

2009 Blaine North American Challenge

Tournament Dates: June 26-28, 2009

Invite To Teams

The BLAINE NORTH AMERICAN CHALLENGE (NAC) accepts club teams, i.e. Premier, Classic League, Maroon and Gold, Intra-Club Tournament Teams, Inter-Club Tournament Teams, Recreational Plus, and Select Teams who are registered and in good standing with their FIFA affiliated association, US Youth Soccer Association, Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA), and/or USSF affiliates such as US Club Soccer or AYSO.

All teams, except those affiliated with Minnesota Youth Soccer Association, are required to have a copy of the permission to Travel Form and a copy of their official state/provincial roster form, approved and signed by USSF or a duly authorized state, provincial or national association representative. Written proof of travel notification needs to be submitted 15 days in advance of the NAC. Teams not affiliated with US Youth Soccer are required to provide written proof of insurance. National teams are not eligible to participate.

Teams are accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis and notified of their acceptance on or before May 26th, 2009. After May 26th, teams will be placed on a waiting list and duly notified of their acceptance.

NORTH AMERICAN CHALLENGE Tournament Classifications (Flights)

A - Flight

The "A" Flight is open to all invited teams. However, it is recommended for those teams that participate in the higher levels of play within their state, or teams seeking competition against those higher level teams. **NOTE:** If you are playing at the "top level" offered by your state association (i.e. Premier, Division 1, etc.) your team or players may only participate in the "A" Flight of the tournament and at one age level higher for group balance. See Below: Age groups and competition flights offered.

B - Flight

The "B" Flight accepts only those teams, which participate in a second division or lower level of play within their state. If your team is a top second division team and wants to compete against teams at a higher level, you may want to consider entering the "A" Flight component of the tournament.

U9 &U10 Jamboree

Open to all teams which participate in the U9 and U10 age category.

Age groups and competition flights offered:

Age Group	A Flight	B Flight
U9 Boys & Girls - Born on or after 8/01/99	Maroon	Gold/Rec. +
U10 Boys & Girls - Born on or after 8/01/98	Maroon	Gold/Rec. +
U11 Boys & Girls - Born on or after 8/01/97	Classic 2	Classic 3/Rec. +
U12 Boys & Girls - Born on or after 8/01/96	Classic 1/Classic 2	Classic 2/Classic 3/Rec. +
U13 Boys & Girls - Born on or after 8/01/95	Classic 1/Classic 2	Classic 2/Classic 3/Rec. +
U14 Boys & Girls - Born on or after 8/01/94	Classic 1/Classic 2	Classic 2/Classic 3/Rec. +
U15 Boys & Girls - Born on or after 8/01/93	Premier14s/Classic 1/Classic 2	Classic 2/Classic 3/Rec. +
U16 Boys & Girls - Born on or after 8/01/92	Premier15s/Classic 1/Classic 2	Classic 2/Classic 3/Rec. +
U17 Boys & Girls - Born on or after 8/01/91	Premier16s/Classic 1/Classic 2	Classic 2/Classic 3/Rec. +
U18 Boys & Girls - Born on or after 8/01/90	Premier17s/Classic 1/Classic 2	Classic 2/Classic 3/Rec. +
U19 Boys & Girls - Born on or after 8/01/89	Premier18/19/Classic 1/Classic 2	Classic 2/Classic 3/Rec. +

The tournament reserves the right to combine age groups and/or competitive levels if a specific group does not fill. Lower age/level teams will be notified if groups are combined and will be given the opportunity to play up.

If you have any question, please contact: **Todd Zoschke**
PO Box 49043
Blaine, MN USA
763-792-7369

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Tournament Format and Fees

Under 9 & 10 Age Division

Team Application Fee*.....\$250 due with tournament application.

U9 & U10 teams play 6v6.

Maximum roster: 12 players. Maximum/Minimum number of players per team on the field: (Max: 6: Min: 4).

Total of three (3) games will be scheduled with 2x25 minute halves on Saturday and Sunday only.

No overtime or play-offs. No scores will be kept or standings posted. No champion will be declared.

Each participant receives an award.

U9 & U10 field size: 35-45 yards x 45 – 55 yards. Goal size will be 6 1/2 feet high by 12 feet wide.

Each game will be assigned one official. Parents are not allowed to be official line judges.

No offside is played at U9 and U10.

The tournament will make every effort to separate age groups and competitive levels when possible. MYSA rules require that U10 teams may not participate in U11 or higher age divisions, however U10 players may guest play on older teams.

Under 11 and Under 12 Division

Team Application Fee*.....\$300 due with tournament application

U11 & U12 teams play 8v8.

Maximum roster size: 14 players.

Minimum of three (3) games will be scheduled with 2x30 minute halves.

Field size will be 45-50 yards wide by 80-90 yards long. Goal size will be 7 feet high by 21 feet wide.

Each game will be assigned three officials.

Under 13 – Under 19 Divisions

Team Application Fee*.....\$350 due with tournament application

U13-U19 teams play 11v11 on the field.

U13 – U15 Age Groups - Maximum tournament and game roster size: 18 players.

U16 – U19 Age Groups Maximum tournament roster size: 22 players. Per game roster size: 18 players.

Minimum of three (3) games will be scheduled with 2x30 minute halves.

Fields and Goals size meet FIFA regulations.

Each game will be assigned three officials.

* Teams dropping from the tournament will not be refunded the team application fee.

Game Schedule Information

Preliminary game times will be available online no later than Monday, June 22nd, at www.blainesoccer.org/html.

NOTE: These schedules are preliminary and may change at any time due to scheduling needs; please check often.

MYSA teams will need to reschedule any league games that have a potential conflict with the event.

Final Team Check-in

All teams must check-in 60 minutes prior to their first game or earlier at Tournament Headquarters, 1984 – 105th Ave. NE, Blaine, MN. Either a coach or the team manager must check in the team. Players do not need to attend Final Check-in.

Final Team Check-in times:

Date: Friday, June 26, 2009

or

Date: Saturday, June 27, 2009

Time: 4:00PM – 8:00PM

Time: 07:15-13:00

At Final Check-in each team:

- Must bring laminated USYS or AYSO players passes. Please arrange player passes in alphabetical order to match roster.
- Bring your Official Tournament Roster. Player shirt number must match that of the final roster.
- Bring any changes to forms which have previously been submitted.
- All teams will need a Player Liability Waiver Form and medical authorization for each player.
- All teams not affiliated with Minnesota Youth Soccer Association will need a copy of their permission to participate/travel form.

Your Official Tournament Roster will be frozen at final team check in and no changes will be made for the remainder of the tournament.

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Tournament Rules & Procedures

FIFA Laws of the Game – BLAINE’S NORTH AMERICAN CHALLENGE (NAC) will be played under the FIFA Laws of the game that are in effect January 1, 2009, and as modified and approved by US Youth Soccer/Minnesota Youth Soccer Association as follows:

I. Groupings

Teams will be divided into groupings of 3, 4 or 5 teams for initial round robin play. The minimum number of teams in a playing age group is 4 and the maximum shall be 32.

Each team will be assigned three (3) games minimum in the initial round robin play. Exception: teams in a group of 5 will be assigned four (4) games. The maximum number of games per team per day may be 3 and the minimum may be 0 (zero) dependant upon travel and/or time constraints.

Each team will play games against other teams within its designated group. Groups that have 3 teams will play two games within their own group and one game against a team from another group. All games will count in the overall group standings for determining play-off placements.

II. Game Procedures

Length of Game - All games for U11-U19s will be played in 30 minute halves, including the championship match. All games for the U9 and U10 divisions will be played with 25 minute halves.

Home Team Designation - The first team listed on the schedule pairing is designated the home team and will change to an alternate jersey, if in the opinion of the referee, there is a color conflict. Team jerseys must all match in color, style and each player must have a unique number matching the Official Tournament Roster.

Team/Spectators - Both teams will be on the same side of the field with spectators on the opposite.

Pre-game Warm-ups - There may not be time for a pre-game warm-up on the field as all games should start on time. Please plan your warm-up in an area close to your game field, without hindering the current matches.

Game Ball/Ball Size - The tournament may provide a game ball to be used in all matches, however if extra balls are needed, they are to be provided by the home team first and must be stamped “FIFA Inspected”. U9-U12 Age Divisions will use a size 4 ball. U13-U19 Age Divisions will use a size 5 ball.

Referee System - A diagonal system of control will be used. The NAC will assign only current year certified USSF officials for all matches, unless that person is a visiting foreign referee who has been properly accredited by their national association may also be assigned (US Soccer Bylaw 532). All teams should be prepared to provide a “club linesperson”, if necessary, to be used to determine balls out of play **only**.

Player Passes – Only approved player passes which are signed and laminated, or AYSO/USSF passes may be used. At the beginning of each game, player passes will be verified by the game officials and returned to the coach after the game. It is the coach’s responsibility to secure his/her player passes from officials following the game.
There is a no pass - no play policy.

Game Card - All game scores will be kept on an official NAC Game Card, with the exception in the U9 and U10 Divisions. At the end of each game both coaches must initial the game card in order to verify the scores. Please note that scores which are marked incorrectly on the game card will affect your standings and play-off seeding.

No Overtime During Group Competition - Games will end in a tie. During the play-offs, please see section V. **Play-off Procedure.**

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III. Substitution Procedures

Substitutions are unlimited and may be made in compliance with the Laws of the game, which is at any stoppage as the Referee deems appropriate.

IV. Group Ranking (Except U9/U10s)

Point System: Teams will be awarded three (3) points for each win, one (1) point for each tie, and zero (0) points for each loss.

Goals: The maximum recorded “goal differential” in any one game shall be 7.

Example: If Team XYZ wins 12 to 2, the score will be recorded as 9 to 2. A forfeit score will be recorded as a 7-0 victory.

At the end of the preliminary rounds, the following criteria will be used to determine placement for the play-off brackets in the following order of importance:

- a. Most points.
- b. Head to head result (this criterion will not be considered if three or more teams are tied).
- c. Goal differential—Subtract total goals allowed from total goals scored.
(NOTE: The maximum recorded “goal differential” in any one game shall be seven).
- d. Least number of goals allowed.
- e. Coin toss.

- If a tie between more than two teams exists, once a tie is broken by the above procedure, we will start at the top of the procedure if ties among remaining teams must still be decided.

Forfeits: If one team fails to appear at the scheduled starting time of a game, an automatic loss may be assigned to that team. The forfeiting team will receive zero (0) points for the match and the score will be recorded as a 0-7 loss.

The minimum number of players to start a match:

U9/U10 – 4 players, one of whom must be a goalkeeper.

U11/U12 – 5 players, one of whom must be a goalkeeper.

U13-U19 – 7 players, one of whom must be a goalkeeper.

V. Play-off Procedure (Except U9/U10s)

The top team in each grouping of 3, 4 or 5 teams will advance to the play-offs and/or championship match. Please check the schedule and tournament standings periodically to verify that the correct result have been posted. Teams are pre-seeded into play-off brackets based on their standings during group play. Teams receiving a bye in playoff rounds have been randomly selected.

Overtime

In play-off competition, two 5-minute overtime periods will be played. If the game is still tied at the end of the second overtime period, the FIFA tie-breaking procedure of kicks from the penalty mark will be used to determine who advances. Only those players on the field at the end of the overtime period may participate in taking the kicks from the penalty mark.

VI. Awards and Medals

Awards for both the 1st and 2nd place teams (U11-U19) will be presented at a ceremony area next to the D1/D2 Fields following the championship game. Individual medals are also awarded to both the 1st place and 2nd place team members. All U9 & U10 players will receive participation awards at their final game.

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VII. Red Cards

Red cards will be administered as per FIFA laws of the game.

Any participant who is sent off for a second caution will not be allowed to participate for the remainder of that game and the next game. The referee will display both the yellow and red cards to indicate the dismissal for the second cautioned offense.

Any participant sent off for any other reason will not be allowed to participate for the remainder of that game and the next game at a minimum. Violence may result in more than a one game suspension by tournament director's decision.

If a player receives a red card, the player pass will be obtained by the referee and forwarded to tournament headquarters. After the suspension is served, the coach may pick up the pass in headquarters.

At the end of the tournament, un-served red cards of Minnesota players will be retained by the tournament and forwarded to MYSA. Un-served red cards from non-Minnesota teams will be returned to the coach at their request in Tournament Headquarters and a report of the red card will be sent to the proper association within 48 hours of the end of the tournament. The home State Association or Affiliate and the home club or league shall, except in the case of referee assault or abuse, have the responsibility for imposing, should circumstances warrant, additional penalties within their respective jurisdictions with regard to any matters arising from the tournament.

All unclaimed red cards/passes will be forwarded to MYSA at the end of the tournament.

VIII. Players and Reserves

Each team may roster up to:

U9 & U10 maximum tournament and game roster size - 12 players

U11-U12 maximum tournament and game roster size - 14 players

U13-U15 maximum tournament and game roster size - 18 players

U16-U19 maximum tournament roster - 22 players; and per game roster size - 18 players.*

* Players not playing should not be in uniform. Individual game roster and your official tournament roster will be turned in to the referee prior to the start of the game.

- a) All players must meet the age and playing requirements and be listed on the Official Tournament Roster to be eligible.
- b) A player may not be on more than one team's roster.
- c) A male player may not play on a female team, but a female player may play on a male team.

Guest Players: Each roster may have up to six guest players for the tournament. Guest players may be any player that is:

- a) Age eligible,
- b) Playing at the same level or a higher level of competition offered by the NAC.
(**Note:** Premier level players may only play in the "A" Flight and at one age group up),
- c) A player not on your team's roster in regular league play. This includes play-up players.
- d) A jersey must be provided to the guest player by the host team.

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IX. Protests

No protests will be heard on any judgment calls by the referee. All decisions by the referee will be final. Protests on player eligibility must be stated prior to the start of the game. Protests on other technical matters must be made in writing and submitted to tournament headquarters within one hour to the end of the match. Express concerns regarding violations prior to the start of the game or at the time the incident occurs if the game has started. Protest will be dealt with by members of the Tournament Committee.

If you have a problem regarding the rules or procedures at your game, please take the following steps:

- a. Notify the referee immediately so that a correction can be made.
- b. If the situation is not resolved, notify the field manager. The field manager will contact the tournament headquarters and a tournament official will respond.

All Tournament Committee decisions on protests and disputes are final and may not be appealed.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

NORTH AMERICAN CHALLENGE does not tolerate unsportsmanlike behavior on or off the field. We ask that everyone please:

- * Know and understand the laws of the game. Educate the players on the technical, tactical and physical demands of the game.
- * Keep your players, coaches and fans under control. The tournament adheres to a zero tolerance for fighting or verbal harassment. Any persons conducting themselves in this manner will be asked to leave the premise.
- * Be a positive role model. Set the standard for sportsmanship with the opponents, referees, and spectators.
- * Encourage moral and social responsibility.
- * Encourage players to have fun and to keep a positive attitude about winning and losing.
- * Show pride and support for your club, state and country, but be respectful of other nation's customs and traditions.
- * Any coach, player, participant or spectator who is ejected from a game or participates in a manner of misconduct warranting removal, will be asked to leave the field premises and local authorities may be contacted. Misconduct may result in a game forfeit, tournament disqualification or other action if deemed necessary.

Emergency Medical Information

*Team coaches are responsible for having emergency medical/insurance information for all players in their possession at all games.

Coach Responsibilities for Injuries

It must be understood that coaches are considered guardians for under age participants when the parents are unavailable and for all players regardless of age when impairment of mental status renders the player incapable of making an informed decision. As such, they have a responsibility to make decisions in the best interest of the health and safety of the player. A coach's decision to allow a participant to play contrary to the recommendation of the medical staff may leave the coach open to legal liability. If the coach is under the legal age, the team is required to have an official representative at the field of legal age, who will serve as the legal guardian.

Referee Procedures for Injuries - Referees are responsible for summoning the coach and First Aid Personnel onto the field in the event of an injury during play. The injured player will first be evaluated on the field by first aid staff. If further evaluation is warranted, the injured player will be moved to the sideline as soon as it is medically safe according to emergency medical protocol.

Field Managers

NORTH AMERICAN CHALLENGE uses a system of volunteer field managers to help keep the games on time, as a resource in case of a problem, verify that goals are anchored and as a first line of communication. There will be one field manager for every two to four fields. Each field manager will have a communications radio and ice for injuries. The field manager tents are for the use of tournament officials and referees only. This is not a gathering or meeting spot for teams or players. Ice for injuries is also available in all field manager tents.

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Tournament Games and Headquarters

Games for the North American Challenge will be played at the City of Blaine Soccer Complex/National Sports Center, located at 1984 – 105th Ave. NE, Blaine, MN.

Tournament Headquarters is located at the Blue Building adjacent to Fields D1/D2.

- Tournament information, posting updated schedules, game results and standings will be available at Headquarters.
- Lost and Found is located in tournament headquarters.

Game Schedule Information

Preliminary first game times will be available online Monday, June 22nd, at www.blainesoccer.org/.html.

NOTE: These schedules are preliminary and may change at any time due to scheduling needs; please check often.

MYSA teams need to reschedule any league games that have a potential conflict with the event.

Weather Provisions

- *The North American Challenge will follow MYSA Weather Policy guidelines.
- *Weather reports will be monitored very closely.
- * If weather or the condition of fields makes it impossible to carry out the tournament to its full extent, the tournament organizers will make the necessary decisions concerning the rearrangement or cancellation of games for any reason.
- * Fees are non-refundable if games or the tournament are cancelled for any reason.
- * The tournament committee has the right to shorten the length of games.
- * If half of the game has been played before termination for weather conditions or tournament committee decision, the game stands as a completed match. **NOTE:** A game may be suspended by the tournament committee without necessarily being terminated.
- * If there is a need to suspend any games due to severe weather coaches should proceed to the nearest safe location: buses, cars or building. If coach is near the field, they should stay in a safe location until they see their field manager return to their post with radio. Then proceed to field manager to receive instructions on resuming games. Any adjustments will be announced at that time or given to coach at field manager area.

Use of Alcohol and/or Tobacco

The NAC is a **tobacco free, alcohol and drug free event**, Minnesota State law prohibits the use of alcohol for people under 21 and tobacco for people under 18. Players in violation of the law will be expelled from the tournament.

Additional:

Any player who destroys or steals property will be expelled from the tournament.

For your own safety, please no climbing on nets or goals is allowed.

Shin guards are required for all players. Casts are not permitted unless deemed safe by the referee.

NORTH AMERICAN CHALLENGE is in good standing with the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA), a member of United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and United States Soccer Federation (USSF). ALL USSF affiliates are invited to attend.