

2025 Claw 4 the Cup Official Rules

Table of Contents

1. Game Rules
 2. Scoring & Standings
 3. Championship Format
 4. Sportsmanship & Conduct
 5. Miscellaneous
-

1. Game Rules

- 4 vs 4 format (no goalies)
 - Game Length
 - Games are 34 minutes total. (2) 16 minute halves with a 2-minute halftime. Games will be started/stopped by a central horn.
 - Goaltending is Prohibited
 - No goaltending by players within a 3-yard radius of the goal which is at the discretion of the referee (i.e., standing in or blocking goal area without actively defending a player or making a play on the ball). A goaltending penalty will result in a free uncontested shot from midfield.
 - Slide Tackling & Headers are not permitted.
 - Substitutions
 - Unlimited running substitutions
 - Allowed at any time during the course of play (on the fly)
 - Substitutes must enter and exit near midfield and not interfere with active play
 - Ball Out of Play Play Restarts
 - Kick-offs will only take place at the start of each half, play will be restarted after goals by a “kick-in” at the endline.
 - Kick-ins used to restart play when ball goes out of bounds
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2. Scoring & Standings

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

Tiebreakers (for bracket seeding):

1. Head-to-head result
 2. Goals against
 3. Goal differential (max ± 5 per game)
 4. Goals scored
 5. Coin toss
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3. Championship Format

- Top teams from each bracket will advance to semifinals and/or finals depending on bracket size
 - In case of a tie in knockout rounds, games go directly to a 1v1 sudden-death from midfield. Just like when a game goes to penalty kicks, each team will send out a new player for each round. A 1v1 matchup from midfield will ensue with each player getting an offensive opportunity from midfield against the defensive player. These rounds will be repeated until a winner is determined. A team may not send out the same player until all players have gone.
 - The defensive player is positioned 5-yards away and the play will be started on the referee's whistle.
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4. Sportsmanship & Conduct

- Referee decisions are final
 - Coaches, players, and spectators are expected to maintain respectful behavior at all times. Abusive behavior may result in ejection from the tournament
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5. Miscellaneous

- Games will be played rain or shine, except in the case of severe weather
 - Teams must check in 30 minutes prior to their first game
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Contact Information

For questions, please contact the tournament director at:

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