

4x4 DeWitt Ox Roast Official Tournament Rules

Updated: June 28, 2023



Please note: The Ox Roast Tournament is a **recreational tournament** that is designed to allow healthy competition but is not used by soccer governing bodies for any ranking or long-term tracking of players or teams. This tournament is for having a good time and enjoying a great sport only.

1. Unless addressed in this document***, current FIFA rules apply. They can be found at the FIFA website, under Laws of the Game.

***See rule #18

2. Each player will be required to sign the player registration form. If the player is under 18, their parent or legal guardian will be required to sign the player registration form. By signing the registration form you acknowledge that the DeWitt Soccer Club (“DSC”) and tournament committee is not responsible for lost or stolen property or any injury that may occur during the tournament. Proof of age of each player is required. (If any player’s age is challenged, that player will be required to present proof of date of birth to the tournament officials. Failure to provide proof will result in forfeiture of the game.)

3. Teams will consist of not more than six (6) players and not less than three (3) on the signed waiver (no subs after waiver turned in). A maximum of four (4) players and not less than three (3) players will be allowed on the field of play for each team. Substitutions may be made only when play is stopped and after notification is made to the referee. Substitutions may not be made on stoppage resulting from a foul or corner kicks.

4. Teams will be grouped in divisions by age. If there are not enough teams in a division, you will be put in a division at the discretion of the committee. The committee reserves the right to eliminate a division if we deem appropriate.

5. Games will be held on Friday night and Saturday (unless inclement weather impacts play and games must be moved to Sunday).

6. We reserve the right to reduce the number of scheduled games or shorten games due to unforeseen circumstances.

7. There are no goalies allowed.

8. All players must wear approved shin guards and matching shirts (or matching practice vests will be provided.)

9. Playing fields will be 40 yards long and 25 yards wide. Goals will be approximately four (4) feet high by six (6) feet wide.

10. Players, coaches, and parents will not be permitted to sit on the same side of the playing field. Players and coaches of both teams will be on one side, while the parents of both teams will be on the opposite side.

11. Games will consist of two (2) ten (10) minutes halves with a three (3) minute half time. Pool Play games: The games will begin with a long blast of a horn. Halftime will begin and end with a long blast of a horn. Two short blasts will denote one-minute remaining in the game. Bracket Play games will begin and end at the discretion of the head referee.

12. There are no off-sides.

13. All scoring must be shot from the team's offensive half of the field. A team will not be awarded a goal on a direct kick made on a kick-off or a kick-in from the sideline. A goal can be scored directly on a corner kick.

14. When a ball goes out of bounds at the touchline, the team taking possession will start with an indirect kick at the point where that ball went out of play. Goal kicks will be taken anywhere on the line of the defensive penalty arc.

15. If, in a referee's discretion, a team intentionally kicks a ball out of bounds (an inordinate distance) or fails to retrieve a ball in a prompt manner, for the purpose of allowing time to expire, they will be warned. If the situation occurs a second time, the opposing team will be awarded a penalty kick.

16. No player may stand in the "penalty arc" (a 7-foot radius arc from the center of the goal). If a player is standing in the arc, the penalties will be:

- a. First offense—warning by head referee.
- b. Second and any further offenses—opposing team gets a penalty kick from midfield.

NOTE: Standing being defined as purposefully occupying space in the arc to defend the goal. Running through the arc area to get to the other side of the field is permitted.

17. If a defensive player touches a ball that has entered the penalty arc, the opposing team gets a penalty kick from the centerline. If a referee, in the referee's sole discretion, determines that a team intentionally kicks a ball out of the penalty arc to avoid the scoring of a goal by the opponent, the referee will award a goal to the offensive team. If an offensive player shoots the ball from within the penalty arc, the opposing team plays from a goal kick. If any ball stops within the penalty arc and does not cross the goal line, play is restarted with a goal kick or corner kick, depending on who last touched the ball.

18. PENALTY KICKS—Penalty kicks will be given for fouls and misconduct. Since all fouls are automatic PKs, referees are asked to call fouls thoughtfully. Fouls should have a direct impact on play, have obvious harmful intent from a player, be exceedingly unsafe to either player, or create a significant unfair advantage. Ox Roast is a recreational tournament designed with FUN as the primary goal. Ideally teams will win or lose within the course of regular play, not from the PK spot.***

***Safety is also a primary concern at this tournament. If the game begins to get angry or overly aggressive the referees will pause the game and issue a warning to both teams that they will be increasing the number of calls that they are making. Keeping games under control is essential.

- a. Slide tackling is illegal
- b. Headers are illegal at u11 and below – play will be restarted from the nearest touchline with an indirect free kick.
- c. Handling (hand balls) will only be called in incidences of being purposeful or extremely advantageous (batting toward the goal).

19. Penalty kicks will be taken from the centerline (for the younger divisions, it will be taken on the front of the center circle – u8 and u9 only). All players must be behind the centerline when the penalty kick is being taken. The ball is dead when its forward momentum ends. Play will restart with a kick-off if the goal is scored. If a goal is not scored, play will restart with an indirect kick at the centerline by the team that took the penalty shot.

20. If the ball makes contact with the outside framework of the goal in such a way that the goal is moved significantly from its original position as determined by a referee, and the ball did not completely cross the goal line at the moment of impact, then the play is immediately dead. The play is continued as though the ball had gone out of bounds.

21. A referee reserves the right to eject any player or spectator whose unsportsmanlike behavior at any time during the tournament negatively impacts the experience of another player, referees, or the public. The tournament committee has the right to extend the ejection to multiple games or the entire tournament if it deems it to be warranted under the circumstances. Unsportsmanlike behavior shall be defined as, but not limited to:

- Play which is out of control and injures or is meant to injure
- Threatening or overtly aggressive conduct (e.g. fighting, etc.)
- Abusive language
- Disrespect of referees or tournament officials (even if the referees have made a mistake)
- Negative comments directed to other players, spectator to spectator, etc.

22. If a player, fan, or coach will not leave upon request or ejection, the team associated with that player, fan, or coach would forfeit the game at the discretion of the referee and/or tournament officials. The tournament committee has the right to extend the forfeits to multiple games or the entire tournament if the player, fan, or coach does not comply with leaving.

23. In most circumstances, there will be 2 referees, with one being designated as the head referee. The head referee has the final say in all rule interpretations. Please note: all referees are VOLUNTEERS and most are not certified. Many are still in high school. They are asked to do their best that they can but ref-ing mistakes - even serious mistakes that might impact overall results in the tournament - may be made. You are accepting this possibility when registering for the Ox Roast tournament. This tournament is designed as a recreational tournament only and keeping this in mind may be necessary in these circumstances.

24. Mercy Rule - If a team leads in a game by seven (7) goals, that team must remove one player from the field until such time that the lead is reduced to less than seven (7) goals.

25. Teams should be at the scheduled field at least five (5) minutes prior to their scheduled game time. Game time is forfeit time usually. This can be adjusted at the discretion of the referee only if significant unusual extenuating circumstances exist.

26. Deadline for registering a new player will be at tournament registration PRIOR to your first game.

Point system for pool play: Win = 3 points; Tie = 1 point; Loss = 0 points; Forfeit = 0 points

#1 seed for Championship Round goes to the team with largest point total. Tiebreakers: Head to Head, Goal differential (max 5 goal spread/game), Lowest number of goals conceded, Coin flip.

In the event a team plays more than three games prior to the Championship round the first three games they play will be the only ones that count towards the seeding for bracket play.

Championship Round—In the event of a tie during the championship round, the four (4) players on

the field when time expires will participate in a PK shoot out. The team with the most goals scored after all four players shoot will be the winning team. If a team ends a game with only three players on the field, the team will be allowed four shots on goal. The opposing team, however, may select the player to kick the fourth shot for that team. If the game is still tied after the shoot-out, the teams will participate in a sudden death shootout with all players on the team taking shots on goal on a rotating basis.

Inclement Weather Policy:

In the event of inclement weather as determined by the 4x4 event coordinators, the following sequence of events will occur:

- 1) Play will be suspended: a) if the game is in the first half, the time remaining will be noted and when/if play is resumed, the remaining minutes will be played. b) if the game is at half-time or in the second half, the game will be considered complete.
- 2) The event coordinators will determine the length of the delay while watching conditions live and on radar. Everyone is encouraged to remain on site or nearby in a safe location. Games must be delayed at least 30 minutes from the last sound of thunder. Safety of everyone involved is the primary consideration in this situation, not completion of the tournament.
- 3) Play will resume as determined by the event coordinators and as announced via the Dewitt Soccer Club 4x4 website (www.dewittsoccer.org). We will also try to email all teams but teams are responsible for watching the website too for announcements. All teams will be given ONLY 15 minutes to appear back on the field for the next or continuing round of play.
- 4) The next games to be played after the completion of an extended weather delay games will be the games regularly scheduled for that time of day. Any games missed or partially finished due to the delay will be played in succession at the end of the day as fields and teams become available as determined by the tournament coordinators. It is possible and likely that bracket play will be delayed until all first round games have been completed and points tabulated. Teams must be available no matter what time they are eventually played, if the team cannot be it will be considered a forfeit (we apologize as we understand this can be frustrating if the schedule change causes players to miss due to personal schedule conflicts but the tournament must go forward over the weekend).
- 5) Mother Nature may decide that not all games can be played on Saturday and therefore the rest of the tournament may be moved to Sunday morning. That determination would be announced on the website (www.dewittsoccer.org/) and emails would be sent to all teams.

(Fingers crossed that we have good weather and none of these contingency plans are needed.)