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ELITE TOURNAMENTS TO OFFICIALLY UPDATE KEY TOURNAMENT RULES FOR 2022 FALL SEASON

Elite Tournaments has announced that there will be official rule adjustments ahead of their 2022 Fall Season. The biggest change within the rules will be rule 9.2.1.3 pertaining to the matter of tie breakers within bracket determination.

Goal Differential (the difference between goals for and goals against) with a maximum difference of five (5) goals per game. For example, an 8-1 final score calls for a +5 goal difference for the winning team, and a -5 goal difference for the losing team. For example, a 3-1 final score calls for a +2 goal difference for the winning team, and a -2 goal difference for the losing team.

Previously, the rule was designed to only include “positive” goal differential and exclusively gave teams credit for net positive goals, with no impact for teams that lost the match. Elite Tournaments will now changeover to adopt the traditional goal differential tie breaking system. This change comes along with the company’s transition to fully utilize GotSport’s new tournament registration software.

“Previously we have always felt that the positive goal differential ruling added another level of protection for teams within the tie-breaking system. While we understand it was complicated, we felt it helped eliminate high scoring games for the sake of manipulating the scoring system. With the transition to GotSport, it is clear our rules needed to be adjusted,” said Colin Sporer, Tournament Director. “The system’s algorithm is set up to best serve tournaments with standard goal deviation and this change will help ensure the right teams are getting auto-populated on the front end of our website as scores are being entered.”

As always, score keepers will continue to check each bracket by hand, using points, to ensure that there are no flukes or errors when brackets are populated. Elite Tournaments has also put a 10-goal maximum spread into their scoring rules, so that losing teams still have protection during a high scoring match.

The second most note-worthy change is an adjustment on ruling 12.2 directly related to on-field video.

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Decisions by referees regarding the outcome of the game are final and may not be appealed; any decisions by the tournament director or tournament committee deciding a protest or dispute are final and may not be appealed. Videos and/or game footage will not be accepted or viewed by the Tournament Committee concerning on-field decisions.

“While Elite Tournaments is thrilled at the advancements made in the production and availability of video technology at the youth level, it is integral that we set the tone to preserve the spirit of the game. We appreciate that many teams will have access to recording and live stream capabilities and Elite Tournaments believes these are valuable tools in player development. That being said, we intend to view any VAR footage as just that- a tool for player development. We will not be entertaining any video footage on fields to use as a means to overturn referee decisions.” Megan Ditchman, VP of Marketing and Partnerships

In addition to the new scoring change and videography policies, Elite has also made clarification adjustments on roster sizes, home and away uniforms, and cast coverings.

As always, please read your tournament’s individual rules before each event regarding tournament specifics and any additional updates that may have occurred. For any questions or concerns email Tournament Director, Colin Sporer at csporer@elitetournaments.com.

About Elite Tournaments

Founded in 2000 as a small family business, Elite Tournaments (www.elitetournaments.com) has organized more than 300 youth soccer events for different clubs, colleges, and international and professional organizations. The company oversees more than 40 events a year, across the United States. Elite Tournaments’ staff includes former high school and college coaches, referees and standout players whose own experiences inform the company’s professional approach to event management. Elite Tournaments prides itself on organization and communication with tournament stakeholders in order to create successful events and lasting relationships.