Celebrate the Tatas Tournament of Champions
Rules and Regulations

TOURNAMENT CHECK-IN

There will be a mandatory team check-in process. Teams can either complete team check-in at the host hotel on Friday evening, or they can check in an hour before their kickoff on Saturday morning. Team captains MUST communicate check-in plans to the tournament committee by Thursday, October 1st at 6PM. A team captain who fails to confirm a check-in appointment may be dropped from the tournament schedule. More information about check-in will be communicated directly to registered teams. The captain or a team representative must be at the meeting to verify and pick up the team rosters. The team representative will also provide 2 mobile phone numbers where the team can be reached throughout the tournament.

GENERAL

All matches will be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA, with the following exceptions.

PLAYER AND TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Players in the Golden Globes and Mammo-Grammys (Open 1st and 2nd Divisions) must be 18 years of age by the first day of the tournament, unless the following criteria are met:

- Exception: Players 16 and 17 years of age by the start of the tournament may roster to a team if the entire team and administrators can upload their Safe Sport Certification prior to roster deadline. Visit www.ncasasoccer.org for SafeSport Requirements. For assistance, email ncasa@ncsoccer.org

Players participating in the Over 35 Division must reach the age of 35 during the calendar year of the event. Each team in the Over 35 Division may have up to two underage players who turn 30 during the calendar year of the event.

Teams and players must be currently registered with USASA and in good standing with their state association. Each player must be on the official team roster. Players who are not currently registered with USASA will need to purchase a $15 “tournament only” pass. You will be prompted to do this step during the rostering process.

Please click to visit the registration/rostering tab on the website for more information and links.

Players must have a valid ID available throughout the tournament. The Celebrate the Tatas Tournament Committee and/or the officials can ask for a valid ID to verify identity and proof of age at any time during the tournament.

A player may roster in two separate divisions. No scheduling accommodations will be made.

The Celebrate the Tatas Tournament Committee may forfeit the matches for teams which do not follow the eligibility requirements for teams or players, and that team will lose its entry fee.

After the team has checked in, no changes to team rosters will be allowed without the approval of the Tournament Committee.

FORMAT

- Women, ages 18+ (exception: 16 and 17 year old players may roster if the above eligibility conditions are met)
- 8 v 8
- No offsides
- No 3-line rule
- No slide-tackling
- Penalty kicks will be taken 10 yards from the goal line
- 30-minute halves
- Each roster must have a minimum of 11 players

Divisions:

- Golden Globes (Open 1st Division): Ideal for teams with highly skilled, competitive players. Great for teams that play together regularly.
- Mammo-Grammys (Open 2nd Division): Ideal for experienced players who want a more relaxed tournament vibe. Great for players that want to grab some soccer friends and have some fun for charity!
- Players participating in the Over 35 Division must reach the age of 35 during the calendar year of the event. Each team in the Over 35 Division may have up to two underage players who turn 30 during the calendar year of the event.

SLIDE TACKLING

Slide tackling is not allowed. Slide tackling is prohibited in all matches. Players are permitted to slide to play a ball provided they are NOT in proximity to any other player. Slide tackles are considered direct free kick fouls and may result in penalty kicks. If, in the referee's opinion, the slide tackle is reckless and could injure a player, a Caution (Yellow Card) MUST be issued. If in the referee's opinion a slide tackle is violent with intent to injure a player deliberately, the player will be ejected.

DURATION OF PLAY

Two equal halves of 30 minutes will be played. There will be a 5-10 minute halftime interval. Matches can be shortened at the discretion of the referee in the event of inclement weather.

REFEREES

8 v 8 games require one USSF certified referee to officiate each match.

UNIFORMS / PLAYER EQUIPMENT

Teams must have an alternate jersey in case of a uniform color conflict. If there is a conflict, the home team will change jerseys. Jerseys need to be numbered. All players must wear completely covered, legal shin guards and have cleats that meet FIFA standards. Jewelry is not permitted to be worn on the field of play during the match. The goalkeeper's jersey must be a different color than either team's jerseys.

FIELD CHECK-IN

Teams must be on time, at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start. A minimum of 5 players will constitute a team, and the clock will start accordingly, once both teams have been checked in by the referee and they have the minimum number of required players. If a team does not have the minimum number of required players ten minutes past the scheduled start time, the team will forfeit the match. For more information on the tournament forfeit policy, see the "Forfeits'' section.

Captains need to be ready when the referee calls for captains to meet at the center circle, and when the referee is ready to check the team in with the certified jersey roster. Captains should have jersey numbers written on the roster for verification.

When the official is ready to check the team in, players should line up in an orderly fashion so the referee can check players against the roster, verify jersey numbers, and conduct an equipment check.

Coaches, players, and spectators must remain between the penalty areas. No one shall be behind the goal lines and goals.

Coaching is restricted to each team's own bench area.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Unlimited substitutions are allowed in each game. The same player may return to the field if they have been substituted. A team may substitute a player at the following times:

- During a throw-in: if the team in possession makes a substitution, the other team can substitute as well
- During a goal kick (either team)
- During a restart after a goal (either team)
- Halftime (either team)
- In the event of an injury

A referee may refuse to recognize a substitution if she feels that it is only the result of gamesmanship. Substitutes must stay off the field until the player leaving the field has come all the way off.

DIVISION GROUPINGS

Division groupings shall be determined by the Tournament Committee based on the number of entries received, previous results, the geographical distribution of teams, the timelines of applications received, and league results, as the priorities.

POINT SYSTEM

- Win: 3 points
- Tie: 1 point
- Loss: 0 points
- Shutout: 1 point

TIE BREAKERS

Two-Way Tie:

At the conclusion of preliminary match play, teams will be ranked in their playing groups based on the Point System. In any situation in which two teams have the same number of points, the

tie breakers will be applied in the following sequence:

1. Head-to-Head Competition: If two teams are tied for the same ranking, the tiebreaker will be the result of the game previously played between these two; the winner will be ranked prior to the other.
2. Goal Differential: If two teams are still tied, the tiebreaker will be the team with the greatest goal differential. The team with the higher goal difference will be ranked prior to the others. Goal differential will be capped at three points per game, so the maximum goal differential a team can accumulate in one game is 3 points. For example, if a team wins 5-1, they will have 3 goal differential points for that match.

3. Least Goals Allowed: If two teams are still tied, the tiebreaker will be the least goals allowed.
4. Penalty Kicks: Finally, if two teams are still tied, the tiebreaker will be Kicks from the Mark. A coin flip or draw of lots may be used in certain circumstances such as inclement weather.

Three-Way Tie:

In the event that there is a three-way tie in a group or for a wildcard position, tiebreakers will be applied in the following sequence:

(No head-to-head)

1. Goal Differential
2. Least Goals Allowed
3. Kicks from the Mark: If there needs to be a three-way Kicks from the Mark, the following process will be followed:
    a. All three team names will go into a hat.
    b. First team drawn will receive the “bye” and be considered the home team. c. The next team drawn will kick in the first round of Kicks from the Mark and be considered the home team.
    d. The remaining team will be considered the visitor and will call the coin toss.
    e. Second and third teams will compete in Kicks from the Mark.
    f. The winner will then compete with the first team drawn in Kicks from the Mark.

Once the three-way tie is reduced to two teams, teams continue with the Three-Way Tie Breaker sequence.

ELIMINATION MATCHES

In the elimination matches, if two teams are still tied after regulation time, two 5-minute overtimes will be played with the “Golden Goal” rule. If the game is still tied after the 10-minute overtime, the FIFA Kicks at the Mark procedure will be used to determine the winner.

If a team has advanced but cannot play in the finals, the next ranked team will be eligible to play.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to adjust the competition format, depending on the number of teams in each division, complex issues, and the weather.

FORFEITS

Forfeit scores are 3-0 in favor of the team which doesn't forfeit. A team that forfeits a match may not be eligible for advancement. A minimum of 5 players at the time of kickoff will constitute a team. A forfeit shall be awarded if a team is not present and prepared to play within 10 minutes of the scheduled time of kick-off. A match should not start or continue if a team drops below 5 players. A forfeit shall be awarded if a team has less than 5 players on the field.

A forfeit shall be awarded if a team starts the game and quits at any time during the game, with a score of 3-0 awarded in favor of the other team.

A forfeit may be awarded if a match is terminated due to fighting. If the Referee and Tournament Committee determine one team to be at fault, in addition to forfeiting the match and receiving the forfeit score of (0-3), the team will have one (1) point deducted from their total points achieved.

If both teams are found to be at fault, it may be considered a double-forfeit, pending a review by the Tournament Committee, and both teams may receive a forfeit score of 0-3 and have one (1) point deducted from their total points achieved.

At the discretion of the Tournament Committee, any team proven to be in violation of the tournament policies may be subjected to sanctions including, but not limited to, forfeiture of all games in the tournament with the result being a 3-0 loss. Player eligibility, breach of tournament rules, failure to appear as scheduled, as well as team, player, or coach misconduct are all subject to the jurisdiction and authority of the Tournament Committee. Forfeits may be applied retroactively or for singular matches. Forfeits are recorded as a 3-0 loss for the violating team. Entry fees will not be refunded.

EJECTIONS

Any player sent off from a match will not be replaced. Any player, coach, or spectator who is ejected from the match must leave the field. A player who receives a red card will receive a minimum of one game suspension, and thus will not be eligible to play in the following match of the tournament. All red cards issued for Violent Conduct will be reviewed by the Tournament Committee, and the suspension may be increased accordingly. A player who is unable to fulfill the suspension penalties for Violent Conduct during the tournament may be suspended for a game in the next Celebrate the Tatas Tournament or during their league play. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to administer additional penalties as warranted during the tournament.

Any person that is guilty of referee abuse or assault will be suspended from all games for the rest of the tournament and shall be referred immediately to NCASA.

NCASA shall have the responsibility for imposing, should circumstances warrant, additional

sanctions with regard to any matters arising from the tournament.

The issuance of all yellow and red cards, and other matters involving the conduct of a team, its players, coaches, or supporters will be recorded and reported to NCASA, and may additionally be reported to the team's home league.

FANS AND SPECTATORS

Each coach and player is responsible for the conduct of the fans and spectators of their team. The officials and the Tournament Committee have the authority to suspend a game as a result of the actions of spectators.

MATCH ABANDONMENT

If a match is abandoned after 30 minutes of play "through no fault of either team," the score will stand and the match will be counted. At the Tournament Committee's discretion, if the match is abandoned "through no fault of either team" under 30 minutes, the match may need to be replayed in its entirety or resumed at the point of stoppage, subject to schedule availability. Teams that abandon a match at any point will be considered having forfeited the match and may be subject to further penalties as listed under the Forfeit Policy.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Regardless of weather conditions, teams must appear on the field, ready to play, as scheduled. Failure to appear will result in forfeiture of the match. Only the Tournament Committee, in conjunction with the match officials, may cancel or postpone a match. In case of severe weather before or during play, the Tournament Committee may reduce the length of the match, cancel a match, change the location of play, or adjust the competition format. Should a match be terminated after 25 minutes due to weather, the match will be considered official and the score will stand. Referees should not begin or continue a match when lightning is seen in the area.

The decision about cancellation will be made by the Tournament Committee as soon as the Committee is able to make a decision about safety and the condition of the fields.

TEAM OFFICIALS

Coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained in the Tournament Rules, including verbal cautions, expulsions, and suspensions.

PROTESTS AND APPEALS

The Tournament will be overseen by a Tournament Committee. The Celebrate the Tatas Tournament Committee reserves the right to use its discretion for resolving conflict or other matters not specifically provided for under these Tournament Rules. All Tournament Committee decisions are final.

FEES

Entry fees must be paid in full by application deadline. Withdrawal from the tournament after the application cutoff date may result in forfeiture of the team's entry fee.

DISCLAIMER

The Celebrate the Tatas Tournament will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by any person, team, league, or association. The Celebrate the Tatas Tournament, Committee, Directors, or any sponsors of the tournament activities shall not be held responsible for expenses incurred by any team or club if the tournament is cancelled in whole or in part. If the tournament is cancelled in whole, in advance, the teams will be reimbursed their tournament fee. If the tournament is cancelled in part, after games have begun, there will not be a reimbursement of fees. Withdrawal from the tournament after registration closes may result in forfeiture of the team's tournament fee.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to adjust the competition format depending on the number of team entries in each division. The tournament may even close a division due to lack of team registration. In such a case, teams can receive full refunds of their registration fees, or they can opt to join another division at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

By participating in the Celebrate the Tatas Tournament, the team is acknowledging that team officials have read and understood the rules and that the team will abide by all rules of the tournament.

Please remember that Celebrate the Tatas is dedicated to the promotion of the good of the game and good sportsmanship. The Tournament Committee may suspend without recourse to appeal any players, teams, and/or coaches who demonstrate poor sportsmanship.