

## 2026 Gulf Coast Soccer Tournament By-Laws

**Hosted by: Hurlburt Field, FL**

### 1. Document Purpose

1.1. To establish rules and guidelines for conducting the 2026 Gulf Coast Soccer Tournament, during the dates of 13-17 February 2026. This tournament is open to all bases/post level teams. Any DoD installation with a varsity (or equivalent private) level base/post team may play in the tournament.

1.2. PTDY is authorized for this tournament

### 2. Eligibility

2.1. Intent: Ensure military and affiliated persons have the primary opportunity to participate in the competition.

2.2. Permitted to play:

2.2.1. Active Duty

2.2.2. Dependents

2.2.3. Reserve/National Guard

2.2.4. DOD Civilians

2.2.5. Personnel on TDY (30 days or more)

2.2.6. Veterans or Retired with valid ID or DD214

2.2.7. DOD Contractor

NOTE: DOD Contractor should be the last resort to fill a team's roster.

2.2.8. **All players MUST be at least 18 years old.**

2.2.9. **All players MUST possess a valid DoD ID, Veteran ID or DD214**

2.2.10. Teams **MUST** consist of at least 14 players.

### 3. Entry and Registration

3.1. Entry Fee

3.1.1. Tournament Cost is **\$525 per team** deadline for payment is 2 February 2026. Must be paid to secure spot in tournament. Pay at the Aderholt Fitness Center front desk.

3.1.2. Payments are Non-refundable.

**3.1.3.** Payments will be made by:

- 3.1.3.1. Government Credit Card
- 3.1.3.2. NAF Distribution Check
- 3.1.3.3. Personnel Credit Card
- 3.1.3.4. As coordinated with Tournament committee

**3.1.4.** Tournament is limited to **8 Teams**. Teams will be accepted in the order of date and time received, or payment completed.

**3.2.** Registration

**3.2.1.** Registration will be completed on website provided with flyer QR code link.

**3.2.2.** Coaches will fill out Team Roster Form sent after payment and have physical copies to provide per game for tracking of goals, cautions, and send offs.

**4. Tournament Rules:**

- 4.1.** All games will be played in accordance with the “Law of the Game” as issued by FIFA, except specifically modified by these tournament rules.
- 4.2.** The tournament committee’s interpretation of the rules will be final and binding.
- 4.3. There are NO protests regarding the outcome of games; all decisions made by the officials are final and may not be protested or appealed.**
- 4.4.** If a team disregards any decision made by the tournament committee, all remaining games will be forfeited, and the team will be disqualified from the tournament.
- 4.5.** The tournament committee has the authority to remove any person(s) from the tournament for abuses in conduct. Repeated violations may result in the suspension of the team or person from the tournament and/or future tournaments as decided by the tournament committee.

**5. Field Rules**

- 5.1.** Park only in designated parking areas, follow parking patterns, obey speed limits. Tickets may be issued by Security Forces for improper parking or disregard for speed limits.
- 5.2.** All team **MUST** clean up their bench area after each game. The team must ensure all trash is put into the designated trash receptacles.
- 5.3. PETS ARE PROHIBITED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SERVICE ANIMALS.**
- 5.4. SMOKING IS PROHIBITED ON THE FIELDS**

## 5.5. NO ALCOHOL ON THE FIELDS.

**5.5.1. IF THE OFFICIALS SMELL ALCOHOL ON A PLAYER OR COACH, MEMBER WILL BE EJECTED OR PREVENTED FROM PLAYING THAT GAME (DRINKING PLAYER SCENARIO)**

## 6. Tournament Format

6.1. Two stages of Play. All teams will be guaranteed 3 games. There will be no Groups, instead teams will play a short ‘Season’ and all teams will be ranked within the Season (consisting of 3 games).

6.2. Season Play:

6.2.1. 60 min games (2x30 minute half)

6.2.2. 10 min half time

6.2.3. Unlimited substitutions, during approved stoppage of play with the official’s consent (e.g. throw-ins, goal kicks...)

6.2.4. No overtime, stoppage time at the discretion of the official

6.3. Tournament Play:

6.3.1. After the “Season” games are completed **Sunday 16 February 2026**, the tournament committee will identify rank all teams on points and seed and notify the teams that are playing in the tournament play. The tournament committee will also complete the bracket with names.

6.3.2. 60 min games (2x 30 min half)

6.3.3. 10 min half time

6.3.4. Unlimited substitutions, during approved stoppage of play with the official’s consent (e.g. throw-in, goals kicks...)

6.3.5. If there is a tie at the end of the game, both teams will go directly into Penalty Kicks to determine winner. FIFA style shoot-out (only players on the field may participate.)

## 7. Pre-game check-in

7.1. Coaches will provide officials with a copy of the roster before game starts.

7.2. At the (-)5-minute mark, prior to game start, or on official’s signal, captains will join officials for the coin toss.

7.3. Officials will conduct appropriate inspections and announcements.

7.4. After coin toss and selection of sides/first touch, captains will return to bench area.

## 8. Forfeits and Failures to Show

- 8.1. A team shall be awarded a 10-minute grace period after kick-off time before the game is awarded to the opposing team. If the minimum requirements for players (7) are present, the game shall not be delayed past the start schedule.
- 8.2. In the event a team forfeits 2 games for any reason, the team is disqualified from the tournament.

## 9. Games and Score Reporting

- 9.1. Each coach will be responsible for signing the game card presented by the official after the end of the match before the official reports the end of the match. The field coordinator is responsible to ensure the scores of each game are reported in a timely manner.

## 10. Scoring

### 10.1. The point systems as follows for Season play:

- 10.1.1. +6 points for a win
- 10.1.2. +3 points for a tie
- 10.1.3. +0 points for a loss
- 10.1.4. +1 point for shutout (0-0 game results in 1 point per team)
- 10.1.5. +1 point for each goal up to 3 in one game
- 10.1.6. Total possible points for a game is 10: 3-0 Win = 6+3+1=10
- 10.1.7. **NOTE:** Any forfeit before the start of the game will be recorded as a 2-0 win. A forfeit during a game due to one team causing a forfeit (red cards resulting in less than 7 players) will be recorded as a 2-0 win for the non-forfeiting team, unless the non-forfeiting team is winning by better score.

### 10.2. In the event of a tie in Season play:

- 10.2.1. Goal Differential
- 10.2.2. Goals For
- 10.2.3. Goals Against
- 10.2.4. Least amount of Yellow Cards
- 10.2.5. Coin flip

**NOTE:** In the event of a 3-way draw: all three teams will be compared in against each other following 10.2.1-10.2.5. if any team is different than the rest they will be removed from the tie in the appropriate way. If all 3 teams are equal through 10.2.5. A random lottery will take place to determine the team assigned positions, 1/3, 2/3, 3/3 (similar to world cup group tie breaker).

**11. Roster, Uniforms and Guest players:** Coaches are required to ensure rosters are accurate.

- 11.1. Rosters must be submitted by 10 February 2026 (address any questions or concerns prior to submitting). Any changes after this date will require coordination and approval from the tournament director.
- 11.2. Team may consist of up to 23 players. All players can be active and listed on the game card for each game.
- 11.3. Each team may have up to 3 guest players!
- 11.4. **Guest players are defined as players that are not within a 50-mile radius of base participating in the tournament** (e.g. Player from Hurlburt field playing with Eglin = normal player, Player from Hurlburt field playing with Tyndall = Guest player)
- 11.5. Coaches must annotate color or jerseys and uniforms. Socks are NOT required to be different between opposing teams. Goalies must have a different color top to discern between all players. Home teams (as identified on the schedule) must change tops if there is a conflict with the color worn by the away team.
- 11.6. Each jersey must have a visible number that can be seen by the officials. Two players may not have the same jersey number. Goalies do not require to have a number on their uniforms but must be identified if different from standard goalie (e.g. Field player subs in for goalkeeper, field players number must be noted as new keeper, OR goalkeeper becomes field player distinct number must be used for the goalkeeper separate from other team members).
- 11.7. All active players not on the field will wear a penny distinct from uniforms. Pennies may be removed when members are ready at the Half line for a substitution. The exiting player must change the penny after exiting the field of play. Teams are responsible for bringing their own pennies, Warm-up tops can suffice given they meet the requirement of pennies described above.
- 11.8. Roster waivers can only be asked for increase in of contractor(s), or veteran players, or an uncontrollable circumstance. Roster waivers will be approved ONLY by Tournament Director.

**12. Yellow/Red Cards**

- 12.1. Yellow cards (YC) will be tracked and carry over during “Season Play”. Two yellow cards by the same player in a single game will follow FIFA rules. Two yellow cards by the same player over two games in season play will result in suspension of the next game after the second yellow card has been received. For the below examples game 1, 2, 3 are considered “Season Play” game 4 is considered “Tournament Play”.
- 12.1.1. After Season play normal requirements on FIFA rules will apply.
- 12.1.2. Example: Player receives YC game 1 and game 2, player is required to sit out game 3.

**12.1.3.** Example: Player receives YC game 1 and game 3, player is required to sit out game 4

**12.1.4.** Example: player receives YC game 3 and game 4, because game 4 is in the tournament play no further restrictions are required, player is eligible for game 5.

**12.2.** Red cards (RC) will be considered through the FIFA rules. If a player receives a RC in any game the player will be ejected, and the team will play with -1 player per RC (7 players is the minimum number of players to play/complete a game). The player who received the RC will not be allowed to play the following game regardless of the game.

### **13. Conduct**

**13.1. Coaches and Team Captains are responsible for the conduct of players and fans before, during, and after games.** Players or Fans involved in any altercation with officials, players or coaching (opposing or same), will not be allowed to attend the remainder of the tournament without prior approval from the tournament director and/or the Hurlburt Field FSS Sports Director if they are asked to leave.

**13.2.** Ejected players are required to depart from the confines of the field and will be suspended the following game. The ejected athlete has **2 minutes** to completely disappear; if not, then the team will forfeit the game (out-of-sight, out-of-mind).

**13.3.** Anyone striking or threatening an official or striking another player will be banned from further competition.

**13.4.** Coaches and Team Captains are the **ONLY** ones permitted to address the officials during the game.

**13.5.** All Family, Friends, Fans, and Non-Suited players (if applicable) will sit separate and distinct from the teams when the game is being played.

### **14. Protests**

**14.1.** There are **NO** protests regarding the outcome of the games; all decisions made by the officials are final and may not be protested or appealed.

**14.2.** Can **Only** be made for eligibility of players before the start of the game.

**14.2.1.** A protest of player eligibility must be made by an official team representative (Coaches or Managers listed in the official roster) 20 minutes prior to game starting with the site coordinator or tournament director.

**14.2.2.** Tournament director and/or site director will decide prior to the start of the game.

**14.2.3.** If a player is ruled ineligible, the player will be removed from the team. The tournament committee will determine the fate of the team for the remainder of the tournament.

## 15. Safety

- 15.1. Blood rule:** Players must be substituted until injuries are covered with an appropriate bandage or outer garment. If there are not visible signs of blood, the individual may re-enter the match with the official's permission. Clothing with blood stains must be replaced. Bring a few extra uniforms just in case.
- 15.2. Concussions:** Coaches, Officials, medical staff or tournament officials MUST remove players exhibiting signs and symptoms of a concussion during the practice or play of a game. Once a player has been removed the decision cannot be overturned. Once a player has been removed for signs of concussion, that player may not return to play game until evaluated by a physician or licensed health care provider AND receive written clearance, signed by the physician or health care provider. This written clearance MUST be submitted to, and approved by the tournament director or FSS Sports Director before the player may return to any game.
- 15.3. Injuries and Emergency Medical Treatment:** The Coach and Team Captain will assess the situation and notify the tournament committee of the nature of emergency. EMS will be requested when deemed necessary. Player re-entry, if sent to a hospital, will require medical approval, a signed letter from a doctor, nurse, or physician assistant.
- 15.4. All players must take hydration seriously throughout the duration of the tournament.**

## 16. Information

- 16.1.** For clarification of rules or by-laws, contact the tournament director, Richard Umstead at (561) 906-0011 (CELL) or by e-mail at [Richard.umstead@us.af.mil](mailto:Richard.umstead@us.af.mil), or Sports and Events NCOIC, Natalie Chambers at (850) 884- 9302 or by email at [natalie.chambers.1@us.af.mil](mailto:natalie.chambers.1@us.af.mil)
- 16.2. Tournament Committee**

- 16.2.1.** Bonnie Bentley, Director, Fitness and Sports  
**16.2.2.** Richard Umstead, Tournament Director  
**16.2.3.** Natalie Chambers, Sports and Events NCOIC  
**16.2.4.** TBD

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