

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

Updated: Sep 6 2009

[Submit a Question](#)

1. Why do some teams get a bye (automatically go to the next round)?

The Knock-Out Cup uses a double elimination format that only works perfectly if the number of teams in a division is a power of 2 (i.e. 4, 8 or 16) . Since it is rare that this is the case, some teams are automatically moved to the next round since they don't have an opponent to play in the earlier round. For example, in a division with 5 teams, we have to base the schedule on an 8 team model (power of 2 remember). The first 4 teams can pair up, but the 5th team does not have an opponent to play in the first round, so automatically advances to the next round. We call this getting a "free ride" or a bye.

2. How are "bye" teams determined?

When the schedule for the tournament is made, usually early in the summer, the computer randomly determines all team placements. This includes the teams that will receive byes. Once the schedule is made, NO changes will be made to the pairings. Game times and fields are always subject to change so check the schedule daily as the tournament approaches and during the tournament.

3. Why do some teams have to play more games than other teams?

Aside from the bye situation described above, it is normal for some teams to play more games in a double elimination format tournament. For a team to play the fewest games possible, it must win all its games. For a team to play the most games possible, it must lose its first game and then win the rest (or lose in the final). The reason for this is once you lose a game, you must fight it out amongst all the other teams who have lost games for the right to make it back to the final game. The earlier you lose your first game, the more games you will have to play. If you don't want to play lots of games, don't lose!

4. Why do you have a shoot-out field and when is it to be used and why can't games simply be rescheduled instead?

Every Knock-Out Cup game must produce a winner and a loser since the next games, which may be just hours away, depends on knowing who the winners and losers are. There is generally not enough time or field availability to reschedule a game before the next match is to be played. Even if there was time, the situations that prevent games from being played (i.e. thunderstorms) usually affect many games at once and it would not be logistically possible to reschedule all the games. Rescheduling games during the week is not an option since, especially at this time of year, all the fields with lights are booked solid with other games.

If a game is tied after regulation time, then a shoot-out must be held to determine the winner and loser. In this case, the shoot-out is held at the same field the game was just played at. Note that there can be an exception to this. The referee, who is responsible to ensure the games are played on time, may determine there is not enough time to hold the shoot-out at the same field and can send the teams to the designated shoot-out field.

If a game is halted before the minimum playing time and cannot continue, then both teams must proceed directly to the shoot-out field for a shoot-out to determine the winner and loser.

If a game cannot be played at all at the scheduled game time, then both teams must proceed directly to the shoot-out field for a shoot-out to determine a winner and a loser. Under special circumstances, shoot-outs may have to be scheduled in which case, the schedule will appear on the "Shoot Out Fields" page on the web site.

5. Can we use Call-ups for Knock Out Cup games?

No! The Knock Out Cup is a tournament and in any tournament, a player can only play for one team in the same tournament. Under extremely special circumstances, you may request an exception to this rule but your request must be made in writing to the VP House League and you must receive approval in writing before using any call-ups. (Rule 2.5.9 of the house league rules)

6. Why are U21 Shootouts Scheduled? Why not just reschedule the Game?

U21 games are usually played at night and the designated shootout fields are not available or don't have lights. The games cannot be rescheduled due to general lack of fields. We can always squeeze in a shootout at 6:30pm before a 7pm game but we cannot squeeze in a game. Even if a free game slot is available for one particular game, we cannot guarantee availability generally and the rules must be fair to all teams.

7. Why are U21 games only 80 minutes instead of 90 minutes?

U21 games must fit within a 120 minute game slot. 90 minute games don't leave enough time for shootouts and games at night must finish on time because the lights go out or there is a game afterwards that must start on time if it is to finish before the lights go out.

8. We were leading our game but it was stopped before the minimum time. Shouldn't we get credit in the shoot-out for the lead?

No! A game that does not reach the minimum time is treated as though it was never played. One of the reasons for having a minimum time is to ensure that both teams have roughly the same amount of time under the same conditions (i.e. wind at their backs, sun in their eyes). There is no way to say the other team wouldn't have scored more goals than the other team had full time been played.

This is one of the least popular and least understood rules but it must stand.

Shootouts are part of the game and the best thing is to be well prepared for them when they occur. Practice them!

9. Why can't extra time be played after every tied game and not just the final game?

The schedule is VERY tight and games must be kept on time. Not only is it a challenge just to get the games in, but the referee schedule is just as complex. A delay on one field could have a ripple effect on other fields if the referees can't get to their next games.

Allowing overtime periods under these circumstances is simply not possible.

10. What if one or both teams fail to report to the shoot-out field?

A team that fails to report to the shoot-out field within 60 minutes will forfeit the game and the team that did appear will be declared the winner.

If both teams fail to appear, they will both forfeit the game and both teams will be disqualified from the tournament. Teams that would have played the winner and loser of this game in subsequent games will receive automatic wins.

It is the responsibility of each team to understand the rules of the tournament. Failure to report to a shoot out is a serious offense since it is very disruptive to the tournament.

11. What are the prizes for winning the Knock-Out Cup?

Both teams making it to the final game will receive trophies. The champions will receive champion trophies and the finalists will receive finalist trophies.

12. Where do we go to get our trophies?

The trophy presentations are done at the same field right after the game.

13. Can we request our game be rescheduled because we are missing players?

No! Under no circumstances will a game be rescheduled due to lack of player availability. If you will have less than a full squad (7 for 7-aside or 11 for 11-aside) you may request call-ups according to rule 2.5.9 of the house league rules.

14. Can we request a game be rescheduled

No! Games will not be rescheduled by request for any reason. The schedule is very complex and the logistics involved in changing the schedule are immense! Teams playing in other tournaments during the Knock Out Cup are expected to honor their Lakeshore commitments and appear for their scheduled games. Failure to appear will result in a default loss according to rule 1.0.4. The Knock Out Cup schedule is posted in May so there is no excuse for registering your team in a conflicting tournament outside of Lakeshore.