportsmanship, with a focus on improving play during the regular season.

### Tournament Schedule

Teams across the age groups U8 to U11 will play their matches at Harrison Playing Fields on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

The overall tournament schedules will be created by GUFC for circulation in the week prior to the tournament.

Please note that the tournament is an extension to the regular season. As such, coaches and parents should make every effort to ensure participation from their team if registering.

Please note once the schedule is set, games may not be rescheduled.

**A team that forfeits a game during the tournament will not be eligible to play in the group final stage.**

### Playing Formats

The tables below summarise the tournament playing formats for teams in each of the age groups:

U8 and U9	
The number of players	<b>Maximum 11 registered</b> 7-a-side including a goalkeeper Maximum of four substitutes
The field of play	Minimum: 40m long x 30m wide Best Practise: 45m long x 35m wide Maximum: 50m long x 40m wide
Goal size	3m wide x 2m high
Ball size	Size 3
Duration of the game	TBC min halves Minimum 5 min half time break
Penalty area	5m deep x 12m wide

U10 and U10	
The number of players	<b>Maximum 14 registered</b> 9-a-side including a goalkeeper Maximum of five substitutes
The field of play	Maximum: 70m long x 50m wide Best Practise: 65m long x 45m wide Minimum: 60m long x 40m wide
Goal size	Maximum: 5m wide x 2m high
Ball size	Size 4
Duration of the game	TBC min halves Minimum 5 min half time break
Penalty area	5m deep x 12m wide

***\*Unless specified otherwise the National Playing Formats and Rules apply.***

## Match Results and Points Table

The winning team is responsible for turning in the Game Report within 30 minutes of the end of the game to the Tournament Officials at the clubhouse. They will verify and fill out the bottom half of the page and return it to the team for verification. Please print one for each of your games. If the winning coach does not turn in a Game Report within 30 minutes of the end of the game the score will be listed as a 0-0 tie.

## In the case of a draw

In the event of a draw within the group after preliminary rounds, the following tie-breaker system shall be used to determine group winners:

- Winner of Head-to-Head Competition
- Most Wins
- Least Goals Allowed (lowest average for all preliminary games).
- Goal Differential
- FIFA Penalty Kicks (for tournament final games only)
- Coin toss (due to time constraint for other games different than tournament final)

## Finals

Playing formats as per age group apply. A further two overtime periods, five minutes each, can be played in the event of a draw at the end of regulation play in the Final Games. Should the draw persist past extra time, the match will be decided by penalties.

*Where necessary to maintain the schedule, the appointed site coordinator can adjust the length of preliminary and/or overtime periods equally. Semi Finals and Finals ending in draws after the completion of two overtime periods will be decided with penalty kicks in accordance with FIFA laws.*

## Medals and Trophies

First and second place winners of each group will be awarded the 2019 Lightning Cup Medals. The overall age group winning team will be awarded the 2019 Lightning Cup.

***\*Medals or trophies not collected up within a week of the tournament will be forfeited.***

## Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, the GUFCA Director of Football will have the authority to:

- Relocate or reschedule any game(s);
- Change the duration of any game(s);
- Cancel any preliminary game(s);
- Consider any game terminated by game or Officials after one half of play as official as of the time of termination and the score stands at time of termination; and determine the format for advancement.

While the referee may decide to postpone a game, note that only a GUFCA representative would make the decision to cancel the tournament. A GUFCA representative would make the teams aware if the field needs to be evacuated. In general, at the first sign of lightning, all coaches, players, referees and spectators are to withdraw from the field and seek proper shelter. The 30 minutes Rule - Wait at least 30 minutes after the *last* lightning flash before giving the "all clear" signal and resuming normal activity.

## Sportsmanship – Code of Conduct

Any team or coach that displays un-sportsmanship behaviour during the tournament may be disqualified at GUFCA discretion. The Player and Spectator Code of Conduct apply.