



OFFICIAL RULES

Mahaska County Soccer Club

Mahaska Cup 2026

Oskaloosa, Iowa

June 6 & &, 2026

1. Laws of the Game

- A. All games will be played in accordance with the laws of the game as written by FIFA and The Iowa Soccer Association (ISA) except as noted below.

2. Team Participation

- A. All participating teams must be currently registered and in good standing with the ISA.

3. Entry Fees – All Checks should be made out to Mahaska County Soccer Club

8U (4 v 4) \$120
10U (7 v 7) \$170
12U (9 v 9) \$195
13/14/15U (11 v 11 or 7v7) \$230

4. Player Eligibility

- A. A player may play for only one team in the Mahaska Cup. Players must be on the team's submitted Tournament roster to participate. No roster changes will be made during the Tournament. Any violation of this rule will result in forfeit of all Tournament games.
- B. A limit of three (3) guest players will be allowed for teams that may not have enough rostered players and otherwise could not enter the Tournament. Teams utilizing guest players will submit the Guest Player Form at the same time as the Team rosters. No guest players will be accepted the day of the Tournament. A guest player is defined as an ISA registered recreational player from a team that is not participating in the Invitational. The use of guest players is not intended so that coaches can exclude available rostered players in favor of the guest players.

5. Team Composition

- A. Goalkeepers will be allowed for all 10U and older games. Offside will be called in all 10U and older games. Team rosters shall be limited as follows:

Age bracket	Maximum number of rostered players	Game Format	Minimum number of rostered players needed to field a team
8U	6	4 v 4	4
10U	12	7 v 7	6
12U	16	9 v 9	8
15U	18	11 v 11 or 7v7	7

6. Registration

- A. No registration is required for the Mahaska Cup 2026.

7. Equipment

- A. All player equipment shall be in accordance with the laws of the game as amended for youth.
- B. All player equipment is subject to referee approval.
- C. The center referee shall have final authority on any equipment issues.
- D. Teams should be prepared to provide an additional uniform or penny of a contrasting color as required by the center referee. Secondary uniforms may be numberless and should only be worn if there is a color conflict.
- E. Uniform jerseys must be tucked in, and shin guards must be covered with socks.

8. Match Information

- A. Teams will report to their designated field at least 15 minutes prior to start of each match.
- B. No jewelry of any kind will be permitted.
- C. Players with a hand or arm cast will cover the cast with suitable safe material. The center referee must inspect and approve this covering before each game. Bubble wrap is a suggested suitable material.
- D. A match will be considered forfeit if a team
 - 1. is more than 5 minutes late for a scheduled match.
 - 2. refused to field a team when the referee indicated that the match is to begin.
 - 3. does not have enough players present to field a team when the referee indicates that the match is to begin.
 - 4. if a team quits a match before its conclusion.
- E. If the center referee determines that there is a conflict with the teams' uniform colors the home team, as determined by the Invitational bracket, will change jerseys.

9. Length of Match and Ball Size

- A. Match length, ball size and halftime interval will be as follows:

Age bracket	Match length	Ball size	Halftime interval
8U	4 x 8 min quarters	3	5 minutes
10U	2 halves of 20 minutes	4	5 minutes
12U	2 halves of 25 minutes	4	5 minutes
15U	2 halves of 25 minutes	5	10 minutes

- B. All matches will start and end on time. No overtime or additional time will be allowed.
- C. In case of inclement weather or darkness, the Tournament Director shall decide the official outcome of each affected match.

10. Invitational Scoring

- A. Division standings for age groups 12U and up will be decided by the following point system. Teams with the most points in each division will advance to play in the championship rounds.
- B. If a wild card is necessary, the wild card team will be the next team with the most points regardless of the group.

Win = 3 points; Tie = 1 point; Loss = 0 points; Red card = -2 points

11. Tie Breaker Criteria

- A. In the event of a tie in the Invitational scoring the following procedure will be used to determine the winner.
 1. Team without a suspended player
 2. Head-to-Head (not used if more than two teams are involved)
 3. Goal Spread, total goals scored minus goals allowed
 4. Fewest Goals allowed
 5. Most goals scored
 6. Coin toss by the Tournament Director

12. Final Match

- A. In the event of a tie of a division semi-final or final match a shoot-out will be used to determine the winner.
- B. The shoot out procedure is as follows:
 1. Each team will select five players to kick
 2. Only players on the field at the end of the game may be selected
 3. Teams will alternate kicks (first to kick is determined by referee coin toss)
 4. If score remains tied after 5 kicks, the team will alternate kicks using five new players until a winner is determined.
 5. Goalkeepers may be changed after each shot from available players on the field.

13. Substitutions

- A. Substitutions shall be unlimited and may be made with the consent of the referee at the following times:
 1. Prior to a throw in your favor or in conjunction with substitution by other team.
 2. Prior to a goal kick by either team.
 3. After a goal by either team.
 4. At the halftime interval.
 5. For an injured player. The opposing team may also substitute at this time.
- B. Any player issued a caution (yellow card) must be substituted during the stoppage in play. The opposing team may also substitute at this time. The cautioned player may re-enter field at the next substitution opportunity.

14. Ejection

- A. Two cautions (yellow cards) in the same match shall be considered a sending off offense (red card) and will result in the suspension of that player from the match being played.
- B. Any player that is sent off will be suspended for the remainder of the match, and the next match.
- C. For safety reasons any suspended player will remain seated quietly in their team's technical area until the conclusion of the match.
- D. A suspended player and their coach must report to the invitational registration tent immediately after the game in which the suspension was given to determine the player's status for subsequent games.
- E. Any coach that is sent off will immediately make arrangements to have a substitute coach by either using an assistant coach or a parent. They will then immediately proceed to the tournament registration tent and wait there until the center referee arrives to determine the coach's status for subsequent games.

15. Teams

- A. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players at all times.
- B. The referee has the authority to verbally warn, caution or send off any players or coaches.
- C. Every team is requested to ensure that the field and surroundings are clean and litter free.
- D. Alcohol or illicit drugs in any form will not be allowed on any playing field or areas within the complex. Possession will result in immediate removal from the soccer complex.
- E. Pets will not be permitted on the complex at any time.
- F. Smoking will not be permitted on the complex at any time.

16. Spectators

- A. Spectators shall be seated on the opposite side of the field from the team's technical areas and shall not stand or sit behind the goal.
- B. Abusive language and actions towards the officials or team members of either side will not be tolerated.
- C. The referee has the authority to verbally warn, caution or eject any disruptive spectators.
- D. All spectators are requested to ensure that the field and surroundings are clean and litter free.
- E. Alcohol or illicit drugs in any form will not be allowed on any playing field or areas within the complex. Possession will result in immediate removal from the soccer complex.
- F. Pets will not be permitted on the complex at any time.
- G. Smoking will not be permitted on the complex at any time.

17. Cancellations

- A. If the Mahaska Cup is cancelled due to weather or other uncontrollable situation before the Tournament starts a refund of the entry fee minus 20%, for administrative costs, will be sent to each registered team.
- B. If any matches are cancelled or shortened due to inclement weather, darkness or other uncontrollable situation after the tournament starts there will be no refunds of Mahaska Cup entry fees. Every possible effort will be made to ensure all games are played. Teams will be expected to play regardless of conditions based on the decision of the Tournament Committee.
- C. The Tournament Committee shall have the authority to:
 1. The end games after completion of the first half and record scores at that time.
 2. Reschedule or relocate games.
 3. Shorten match time up to 50%.
 4. Cancel any games in the preliminary round that have no bearing on the Invitational outcome.
 5. Cancel all or part of the Invitational without penalty.

18. Protests

- A. The Tournament Committee will not authorize or accept any protest. All decisions of the match referees are binding on all parties and games will stand as played.

19. General

- A. Each player and Coach are participating at her/his own risk.
- B. Referees will report scores to the Tournament Information Tent following each game.
- C. Official standings will be posted at the Tournament Director's Table. It is each coach's responsibility to check these standings to determine accuracy of results and scheduling of final rounds.

20. Tournament Committee

- A. The Tournament Committee consists of the Tournament Director (Board President) and Director of Referees. All decisions of the Tournament Committee relating to the Tournament are final and binding on all parties.