

RULES AND REGULATIONS FLCUP INTERNATIONAL 2026



TITLE I GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

These regulations establish the rules that will govern the organization, execution, and development of the 2026 season of FLCUP International 2026.

ARTICLE 2. NAME OF THE TOURNAMENT

The competition shall be called FLCUP International 2026. It will be organized by the American Association of Youth Development Soccer (AAFF) and is intended for soccer schools, academies, and youth development clubs. The tournament will take place during the 2026 edition.

ARTICLE 3. OBJECTIVES

FLCUP 2026 is conceived as a sports competition with a developmental focus, aimed at the comprehensive growth of each player. Its main objectives are:

- To strengthen the athletic development of participants.
- To promote essential values such as respect, discipline, and fair play.
- To instill principles of coexistence and responsibility.
- To encourage active and positive family participation as a fundamental part of supporting and developing young players.

In this way, FLCUP 2026 is projected as an experience that integrates sports, education, and community, contributing to the development of well-rounded individuals both on and off the field.



TITLE II

ORGANIZATION AND GENERAL CONDITIONS

ARTICLE 4. ORGANIZATION

The organization of the tournament shall be the responsibility of the General Director, the Operations Manager, the Logistics Manager, the Sports Director, and the Head of Federated Referees. These positions are responsible for the proper execution of the tournament in accordance with the guidelines established in these regulations.

ARTICLE 5. COMPETITION DATES

The scheduled dates for the competition are as follows:

1. Friday, April 17
2. Saturday, April 18
3. Sunday, April 19

In the event of force majeure, adverse weather conditions, or other circumstances preventing the matches from being held on the originally scheduled dates, the organization shall have the authority to suspend and reschedule those match days. The new dates will be officially determined and communicated by the organization in advance, ensuring the continuity and full completion of the competition.

Rescheduling due to the reasons mentioned above will not affect the validity of the results or the regulatory rights of the participating teams.

ARTICLE 6. AGE CATEGORIES

The authorized age categories for participation by each registered institution are as follows. All categories must comply with FIFA regulations, U.S. Soccer Federation rules, and the provisions established in these regulations.



CATEGORY	BOYS	GIRLS
U-08	Born on or after January 1, 2018	Born on or after January 1, 2017
U-09	Born on or after January 1, 2017	Born on or after January 1, 2016
U-10	Born on or after January 1, 2016	Born on or after January 1, 2015
U-11	Born on or after January 1, 2015	Born on or after January 1, 2014
U-12	Born on or after January 1, 2014	Born on or after January 1, 2013
U-13	Born on or after January 1, 2013	Born on or after January 1, 2012
U-14	Born on or after January 1, 2012	Born on or after January 1, 2011
U-15	Born on or after January 1, 2011	Born on or after January 1, 2010
U-17	Born on or after January 1, 2009	Born on or after January 1, 2008
GU-16	—	Born on or after January 1, 2010

It should be noted that participation in these categories is optional for each institution, and it is not mandatory to participate in all of them.

Female players are allowed to participate in all categories, considering up to one year above their corresponding category.

Example: In U-10 (players born in 2016), a player born in 2015 may participate, but not a player born in 2014 or earlier.



TITLE III

ACCREDITATION, ROSTERS, AND PARTICIPATION

ARTICLE 7. ACCREDITATION

The accreditation process will consist of two stages:

1. Stage prior to the start of the tournament

- Directors must upload all player rosters, separated by category, into the official mobile application designated for tournament registration and control.
- The following documentation must be uploaded for each player:
 - a) A recent front-facing photograph of the player.
 - b) A front-facing photograph of the valid identification card.
 - c) The corresponding birth certificate.
- After the deadline established by the organization, no additional players will be accepted unless expressly authorized by the Tournament Management.



2. On-field stage (prior to each match)

- The tournament organization will provide each properly registered and accredited player with a FLCUP 2026 Player Credential, which must be worn around the player's neck at all times.

This credential authorizes the player to enter the field and participate as a member of the scheduled team.

- If the player does not present this credential, they WILL NOT be allowed to participate in the match.

This will be verified on the field prior to the start of the match by the field coordinator. Any irregularity will be sufficient grounds to exclude the player from the match.

- Any special situation must be reported and managed by the director of each institution with the tournament organization up to a maximum of one hour before the start of the match. Failure to comply with this deadline will result in the player not being authorized to participate in the match, and such decisions will not be subject to appeal.

3. Accreditation deadlines

- Player accreditation periods will remain open until one week prior to the start of each match day, allowing registration and validation of participants according to the general provisions of these regulations.

- It is expressly established that during the final match days of the Opening and Closing Tournaments (Matchdays 5 and 11), as well as the League Cup (Matchday 6) and Super Cup (Matchday 12), no new player accreditation will be allowed, as these stages constitute final competition phases.

- The organization will guarantee the official publication of accreditation deadlines in advance so that teams have certainty and transparency regarding the authorized registration periods.

- Any accreditation request submitted outside the established deadlines will be considered inadmissible and will have no regulatory validity.



ARTICLE 8. TEAM ROSTERS BY CATEGORY

According to the provisions of the previous article, participating institutions must upload their player rosters into the official tournament statistics and control application within the established deadlines in order to facilitate the accreditation process.

Any changes made after the maximum deadline will not be considered. If a category uses players who are not eligible — meaning players who are not registered in the FLCUP application and do not appear on the official match sheet — that team will forfeit the match and the opposing team will be awarded a 3 (three) to 0 (zero) victory.

TITLE IV

DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMPETITION

ARTICLE 9. MATCH DURATION

Matches played in the Opening Tournament, Closing Tournament, and Super Cup will have the following duration.

SERIES	TIEMPO DE JUEGO	ENTRETIEMPO
U8, U9, U10, U11, U12	2 HALVES OF 25 MINUTES	5 MINUTES
U13, U14, U15, U17, GU16	2 HALVES OF 30 MINUTES	5 MINUTES

A one-minute hydration break ("cooling break") may be allowed only when weather conditions require it and always with the authorization of the head referee, in order to preserve the physical integrity of the players.



ARTICLE 10. PLAYERS ON THE FIELD

Each institution may field a maximum number of players per category while respecting the minimum number required to start the match.

Failure to meet the minimum number will result in the opposing team being awarded a 3 (three) to 0 (zero) victory, provided the opposing team meets the required number of players.

If both teams fail to appear, the match will be declared finished with no winner and no points awarded.

Any modification will be permitted only by prior agreement between the organization and both directors. Such modification must be authorized by the referee and recorded in the referee's report.

CATEGORY	MAXIMUM NUMBER	MINIMUM NUMBER
U-08	6 field players + 1 goalkeeper	5 players
U-09	6 field players + 1 goalkeeper	5 players
U-10	6 field players + 1 goalkeeper	5 players
U-11	6 field players + 1 goalkeeper	5 players
U-12	6 field players + 1 goalkeeper	5 players
U-13	8 field players + 1 goalkeeper	6 players
U-14	8 field players + 1 goalkeeper	6 players
U-15	8 field players + 1 goalkeeper	6 players
U-17	8 field players + 1 goalkeeper	6 players
GU-16	8 field players + 1 goalkeeper	6 players

ARTICLE 11. UNIFORMS

Teams must appear wearing official sports uniforms: long socks, shorts, jerseys, shin guards, and sports footwear in accordance with FIFA regulations. Footwear with aluminum studs will not be permitted.

Players must wear numbered jerseys to allow proper identification by the referee. This ensures transparency in the recording of match statistics (goals, cards, etc.).



- The referee may temporarily remove a player from the field to correct their equipment without this resulting in loss of points or the match.
- The use of jersey numbers is mandatory for proper identification and statistical recording.
- In the event of similar jerseys, the visiting team must wear an alternate uniform. The organization will provide an annex listing the official colors of each institution. Reviewing this information is the strict responsibility of each institution's director, who must take the necessary measures to ensure clear differentiation between uniforms.

ARTICLE 12. SUBSTITUTIONS

- A. Teams may make unlimited substitutions during the match.
- B. Substituted players may re-enter the field of play at any time, without restriction on the number of re-entries.
- C. Substitutions must be made with play stopped and with the authorization of the match referee.
- D. The entering and exiting players must do so through the center of the field or through the area indicated by the referee.
- E. Unauthorized substitutions may result in a yellow card for both players involved.
- F. The referee may reject or delay a substitution if it interferes with a clear play or creates a sporting advantage.



ARTICLE 13. PUNCTUALITY

Teams must be ready to enter the field 25 minutes before kickoff.

- If a team fails to appear on the field at the scheduled time, the opposing team will be awarded a 3-0 victory (Walkover).
- The referee will declare the Walkover 15 minutes after the scheduled start time, unless the organization has previously authorized a rescheduling due to properly justified force majeure.
- If both teams agree to reschedule the match on the same day, the organization will evaluate its feasibility. The result of the rescheduled match will be final and cannot be protested.

Accordingly, it is essential that participating institutions in all categories make every effort to organize their coaching staff to ensure their teams are present on the field at the scheduled times.

ARTICLE 14. MATCH BALLS

The official tournament ball, provided by the organization and in accordance with FIFA regulations, will be used in all matches. Each field will have at least two balls available.

CATEGORY	BALL SIZE
U-08	Size 4
U-09	Size 4
U-10	Size 4
U-11	Size 4
U-12	Size 4
U-13	Size 5
U-14	Size 5
U-15	Size 5
U-17	Size 5
GU-16	Size 5



ARTICLE 15. REFEREEING CREW

Each match shall be officiated by one main referee and one scorekeeper.

- Licensed and federated referees with recognized national and international experience shall officiate the matches.
- The main referee and the scorekeeper shall wear official uniforms and shall be responsible for enforcing sporting justice in accordance with FIFA rules and these regulations.
- The scorekeeper shall act as a technical assistant to the main referee, shall report misconduct or irregularities, and shall have the authority to suggest corrections to decisions. The final decision shall always rest with the main referee.
- Both officials shall keep statistical records of the match and enter them into the official system at the end of the match.
- Players, coaching staff, and supporters must maintain respect toward these authorities. The organization shall not tolerate physical or verbal aggression, which may constitute grounds for the early termination of the match.

TITLE V

TECHNICAL AND SPECIFIC RULES OF THE GAME

ARTICLE 16. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND ACCREDITATION

No player may participate in a match unless they simultaneously meet the following requirements:

- Be duly accredited in the official tournament application.
- Be listed on the official match sheet.

It shall be the sole responsibility of each institution's director to verify compliance with these conditions.



ARTICLE 17. APPLICATION OF THE OFFSIDE RULE

In FLCUP 2026, the offside rule shall be applied in accordance with the current Laws of the Game established by the International Football Association Board (IFAB).

The interpretation and application of the offside rule shall be the sole responsibility of the match referee, in accordance with their technical judgment. Any infringement of the offside rule shall be punished with an indirect free kick in favor of the opposing team from the place where the offside position occurred, in accordance with the official rules.

ARTICLE 18. TEAM CAPTAIN

Each team must designate a captain on the field of play, who shall wear a distinctive armband for identification.

The captain shall not enjoy any special privileges or differentiated status with respect to the other players, but shall assume responsibility regarding the conduct of their team.

Only the captain shall have the authority to approach the referee for communication purposes during the course of the match.

ARTICLE 19. IMPROPER BALL RETENTION

A corner kick shall be awarded to the opposing team when the goalkeeper controls the ball with their hands or arms for a period longer than eight seconds.

This provision shall apply in all categories and shall constitute an offense for improper conduct in accordance with the rules established in these regulations.

ARTICLE 20. BALL IN PLAY AND MISCONDUCT

When a member of the coaching staff, a substitute, a substituted or sent-off player, or a player temporarily off the field touches the ball when it is clearly about to leave the field of play, without the intention of unlawfully interfering, the action shall be punished with an indirect free kick in favor of the opposing team.

Such conduct shall not result in any additional disciplinary sanction.



ARTICLE 21. DROPPED BALL AND RESTART OF PLAY

When the referee stops play, the restart by dropped ball shall be carried out as follows:

- If the ball is in the penalty area, the referee shall award the dropped ball to the defending team's goalkeeper within their penalty area.
- If the ball is outside the penalty area, the referee shall award the dropped ball to a player of the team that had possession or would have gained possession, provided that this can be determined. Otherwise, the ball shall be awarded to the player of the team that last touched it.

In all cases, the ball must touch the ground before being played.

ARTICLE 22. BENCH AREA REGULATIONS

The following are prohibited from remaining in the bench area:

- Unaccredited players.
- Players belonging to another category.
- Unauthorized persons.

For regulatory purposes, any person located in the bench area shall be considered an eligible player authorized to participate in the match.

If the presence of an unauthorized person is detected, the referee or the organization shall request their immediate removal. If the offending team fails to comply, refuses to comply, or repeats the conduct, it shall be sanctioned with forfeiture of the match by a score of 3 (three) goals to 0 (zero).

The foregoing shall be without prejudice to any additional sanctions determined by the Disciplinary Committee according to the seriousness of the matter.



ARTICLE 23. THROW-IN RESTRICTION

It shall not be permitted to restart play by means of a throw-in deliberately directed to the goalkeeper so that they may handle the ball with their hands. In the event of an infringement, the referee shall apply the corresponding sanction in accordance with the rules of the game as adapted to the competition.

ARTICLE 24. DISTANCE ON GOAL KICKS

When taking a goal kick, players of the opposing team must respect a minimum distance of five (5) meters from the edge of the penalty area. Failure to comply with this provision shall be warned and, if repeated, sanctioned by the match referee.

ARTICLE 25. REFEREE'S POWERS TO PROTECT THE DEVELOPMENTAL NATURE OF THE TOURNAMENT

When the referee observes situations that seriously affect the normal developmental character of the match, they may order the temporary suspension of the match until suitable conditions have been restored. If the situation is not resolved, the referee shall report the matter to the Disciplinary Committee for resolution.

ARTICLE 26. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BLUE CARD

During the competition, the Blue Card shall be implemented as a preventive and warning mechanism in response to:

- Verbal aggression.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct by spectators.
- Insults or offensive expressions directed at referees, players, or coaching staff.

The Blue Card shall be shown by authorized members of the organization, who shall immediately inform the main referee.

The Blue Card does not constitute a technical sanction within the game, but rather a preventive disciplinary mechanism. Its application shall be recorded in the referee's report and may give rise to additional disciplinary measures by the organization's Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the current regulations.



TITLE VI

DISCIPLINE, SANCTIONS, AND SAFETY

ARTICLE 27. REFEREE'S REPORT AND RECORD OF INCIDENTS

At the end of each match, the operations team shall record all match incidents in the official statistical control application, including goals, cautions, send-offs, and relevant disciplinary events.

The match referee shall clearly and in detail record in the official report any unsportsmanlike conduct or serious situation that occurred during the match, including improper behavior by players, coaching staff, or attending spectators.

The referee's report shall constitute sufficient evidence for the possible application of disciplinary sanctions, including with respect to events not noticed at the exact moment they occurred.

ARTICLE 28. CARD AND SUSPENSION SYSTEM

A. YELLOW CARDS

- Cautions do not accumulate from match to match.
- A second yellow card in the same match shall result in automatic expulsion, without suspension for the next official match of the category; however, the matter shall remain subject to review by the Disciplinary Committee, which may impose additional sanctions depending on the seriousness of the facts stated in the referee's report.

B. RED CARDS

A red card, whether due to a second yellow card or a direct send-off, shall imply:

- Immediate dismissal from the field.
- No replacement permitted.
- Automatic suspension for the next match.
- All expulsions shall be subject to review by the Disciplinary Committee, which may extend the sanction depending on the seriousness of the facts recorded in the referee's report.

Sanctions imposed due to a red card or send-off shall apply by calendar and must be served on the immediately following official matchday. Example: if a player is sent off on Matchday 1, they must serve the suspension on Matchday 2.

The use of a suspended player shall result in forfeiture of the match by a score of 3 (three) goals to 0 (zero).



ARTICLE 29. INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND SPECTATOR CONDUCT

Institutions are responsible for the behavior of their supporters, parents or guardians, companions, and coaching staff.

In the event of unsportsmanlike conduct, verbal or physical aggression, threats, or incitement to violence, the Disciplinary Committee may impose sanctions consisting of point deductions in the category where the offense was committed, without prejudice to additional measures depending on the seriousness of the matter.

ARTICLE 30. ACCESS CONTROL AND PRESENCE ON THE FIELD

Only the following may remain inside the field of play and its technical area:

- Properly registered players.
- Accredited coaching staff.
- Designated referees.
- Identified members of the organization.

Each institution may have a maximum of three (3) persons on the bench, including the director and coaching staff members, who must wear official attire.

Failure to comply shall authorize the referee or the organization to stop the match until the situation is corrected.

Violation of this article shall not imply forfeiture of the match or deduction of points, unless it gives rise to sanctionable conduct under other articles of these regulations.

ARTICLE 31. FIELD INVASION AND UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS

1. Prohibition: Entry onto the field of play and adjacent areas by any person not involved in the match, including parents or guardians, companions, or spectators, is strictly prohibited.
2. Exception: In the event of injury or emergency, entry by parents, guardians, or private medical personnel may only take place with the prior and express authorization of the main referee.



3. Sanctioning System:

4. • Celebratory invasion: Invasion of the field of play for the purpose of celebrating a victory, championship, or any other circumstance shall be sanctioned with immediate forfeiture of the match, with the disputed points awarded to the opposing team, regardless of the score recorded on the field.
5. • General invasion: Any other invasion of the field of play not covered by the previous case shall be sanctioned with a deduction of 3 points in the standings of the corresponding category.
6. Disciplinary authority: In the event of repeated offenses, lack of control by the coaching staff, or the seriousness of the facts, the Disciplinary Committee shall be empowered to impose additional sanctions, which may include prohibition of entry to future matches up to disqualification of the team from the competition.

ARTICLE 32. DEFINITIVE EXPULSION FROM THE TOURNAMENT

Any physical or verbal aggression against members of the organization or the refereeing crew shall result in immediate and definitive expulsion from the tournament.

If parents, guardians, or supporters participate in serious incidents, the institution shall be held responsible and may be additionally sanctioned.

ARTICLE 33. SUSPENSION OF MATCHES

Suspension for Indiscipline and Violence

The referee has the exclusive authority to suspend a match immediately if they detect physical or verbal violence by members of the coaching staff, players, parents, guardians, or supporters. In such case, the following rules shall apply:

- Report: The referee must state in detail the reason for the suspension in their report.
- Result sanction: The offending team shall lose the match by a score of 3 (three) to 0 (zero). If, at the time of the suspension, the non-offending team was already leading by a greater margin, the existing score shall stand.
- Additional sanctions: Matches suspended due to indiscipline shall not be rescheduled. Depending on the seriousness of the facts, the Disciplinary Committee may impose additional point deductions or expulsion from the tournament.



Suspension for Force Majeure or Safety

The organization reserves the right to modify schedules, fields, and formats, or to partially or totally suspend the competition due to force majeure (extreme weather conditions, technical failures, safety issues, or any situation that puts participants' integrity at risk).

Procedure in Case of Risk to Minors

In any situation compromising the integrity of minors, the organization is authorized to suspend matches, evacuate areas, or end the matchday early.

Resumption of Matches

In the case of a suspension for reasons unrelated to indiscipline (weather, technical failures, etc.) when the match is already underway, the organization shall determine, based on technical criteria, whether the match is to be resumed from the minute of interruption or declared final with the existing score.

Official Communication

Any suspension or rescheduling shall be communicated by the organization directly to the directors of each participating institution as far in advance as possible.

ARTICLE 34. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE AND DEFENSE PROCEDURE

FLCUP 2026 shall have a Disciplinary Committee, an autonomous body responsible for hearing, analyzing, and resolving violations of these regulations based on referee reports, submitted evidence, and any other means of proof it deems appropriate. The Committee shall act in accordance with the principles of objectivity, proportionality, and due process.

Participating institutions, represented exclusively by their directors as the only valid interlocutors, shall have a formal period for the submission of evidence and defenses prior to any decision regarding incidents or possible disciplinary sanctions. Such submissions must be sent in writing to the official email address of the Disciplinary Committee (aaff.areadeportiva@gmail.com) by 11:59 p.m. on the Monday following the matchday played.

After the expiration of this deadline, no late submissions shall be accepted, and the decisions adopted by the Disciplinary Committee shall be final and not subject to appeal.

The Committee must issue a reasoned decision within a maximum period of one week from the close of the defense period.

The organization shall not consider communications submitted after the deadline or those coming from parents, guardians, or other persons who do not hold formal representation of the institution.



ARTICLE 35. DISCIPLINARY REPORT

The Disciplinary Committee shall prepare a Disciplinary Report after each matchday, which shall be published in the official FLCUP mobile application (section "News") within a maximum period of one week after the end of the period for submission of defenses. The report shall include sanctions imposed on players, coaching staff, institutions, and extraordinary decisions.

Publication in the application shall constitute official notification of disciplinary decisions. Consequently, directors and coaching staff have the obligation and responsibility to remain informed of everything published on the platform during the season, especially at the close of each matchday, in order to timely know the match schedule, results, and sanctions imposed.

TITLE VII

COMPETITION STRUCTURE

ARTICLE 36. SEASON COMPETITIONS

During the first three matchdays, the competition shall be played in the regular phase under a group-stage or league format. On the fourth matchday, the final phase shall be played and the competition shall officially conclude. At that stage, the champions of each category shall be determined.

The specific rules for the competitions of each category shall be incorporated into these regulations through supplementary Annexes, which shall have full regulatory validity and binding effect. These Annexes shall be published by the organization in due time prior to the start of the competition, ensuring that teams and participants have all necessary information regarding the tournament system, format of play, and qualification criteria.



ARTICLE 37. TROPHIES AND MEDALS

In order to promote competition and sporting camaraderie, the organization shall award trophies to all teams in each category according to performance levels: FLCUP 2026 (Gold), Silver, Bronze, and Sir Dribbling. This recognition shall be granted to all participating teams regardless of results.

Each player shall receive a commemorative participation medal corresponding to the 2026 edition. Only one medal shall be awarded per player, regardless of the number of categories in which they competed.

Awards, trophies, and medals shall be presented on the final matchday, during which all teams shall be recognized regardless of the place obtained in the competition.

ARTICLE 38. INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

At the conclusion of the tournament, special recognitions shall be awarded to outstanding players in the following categories: Best Player (award based on the accumulation of points from "Player of the Match" or MVP distinctions), Top Scorer (award based on the accumulation of goals scored), and Best Goalkeeper (award based on the accumulation of goals conceded by their team). The selection shall be based on the official statistics recorded in the tournament's mobile application.

In the event of a tie in the final score between two or more players, whether belonging to the same or different institutions, the organization shall determine the winner by applying the following criteria in order of priority and successively:



1. Performance in Final Phases: Priority shall be given to statistics obtained in the final matches of each competition (Top Scorer: highest number of goals, Best Player: highest number of MVP awards, Best Goalkeeper: lowest number of goals conceded).
2. Scoring presence (Top Scorer only): The award shall be given to the player who scored in the greatest number of different matches.
3. Clean sheets (Best Goalkeeper only): The award shall be given to the goalkeeper who recorded the highest number of matches finished without conceding a goal.
4. Hierarchy of Competition Level: The award shall be given to the player whose team competed at the highest level (Priority: FLCUP 2026 > Silver > Bronze > Sir Dribbling).
5. Hierarchy of Stage: Within the same level, the award shall be given to the player whose team reached the most advanced stage in the tournament.
6. Fair Play: Preference shall be given to the athlete with the fewest cautions and send-offs during the tournament.
7. Special Goalkeeper Clause (Best Goalkeeper only): In the event that the award is won by an institution that used two or more goalkeepers alternately during the tournament, and where it is impossible to break the tie through individual statistics, the organization shall request that the institution's director designate a single winner. This decision must be communicated promptly in order to proceed with the official award.
8. Decision of the Disciplinary Committee: As a final instance, the organization, through the Disciplinary Committee, shall determine the winner based on the player's overall influence on their team's performance.

The application of these criteria shall be the sole authority of the organization, and its decision shall be final, sovereign, and not subject to appeal once published or announced during the awards ceremony.



ARTICLE 39. POINT SYSTEM AND TIEBREAKING CRITERIA

Points shall be awarded based on match results as follows:

- Match won: 3 points.
- Match drawn: 1 point.
- Match lost: 0 points.

In the event of a tie on points between two or more teams, positions shall be determined as follows:

Group Stage:

1. Greater goal difference.
2. Greater number of goals scored.
3. Result of the match between the tied teams.
4. Better position in the Fair Play table.
5. Draw.

In categories where the format for advancement to knockout rounds requires comparing teams that obtained the same position in different groups (e.g. "Best Second Place"), an Overall Performance Table shall be prepared. The order of classification among those teams shall be determined by the following criteria, hierarchically and successively:

1. Greater number of points.
2. Greater goal difference.
3. Greater number of goals scored.
4. Greater number of matches won.
5. Result obtained against the team that finished first in its respective group (greater number of points, greater goal difference, and greater number of goals scored).
6. Better position in the Fair Play table (according to the card point system in the tournament app).
7. Draw.



League Phase (Leandro Shara System):

Strength of schedule score (Buchholz System): This shall be calculated by adding the total number of points obtained, at the end of the phase, by the teams that each team faced.

This system seeks to reflect the strength of opponents: a team that faced opponents with strong performances will accumulate a higher strength-of-schedule score, while those that played against lower-performing opponents will have a lower score. In this way, the criterion considers not only the team's own results, but also the quality of its opponents, thereby providing greater fairness in determining positions in the event of a tie.

Greater goal difference.

Greater number of goals scored.

Better position in the Fair Play table.

Draw.

ARTICLE 40. PENALTY KICKS

In the final stages, in deciding matches, Play-Offs, Round of 16, Quarterfinals, Semifinals, Third-Place Match, and Final, if a match ends in a draw after regular time, it shall proceed directly to kicks from the penalty mark, with no extra time. An initial series of three (3) kicks per team shall be taken in the U8, U9, U10, U11, and U12 categories, while in the U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, and GU16 categories a series of five (5) kicks shall be taken. If the tie persists, sudden death kicks shall continue until a winner is determined.

At the end of regular time, all duly accredited players listed on the official match sheet shall be eligible to participate in the penalty shootout, including both players on the field and those on the substitutes' bench.

However, at the start of the penalty shootout, only the maximum number of players permitted by regulation to play the match may remain on the field, and only those players shall be eligible to take the kicks. All other players and members of the coaching staff must remain outside the field in the area designated by the organization or the referee.

For purposes of the penalty shootout, the goalkeeper who is on the field at the end of regular time may be substituted before the start of the series, provided that the substitution is made with a duly accredited player listed on the official match sheet.

Each penalty kick shall be taken from the regulation penalty mark on the field, respecting the official dimensions of the corresponding field.



TITLE VIII

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND PROTECTION OF MINORS

ARTICLE 41. MEDICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The registration of a minor player implies that their father, mother, or legal guardian authorizes their participation in the FLCUP 2026 tournament, as well as any emergency medical care that may be necessary.

The organization undertakes, with the participating institutions, to provide primary medical assistance and coordinate emergency transportation in the event of sports injuries suffered by players or members of the coaching staff. A sports injury shall be understood as one occurring in the course of an official match of the competition, regardless of its origin. Medical procedures shall be carried out in the following order:

1. The first emergency response in the event of a serious or critical sports injury shall consist of assistance by qualified healthcare personnel at the site of the incident.
2. After evaluating the situation, and if necessary, the player shall be transferred to the nearest medical care center.
3. Without prejudice to the foregoing, each institution may, at its own responsibility and by its own means, arrange such transfer to another specialized medical center of its choice. In such case, the corresponding director of the institution must sign a written consent form for the medical staff, which shall be provided by the organization. This document shall record the preference of the participating institution to transfer the player at its own risk and expense, thereby releasing FLCUP from any further liability for events occurring after that decision.



ARTICLE 42. MEDICAL FITNESS CERTIFICATES

The organization shall provide first aid coverage and emergency care during the tournament. However, each participating institution is responsible for ensuring that its players have valid health insurance or private medical coverage.

Each player must have a physical fitness certificate for participation in this sport. Each institution shall be responsible for internally controlling this document and for ensuring the necessary screening regarding the optimal physical and health condition of the players fielded on each tournament date.

FLCUP shall not be responsible for injuries arising from pre-existing medical conditions, negligence, recklessness, or non-compliance with these regulations.

ARTICLE 43. IMAGE RIGHTS

Participating institutions authorize FLCUP to use images, photographs, and audiovisual recordings of players, coaching staff, and attending spectators for promotional, communication, and tournament publicity purposes, without any right to financial compensation. In the case of minor players, such authorization shall be understood as granted by their parents or legal guardians through the player's registration in the tournament.

The recording of videos, live broadcasts, and the taking of photographs of professional or amateur teams within the field of play or bench area during matches is strictly prohibited. This prohibition shall not apply to recordings made from spectator areas (e.g. stands), provided that they do not interfere with the development of the match or violate child protection regulations.

This prohibition applies to players and coaching staff, or any person not authorized by the organization to be in the field area, including the use of mobile phones or other recording devices.

The foregoing is based on the fact that the organization has legal commitments with the audiovisual production company "JH Producciones," who are the only entity authorized to carry out audiovisual recordings within the field of play.

Any violation of the provisions of this article shall be reported to the Disciplinary Committee, which shall determine the corresponding measures and sanctions.



ARTICLE 44. BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD PRINCIPLE

All decisions adopted by the organization, the refereeing crew, and the Disciplinary Committee of the FLCUP 2026 tournament shall be governed by the principle of the best interests of the child and adolescent, prioritizing at all times their physical, psychological, and emotional well-being above any sporting result.

Each participating institution shall be responsible for the permanent supervision of its minor players before, during, and after each match, including transportation, common areas, and spectator sections.

Any conduct that violates the dignity, emotional integrity, or safety of participating children and adolescents shall be sanctioned with particular severity and may even result in the expulsion of the responsible institution from the tournament.

TITLE IX

FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 44. BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD PRINCIPLE

All decisions adopted by the organization, the refereeing crew, and the Disciplinary Committee of the FLCUP 2026 tournament shall be governed by the principle of the best interests of the child and adolescent, prioritizing at all times their physical, psychological, and emotional well-being above any sporting result.

- Each participating institution shall be responsible for the permanent supervision of its minor players before, during, and after each match, including transportation, common areas, and spectator sections.
- Any conduct that violates the dignity, emotional integrity, or safety of participating children and adolescents shall be sanctioned with particular severity and may even result in the expulsion of the responsible institution from the tournament.



C. The entry of alcohol into the venue where the tournament is held is strictly prohibited. However, the organization may authorize the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages exclusively in previously designated areas, outside the field of play and competition areas.

In all cases, the consumption of alcohol by minors is absolutely prohibited. It shall be the responsibility of attending adults to respect this provision, and of the organization to supervise compliance.

Any violation of this provision shall be reported to the Disciplinary Committee for the adoption of corresponding measures.

D. It shall be the responsibility of the director and coaching staff of each institution to clearly and timely inform and communicate to their parents or guardians, companions, and delegations the disciplinary and behavioral rules established in these regulations.

The purpose of the foregoing is to safeguard a healthy, safe, and development-oriented environment for all tournament participants, as well as to prevent situations of indiscipline, violence, or conduct associated with the consumption of prohibited substances.

ARTICLE 46. UNFORESEEN SITUATIONS

Any regulatory gap or circumstance not provided for in these regulations shall be resolved exclusively by the General Management or the organization's Disciplinary Committee. Their decisions shall be sovereign, final, and absolutely not subject to appeal, prevailing over any other interpretation.

ARTICLE 47. ACCEPTANCE OF THE REGULATIONS

The mere registration and participation in the "FLCUP 2026" tournament implies full and unrestricted knowledge and acceptance of these Rules and Regulations by the participating institutions, their directors, coaching staff, players, parents, and guardians, who expressly waive any subsequent claim based on lack of knowledge thereof.



FLCUP INTERNATIONAL 2026

